Biographies of British Gardeners
E-L

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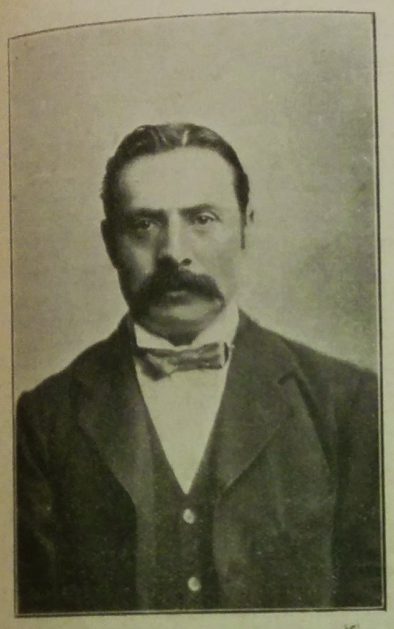
more easily wheeled over it—but neither of these reasons is concerned with the welfare of the trees. If they are growing vigorously, they do not need any manure at all, except, perhaps, a slight top-dressing of artificials when the fruit is swelling; they are, indeed, better without it, for it might, by causing an excessive growth, check their fruiting. The risk is especially great when a heavy dressing of manure is given in winter or early spring, for it is then almost cer-



MR. CHARLES EARL.

tain to lead to the formation of long-jointed shoots without fruit spurs. I am speaking here of farmyard manure, comparatively fresh—that is to say, not sufficiently decomposed to be available as plant food until growth recommences in spring. If it were in such a condition as to be available immediately, or if it consisted of soluble chemical salts, it would, if applied before active growth, merely be wasted, for it would be washed away by rain before it could be used. The rule, therefore, should be—Don't manure trees that are bearing no fruit, unless they are weak and require more wood. If they are bearing heavy crops, farmyard manure mixed with potash and phosphates may be given to them during growth; if light crops, potash and phosphates alone.

December 2nd.—The Gooseberry Sawfly was very prevalent last summer, and, unless measures are taken for its repression, is likely to be so again. Fortunately, with a little trouble, the danger may be averted. When the caterpillars are fully grown, they descend to the ground, and change into chrysalids, in which condition, buried within three inches of the surface, they spend the winter. If, therefore, that depth of soil be removed from the base of infested bushes, and burnt, or buried at least a foot deep, there will not be any trouble from them next year. Of course, fresh soil should be brought to replace what has been taken away, and if at the same time it is mixed with manure, the roots will be encouraged to remain near the surface, greatly to the benefit of the crop. In case any of the chrysalids have escaped, the leaves should be examined in April, and any showing signs of eggs should be destroyed.

December 3rd.—The effect which a plentiful supply of water has upon plant life is nowhere better seen than it is in the vicinity of a river. In the scene shown in the illustration, the luxuriance of growth is almost tropical. Poplars, Oaks, Chestnuts, and many other trees grow side by side, forming a huge bank of infinite shades of green, seemingly impenetrable, for gaps are few and far between, so thickly do the branches interlace, and so dense is the foliage when the conditions are favourable. In such spots the gardener may learn many a lesson.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 166.—MR. CHARLES EARL, AT THE GARDENS, SOMERHILL, TONBRIDGE.

ALTHOUGH it was past the middle of October when I visited the gardens at Somerhill, I was able to appreciate the beauty of the surroundings and the magnificence of the position. Nearly all the way from Tonbridge there is a steady, sometimes a steep, ascent, and the fine Elizabethan mansion in which Mr. E. d'Avigdon-Goldsmid resides stands on the summit of a hill from which may be seen a wide expanse of delightful country. The gardens are reached by an entrance gate a short distance from the lodge, and here I met Mr. Charles Earl, whose house, with the offices and glass, is close to the high road. Mr. Earl is only just in the prime of life, and it was quite a surprise to me when, as we made our way into one of the Vineries, he said that he had been at Somerhill twenty-five years.

"That must mean, then," I said, "the whole of your gardening life?"

"Well, practically. For fourteen years I have been head gardener, and I was previously foreman."

"Have you any special features at Somerhill?"

"There are some things that do better than others. Fruit is rather a feature, and I have shown collections at the Royal Horticultural Show, Tunbridge Wells, and Brighton, with a fair measure of success, winning a considerable number of first prizes. But I do not give more attention to one department than another, and it will be quite convenient if you ask questions as we proceed."

"Then," I inquired, as we started with the early Vinery, "when did you gather Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling in this house?"

"The first week in May. In the second Vinery we had splendid crops of Madresfield Court, Black Hamburgh, and Buckland's Sweetwater. In the late house we grow Mrs. Pince and Black Alicante chiefly. I am very fond of Mrs. Pince, and consider the flavour to be better than that of Alicante. It is also a good-keeping Grape, and will last until February or March."

"What about colour?"

"The only way to get them black is to grow the Vine in an early house. The other varieties are Lady Downe's, Appley Towers, and Gros Maroc."

"When did you gather fruit in your late Peach house?"

"About August. As you notice, the house is quite cool. The Peaches grown here are Grosse Mignonne, and Early Silver; the Nectarines, Pitmaston Orange, Violette Hative, and Lord Napier. The fruit of the latter was particularly good."

"Early Silver is not grown very largely, is it?"

"No, but it is a Peach with an excellent flavour. It has a better colour when it is grown outside. With regard to other varieties grown inside, they include, of Peaches, Sea Eagle, Stirling Castle, Royal George, Barrington, and Dymond; and, of Nectarines, Early Rivers'. We have just planted Peaches and Nectarines out of pots. I have them pruned back in order to keep them small."

"You have Arum Lilies and Azaleas in the late Peach house?"

"There are two or three dozen Azaleas. We plant them out of doors, turning them out of pots, and then put them in pots again through September and October. This system improves the colour. The Arums are treated in much the same manner."

"How many Chrysanthemums do you grow?"

"About two hundred for large blooms, and the same number of the bush varieties. We do not go in for the 'show' varieties. A number are

SOMERHILL, TONBRIDGE.

struck late, in March or April, and potted into 5-in. and 6-in. pots. We never exceed 7-in. pots for the plants struck in the spring. There are a good many of the best of the older varieties, but not of the newer, the object in view being simply to have plenty of cut flowers."

"I suppose you grow a large quantity of different plants for the same purpose?"

"Yes. For instance, we usually pot up six thousand Geraniums for bedding. All the fruit houses are filled with bedding plants in the winter."

"I see that you have a Vinery devoted to Muscats."

"There is no Grape to touch a Muscat. We cut some of the best bunches here to send to the Brighton and Sevenoaks shows."

"How long has the Guava tree been in the house?"

"Eight or nine years. It yields four or five dozen fruits about the end of July, but we do not use them. In the early Peach house adjoining, we grow, in addition to Royal George and Barrington, two varieties of Nectarine, Lord Napier and Hunt's Tawny. The latter is a good yellow, and follows on after Lord Napier. The flavour is as pleasant as Pitmaston Duchess, but the fruit is not so large."

"Have the Camellias at the back been in this house many years?"

"A great many—certainly more than a quarter of a century. We cut them as they flower, both white and red varieties. In the other Peach house a variety not much grown has been here for some years. It is Belle de Done, and, in addition to good flavour, the size is useful."

"You have a number of Fuchsias in the flowering house?"

"They are rather a feature. Beauty of Trowbridge and Black Princess are the principal varieties. We have no conservatory, and this house takes the place of one. Roses and Streptosolen are grown on the roof, and the pretty orange flower of the latter hangs right down. It is not at all difficult to grow. Among the rest of the contents are Begonias, a distinct red, with very fine foliage; Clerodendron fallax (about a couple of dozen), which are either raised from seed or from cuttings; and a number of Zonal Pelargoniums."

"They make a very fine show."

"Yes, but they are not named. We care more for the flower than the names. They are white, scarlet, pink, salmon, and very dark red."

"In the stove I observe you have some Anthuriums."

"The flowering varieties are A. Ferrierense and A. rotundispathum. The ordinary kinds include A. Scherzerianum and A. crystallinum. The Alocasias are Thibautiana metallica intermedia, and Sanderiana."

"You seem to have an enormous quantity of Crotons."

"There are about two dozen varieties. Among the most useful of fine-leaved are Countess, Laingii, Elegans, Dolmaniana, and Mrs. McLeod. Queen Victoria is a very good Croton, and Lord Wolseley is very distinct, but not fine-leaved. The principal varieties of Dracænas are Cooperii, terminalis, terminalis alba, and elegantissima. Both Allamandas and Stephanotis are grown on the roof, and the dwarf Asparagus does very well. The Saintpaulia ionantha, which is in flower—a pretty blue—lasts all through the summer and winter. It is most useful for decorating the house."

"Is it much trouble to raise?"

"No, it can be raised from the leaves, like Gloxinias. The Ferns you see all round the house are on turf, which looks so much better than bare boards. I omitted to show you in the greenhouse a very old plant of Thambus. It flowers very freely."

"Now we come to a feature, for you have a surprising and splendid collection of Bouvardias."

"We devote a house to them. The doubles are President Garfield (pink), Alfred Neuner (white), and Hogarth flore-plena (red)."

"And the singles?"

"I think we have some of the very best, Vrelandii (white), President Cleveland (dark red), Hogarth (red), and Priory Beauty (pink)."

"What is your system with them?"

"They are all planted out in the summer, and taken up and repotted in September. I can get them to flower any time, but I always like to have a show at Christmas, and the winter is the best time for them. In fact, they are pinched off all through the summer to prevent them from flowering. Like Fuchsias, air helps to make them flower. We grow from a hundred and twenty to a hundred and forty plants."

"In the ranges, which formerly were full of Orchids," continued Mr. Earl, "we now grow such things as Palms, Eucharis, and Pancratiums, but nothing unusual."

"You still have some Orchids?"

"Just a little batch of Calanthes Veitchii. Nepenthes are grown in this house, hanging over the Ferns. The varieties are Masteriana, Rafflesiana, Dominiana, and Curtisii superba. The Coleus are seedlings, and so are the Gloxinias. There are about two dozen Gardenias. The Celosias (red and yellow) are Veitch's strain, and there are batches of Poinsettias and Cytisus."

"Very well, indeed. The best of the varieties in this house are Hero of Lockinge, Blenheim Orange, Royal Jubilee, the Countess, and Scarlet Premier. In the other house we have Frogmore Scarlet and William Tillery (green fleshed). The latter is more fit for early work than some varieties."

"What is your favourite Tomato?"

"Sutton's Best of All. We had an exceedingly good crop."

"You grow Hydrangeas in the Melon house?"

"About fifty for flowering next summer. I plant them in 6-in. pots, and put them in the cold frames all the winter. They flower from April to July."

"Which are your best varieties in the Cucumber house?"

"Tender and True is the very best I have tried. I have had all the other sorts, and I have gone back to it."

We next proceeded to the fruit room, containing a fine collection of Apples and Pears.

"There are many varieties of Pears," said Mr. Earl, "all grown on the walls, on pyramids and espaliers. The six best dessert Pears are Doyenné du Comice, which stands first, Pitmaston, Marie Louise, Conference, Durondeau,

THE GARDENS AT SOMERHILL, TONBRIDGE.

"How do you grow Cytisus?"

"From cuttings every year. It takes two years to get a flowering plant."

"How many Cinerarias are there in the Carnation house?"

"About eighty. Part are of the Covent Garden strain, and part Veitch's. The Carnations include Edith Ledenham (white), Uriah Pike (dark red), Little John (scarlet), Cardinal Wolsey (striped), Pathfinder (pink), and Mrs. Lawson (pink); also Malmaison, white, pink, and red. On the other side of the house are Cactus and Cytisus plants, with a batch of herbaceous Calceolarias coming on."

"What is the name of the charming yellow flower?"

"Celsia arcturus. We grow a dozen and a-half. It can be raised from seed, and requires cool treatment. The Cyclamens will look better after Christmas. They are of the C. persicum, giganteum strain."

"Are the Streptocarpus Veitch's strain?"

"Yes, hybrids. There are about four dozen. With a little care they are very easy to grow."

"You do well with Melons?"

and Glou Morceau. Of stewing varieties, I should give priority to Vicar of Wakefield, Uvedale's St. Germain, and Beurré Clairgeau. But other notable Pears are Emile d'Heyst, Beurré Diel, Ne Plus Mearis, Olivier de Serres, Beauté Superfine, and Brown Beurré."

"And the best dessert Apples?"

"The six best are Mother, King Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Gascoyne's Scarlet, and Egremont Russet. But these are scarcely inferior: Cornish Aromatic, Adam's Pearmain, Baumann's Red Russet, Margil, Mabbott's Pearmain, and Rosemary Russet. Among the best of the culinary Apples are Lady Henniker, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Sandringham, Lord Derby, Wellington, Blenheim Orange, Lane's Prince Albert, Mère de Menage, Bismarck, Annie Elizabeth, Warner's King, Beauty of Kent, and Winter Greening."

"You grow a good deal of fruit outside?"

"Yes, on the walls in the kitchen gardens we have Nectarines and Peaches, Morello Cherries, Plums, and Pears. There are from eight to nine hundred Strawberries in pots, all Royal Sovereign."

"I suppose you have nearly every variety of vegetable?"

"I think so. Among the varieties are Veitch's New Kale, the Autumn Giant Cauliflower, and nine or ten beds of Asparagus. We have another kitchen garden on the east side, and an orchard full of Apple and Plum trees."

"Perhaps we had better go there before we look at the pleasure grounds."

"Here, you see, behind the herbaceous border are vegetables, Plums being grown as pyramids. The varieties are Monarch, Czar, Washington, Kirke's, Prolific, Denniston's Superb, and Pond's Seedling. Plums, as well as Peaches and Pears, are grown on the east walls. The vegetables include about seven hundred head of Celery—Major Clarke and Sandringham White. In the orchard, which I planted thirteen years ago, Cherries are a greater feature than Apples. Two years ago we picked two hundred bushels of Cherries. I may add that I have lately grown Flageolet Beans, and am going in for some more another season. They are just as easy to grow as an ordinary dwarf Bean."

Passing over a bridge with a public walk underneath, I noticed a fine collection of Conifers, which forms a screen to the north side of the mansion, and the old-fashioned courtyards are picturesque.

"When does the mansion date from?" I asked.

"It was built in 1611, but the new portion was added in 1879, when the late Sir Julian Goldsmid was the owner. Ivy, Honeysuckle, Magnolia, Cratægus, Roses, and Ampelopsis Veitchii grow on the front of the house."

"I should like the names of some of the finest of the trees on the lawns."

"They include Cedrus deodara, Cedrus Libani, Retinospora, Araucarias, Abies amabilis, Abies pungens glauca, and Cupressus Lawsoniana aureo-variegata. Some of the Cedars of Lebanon on the terrace lawn are particularly fine."

"The bedding must also be extensive?"

"It is, very. There are about eighty flowering beds. The principal plants used for summer are Geraniums, Petunias, Begonias, Alternantheras, Lobelias, Pyrethrums, Iresines, Coleus, and Fuchsias. Here are a few of the best variegated Geraniums: Flower of Spring, Mrs. Pollock, Crystal Palace, Black Douglas, and Kentish Hero. Of the single-flowering the six best are Rev. Atkinson (dark red), Miss Robinson (pink), Niphetos (white), Sappho (deep salmon), Madame Thibaut (rich rose), and Wonderful (scarlet). Of the Ivy-leaf varieties, the reds and pinks prevail."

Further on we came to a flight of steps, beyond which is a general collection of shrubs, a striking Yew hedge, and beds planted with Begonias; and below is another lawn, with a sundial in the middle.

"This part of the garden, comprising about four acres, was only added six years ago by the present owner. There are seven Rose beds, four of Teas, chiefly yellow and bronze, one of dark red Hybrid Perpetuals, and two of white and pink Hybrid Perpetuals. Then there are beds of different Conifers and of Rhododendrons."

"And herbaceous beds?"

"Yes; they contain just the ordinary varieties, such as Montbretias, Gentians, Statices, Lobelias, Spiræas, and Asters. One of the beds is of A. diffusus Datchi, a very pretty dwarf variety."

Last of all, I inquired about the herbaceous Phloxes, which Mr. Earl is well known to have cultivated with remarkable success. He showed me where the beds used to be, but said that they have lately been superseded.

"For the sake of others, I should be glad if you would recommend what you consider to be some of the finest in cultivation?"

"If several shades of colour are required, the following will serve the purpose admirably:—Auguste Rivoire, Boule de Feu, Eugenie Danzanvilliers, Paul Bert, Flambeau, Coquelicot, Mons. van Houtte, and Niphetos. With respect to position, which is highly important, they should be beyond the influence of trees, whether above or below ground. A deep, rich soil is also essential. February is the month for forming new beds, or, if the soil is too wet then, it should be done early in March. It is not difficult to raise a stock from seeds, but I advise the planting of the best named varieties, which are as inexpensive as they are numerous."

ALFRED WILCOX.

JAPANESE BOG IRISES.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 122.—RARE IRISES.

DEAR KATE,—How suddenly winter has arrived! I hope you took my advice, and sheltered your delicate bulbs with ashes, etc., for it must have tried many things sorely to drop from summer into winter within a day or two.

We have been busy sheltering a border of valuable Irises, just planted, for, although most Irises are fairly hardy, those of the Oncocyclus group suffer severely if their tender growths are exposed to frost, and some of the early-flowering varieties (such as I. alata and I. persica) are the better for a raised glass over them when coming into bloom. We have also made slug-guards for their benefit, which will, I hope, prove an effectual barrier to their enemies; these are made by cutting a strip of perforated zinc (with a strong pair of scissors) about eighteen inches long by six inches wide, and joining the ends together closely with fine wire, so that no slug can get in. The guard can be pushed into the soil for an inch or two, and a square of glass on the top will make all secure, and yet give air to the plant.

You can make these things of different size and depth, to suit any plant which is just coming up, but it is not often that a plant is attacked after it is six inches high, as it is then past the "salad" stage, when snails and slugs enjoy it. For the Oncocyclus Irises it is desirable to put a little dry, feathery moss, or cut Heather, inside the wire guards to protect the young growths from frost, or to cover the glass at night with a mat. I. Bismarckiana is one of the easiest of these difficult plants to grow; but they all want as much care as you can give them, for they come from a very different climate from ours, *i.e.*, Armenia, where the intense dryness of the soil during the autumn months keeps their roots dormant, and, unless they are covered from the rain at that time, and roasted by sunshine, they will not do well. This can be done by placing a frame or glass over them; and it is far better to do this than to take the plants up and keep them dry, as some growers do. This weakens them, and they die in a year or two at most, for no Irises like to be disturbed. The roots do best when planted late, so as to keep them quiet until the spring, and they may be put in as late as this, but must then be kept safe from frost and heavy rain. Even in the spring they must not be suddenly exposed to the late frosts, for they are tender things, and yet must have air, so that slug-guards and a piece of glass on the top at night will still be useful then.

Iris Lorteti is a great beauty, in palest grey, spotted and netted with crimson; Bismarckiana is a lovely thing, with sky-blue standards, and pale yellow falls, veined with rich brown; Lupina (of which the variety Schadach is the best) is more or less in brown, on a sulphur ground, with bronze and purple shades, too, an extraordinary flower with a heavy brown beard on its falls of the colour of a wolf's fur—hence its name. We also have the new Oncocyclus Irises, Haynei and Hauranensis, only just introduced. What they will turn out I hope to tell you later on. They are terribly fascinating, these rare and precious Irises, perhaps all the more so from the fact that they are so difficult to manage. They should have a good, light loam, mixed with lime and bonemeal, and their rhizomes must be planted not more than an inch below the soil, in ground which has been made very hard by treading and beating it first, spreading out their roots in their natural directions, and again making all firm over them, before putting on the guards, and cut Heather or dry moss, with a glass on the top, unless they are grown in a frame, or sheltered by other means. Iris stylosa has much enjoyed the fine autumn in my garden, and when the frost arrived (November 21st) it was covered with more than a dozen blossoms and buds, which did not enjoy the sudden change of temperature. However, this plant is quite hardy, and manages

GERMAN IRISES IN THE BORDER.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Eckford, Henry (1823–1905), *gardener and hybridist*
by Suki Urquhart
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Eckford, Henry (1823–1905), gardener and hybridist, was born at Stenhouse, near Liberton, Midlothian, on 17 May 1823, the seventh of eight children of James Eckford (1780–1826), a well-to-do farmer, and his wife, Isabel, *née* Pirie (1794–1876). His father died when he was still in infancy. He attended school in the Stenhouse area before being sent north, at the age of fifteen, to be apprenticed as a gardener at Beaufort Castle, Beauly, Inverness-shire, the seat of Lord Lovat. After three years he returned south where he worked at the garden of James Hogg at New Liston House, outside Edinburgh, and was subsequently garden foreman at Fingask Castle, Perthshire, Penicuik House, Midlothian, and Oxenfoord Castle, East Lothian.

In 1847, aged twenty-four and with ten years' experience at some of Scotland's best known estates, Eckford travelled to London with a letter of introduction from William McNab of the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens. Until the rank of head gardener was reached, it was normal to move from post to post to gain experience, so Eckford's frequent change of employer was unremarkable. His first position was with Hugh Low (1793–1863), a fellow Scot, who owned a famous orchid nursery in Clapton, near London. He next went to work for Colonel Baker, a dahlia expert in Salisbury, under the direction of the head gardener and plant hybridist William Dodds (1807/8–1900). They formed a lifelong friendship while working with tropical and subtropical plants in the glass houses. Eckford moved next to Trentham Park, the Staffordshire seat of the duke of Sutherland, and then on to Caen Wood (Kenwood) in Middlesex. While living in London he married, on 6 April 1857, Charlotte (1831–1873), daughter of Job Stainer, gardener, of Islington, London. They had four sons and two daughters.

About 1858 Eckford settled down for a twenty-year stint as head gardener for the earl of Radnor at Coleshill in Wiltshire. Here he raised dahlias, pelargoniums, and verbenas, achieving recognition for his introductions. His wife died giving birth to a still-born child on 30 November 1873 and was buried in Coleshill cemetery. He married, second, at Coleshill on 30 January 1875, Emily (1843–1942), daughter of Godfrey Gerring, farmer. There were no children of his second marriage.

In 1878 Eckford was invited to work in the gardens of the lunatic asylum at Sandywell Park, near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, run by the physician William Henry Octavius Sankey (1814–1889). Sankey was a keen amateur hybridist himself and together they raised seedlings of florist's flowers at Sandywell and then, from 1882, at Boreatton Park, Shropshire, where Sankey moved his asylum.

The sweet pea experiments for which Eckford became famous started in 1879 when he obtained the best varieties of both edible and ornamental sweet peas and set to work to raise new varieties of both. He was looking for a new cut flower to compete with the ever-popular verbena. The original scented sweet pea was a simple hooded flower in purples and reds with white. It had hardly changed since its introduction

from Sicily in 1699 when Father Cupani sent seeds to Britain to Dr Uvedale at Enfield. By careful cross-fertilization and selection Eckford developed new sweet pea varieties with longer stalks, multiple flower heads, a heady fragrance, and in a range of colours, that were able to flower for seven months of the year. He was particularly associated with large-flowered varieties, termed ‘grandifloras’. One of his earliest cultivars, *Bronze Prince*, raised from varieties purchased from the famous Lee Nursery in Hammersmith, won a Royal Horticultural Society award in 1882, and thereafter his cultivars were regularly exhibited at the society's shows.

In 1888, aged sixty-five, Eckford finally set up his own nursery on land he leased at Wem, on the Welsh border, in rolling countryside reminiscent of his childhood home in southern Scotland. He described it as ‘a place quite out of the way, where people would leave me alone, and where I could grow my peas’ (Martin, ‘Henry Eckford’). He joined the Baptist church in Wem and was also a member of the urban district council while continuing to develop his beloved peas. His business prospered and demand grew to the extent that varieties were being sent as far afield as California. The Canadian-born Washington Atlee Burpee, who started the Burpee Seed Company of Philadelphia, became a friend and marketed Eckford's seedlings, including the successful *Blanche Burpee*, named for Burpee's wife in 1893, followed by *Sadie Burpee* in 1897. A craze for sweet peas in America made Eckford's name across the Atlantic while in Britain sweet peas became the most popular flower of the late Victorian and Edwardian eras.

In 1900, from one of Eckford's seedlings, came a pale pink ‘sport’ (variation) whose standard and wings had wavy edges. It was bred by Silas Cole, head gardener at Althorp, seat of the earls Spencer, and once the seeds were ‘fixed’ it started the famous *Spencer* strain of sweet peas. Eckford exhibited at the proceedings in 1900 at the Crystal Palace to mark the bicentenary of the introduction of the sweet pea to Britain and became first president of the newly formed Sweet Pea Society in 1904. He was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria medal of honour in 1905. Regarded as the father of the sweet pea, ‘he found the Sweet Pea little known and as little valued, and transformed it into that glorious annual which is now found in almost every British garden’, an expert breeder wrote of his achievement (Unwin, 4). Sporting a profuse white beard, his lanky figure could be seen bicycling around Wem into his eighties. Eckford died at 31 Noble Street, Wem, Shropshire, on 5 December 1905, and was buried in the New Street cemetery in Wem. His second wife and three of the children of his first marriage survived him. His son John Stainer Eckford (1864–1944) carried on the seed business at Wem.

SUKI URQUHART

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Henry Eckford (1823–1905): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/96775

The late HENRY ECKFORD, V. M. H.,

this, I fear, this garden is not "up-to-date."

September 18th.—I have more than once alluded to the supposed influence of light upon root growth. It is generally maintained that roots avoid the light, and the plant most often quoted in support of that opinion is the Ivy, which, we are told, always produces its adventitious roots on the darker side, whether it is growing against a wall or not. That would certainly be strong evidence if it were true, but is

Sweet Pea, Scarlet Gem.

it? The present wet season has been very favourable to the production of adventitious roots, and I have just been round to examine my Ivies. There is one which almost covers the back wall of the Vinery—outside, of course; along the greater part of the thick stem runs a broad band of adventitious roots, on the side away from the wall, and therefore facing the light; they are all growing outwards, in straight lines—that is, towards the light. There are very many other instances of the same thing. For some reason or other—probably the greater abundance of moisture—the roots generally keep to one side of a stem, the outer side in the case just mentioned, the upper in many others. They appear to be produced on young shoots only when in contact with a wall, and in such cases they issue from two sides, the upper and the lower—in other words, from the two edges of the line of contact. Here, again, moisture would seem to be the exciting cause, and in growing along the surface of the wall the roots are merely doing what ordinary underground roots do—following their food supplies.

September 19th.—The sparrow is the most determined gossip of all the bird creation. He is always at it—when he is not eating or sleeping. But, like some of the superior cooking animals, he—shouldn't it here be "she"?—reserves his most vivacious anecdotes until he reaches his bed-chamber. At that time the chatter becomes almost deafening. In the evening the Ivy and the shrubberies round this house seem to be simply alive with sparrows. They come and go in clouds. That they do a great deal of damage is, I fear, undeniable; but the question is, do not they also do good? I have just been watching them in a corner of the garden planted with Cabbages. They were exceedingly busy, and, at first, I thought that they were up to mischief, as usual. But when I approached I found that the Cabbages were swarming with the common green caterpillars, and the sparrows were rapidly clearing them off—at a time, too, when there was no lack of ripe corn in the fields around. Let this be placed to the credit of a much-abused bird.

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 103.—Mr. HENRY ECKFORD, F.R.H.S., at WEM, SHROPSHIRE.

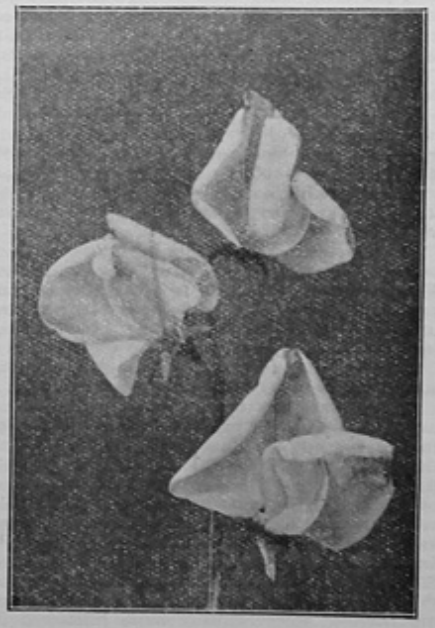
At eighty years of age, Mr. Henry Eckford is as full of enthusiasm as ever for his favourite flower, which, as all the horticultural world knows, is the Sweet Pea. Wandering

Mr. Eckford among his Sweet Peas.

with him about his trial grounds at Wem, one afternoon in July, I speedily became aware of this fact. "Now, isn't that a beautiful thing?" "Have you ever seen anything more lovely than this?" "Just look here at that—isn't it exquisite?" It was with such remarks as these that Mr. Eckford called a halt at almost every other step, fearing lest I should miss anything that ought to be noticed. Our enthusiasm—for, as an old lover and grower of Sweet Peas, I shared my companion's feelings—was roused to the full when we reached the couple of acres devoted to the seedlings. They are at present unnamed. It is from these that the new varieties of the next few years are being selected. I saw, as I need hardly remark, many distinct and beautiful novelties. The one that Mr. Eckford thinks the best of his seedlings is of a whole shrimp colour. The delicacy of this colour, combined with the perfect form of flower, mark it out as one of the great successes of the future. Another lovely new thing is a very soft pale lavender, a "self" colour, and a grand size; another is a new indigo, about as big again as any existing type. There are also a new mauve, a new maroon, a new crimson-lake, and a new blue, the last-named having much more substance than Emily Eckford.

In this part of the trial grounds there was a row of Scarlet Gem, the brilliant variety which had taken the highest possible honours at the National Sweet Pea Society's Show only a few day's before. King Edward VII., one of the four novelties of 1903 (the other three were Dorothy Eckford, Agnes Johnston, and Mrs. Walter Wright), was also in evidence here.

Mr. Eckford is sometimes called the Grand Old Man of Sweet Peas, and the name is not unappropriate. Everybody in the horticultural world acknowledges how great a debt is due to him for his unrivalled work in connection with this most popular flower. During my stay at Wem I was able to see a good deal of Mr. Eckford, both at his nurseries and in his own home, and I was much struck by the modest estimate he puts on his own labours. Perhaps it is this pleasing trait that makes him such a general favourite. Several times he told me how he had always shunned publicity, and how his chief desire had been to hide in some quiet, out-of-the-way place, where he could devote himself to his Sweet Peas without let or hindrance. Mr. Eckford is a fine figure of a man, despite his great age. He stands well over six feet, and is broad in proportion. Whether the cultivation of Sweet Peas is conducive to cheerfulness, I do not know, but the impression Mr. Eckford left on me was that I had seldom met such a happy old man before. He was full of anecdote and jest, and now and again gave utterance to sentiments which showed him to be full



Sweet Pea, Mrs. Knight Smith. (Pink Bloom.)

of a serene philosophy. Altogether, my visit was a very pleasant experience.

As his right-hand man Mr. Eckford is fortunate in having a son whose love of the Sweet Pea is as great as that of his father. Mr. J. S. Eckford has now been associated with his father for some years. Under their joint management the business is rapidly extending.

It was about the year 1870 that Mr. Eckford, who at that time lived in Gloucestershire, began to improve the Sweet Pea. The best collec-

tion at that time consisted of five varieties only. These were named White, Scarlet, Black, Painted Lady, and Butterfly. Subsequently, Mr. Eckford continued this work of improvement at Boreatton, and during later years at Wem, a small town about ten miles north of Shrewsbury.

Mr. Eckford, by crossing and intercrossing all the varieties named in the preceding paragraph, obtained, in 1882, a distinct kind, which he named Bronze Prince. Ever since then there has come a succession of good things from Mr. Eckford's hands, and horticulturists are eager to get his new catalogue every year to see what Sweet Pea novelties he has to offer them.

"I need hardly ask you, Mr. Eckford," I said, "if your love of gardening began at a very early age?"

"It began in my cradle," he replied, laughingly. "My grandfather always used to say to my parents, 'If you make that boy anything but a gardener you'll spoil him.'"

"Where was that prediction made?"

"At Edinburgh, my birthplace. When I was sixteen, I went up to Inverness, and entered Lord Lovat's gardens, at Buchan Castle. From there I went to Sir Peter Murray's, in the Pass of Gowrie. I did not stay there long, but returned to Edinburgh. Then a great wish came over me to go to England, and I went down to Wiltshire. Soon afterwards I was recommended to the Earl of Radnor, and I was with him, at Coleshill, for thirty years. It was after I left there that I began my work with Sweet Peas."

"And then you came to Wem?"

"Yes, after a short interval. I had been working up my Peas, and I had got a nice lot of good things. I only wanted to begin to expand them."

"What made you select Wem?"

"I heard of this ground through the postman at my old home. I had told him that I wanted a place quite out of the way, where people would leave me alone, and where I could grow my Peas. He said, 'I think there's some land to be let at Wem, which would just suit you.' So I came to look at it, and I took it. What a funny thing it is how we blunder about in this world," said my companion, looking at me with a smile. "It would be impossible for a man to chalk out his course, and say 'I'll keep to it.' Yes; I came to Wem through that postman."

"How much land have you here?"

"Nine acres. Here we merely raise the stocks. The seed is grown for us from these stocks in various parts of the country which we consider particularly suited for the purpose. A great deal of it is grown in Essex."

"Sweet Peas must always have had a great attraction for you?"

"I always liked them—I don't know who wouldn't. I began with the four or five kinds that were then obtainable, but I don't know that I had very high hopes of doing much with them. Just then I was on the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, and I was very busy raising plants of all kinds. I never said much about my Sweet Peas to anybody. I used to take them up to the Royal Horticultural Society now and then and get a certificate for them, but the news soon got abroad. Some of my friends, however, were more interested in my culinary Peas, and that reminds me of a little story."

"What is it?"

"One morning, before I was dressed, I heard a tremendous knocking at my door. Looking out of the window, I saw old Mr. Cypher, the well-known nurseryman at Cheltenham. 'You here, Mr. Cypher,' I said; 'what's the matter?' He said, 'I heard so much about those Peas of yours that I could not rest any longer without coming to see them.' 'Which Peas?' I asked. 'Oh, your culinary Peas, of course.' Poor old Mr. Cypher has been dead many years now. He was a great florist. It is wonderful what may be done with Sweet Peas, or with anything else, if you go on working at a thing."

"From what you have just said, I take it that culinary Peas are also an important part of your business?"

"We do more with culinary Peas than with Sweet Peas. We want a fine lot of culinary Peas to supply all our orders, I can assure you. We have never grown too many yet."

"While we are on the subject, you might give me the names of some of the best culinary Peas of your own raising?"

"Prior, a five-foot Pea; Royalty, a four-foot Pea; and Dwarf Monarch, two and a-half feet, are some of the most prolific of the late sorts. Heroine has a long, rather light-coloured pod, but the Peas are very sweet. Some of the lightest coloured Peas are the sweetest flavoured, and yet they cook sufficiently green to have a good appearance. Shropshire Hero is another heavily-podded dwarf, two and a-half feet. The Echo is a dwarf that ripens very quickly. Dawn, a three-foot Pea, of William the First type, is very prolific."

"Now will you give me your own selection of the best six Sweet Peas?"

"I never like to say that the ones I think the best are the best, because, after all, it is a matter for individual taste. But my ideas on the subject are that Emily Eckford is the best blue, Scarlet Gem the best red, Dorothy Eckford the best white, and Lovely the best pink, Hon. Mrs.

THREE GENERATIONS OF ECKFORDS.

E. Kenyon the best cream, and Black Knight the best dark variety."

"Do you find that your customers run after certain kinds?"

"Yes; and the public must be considered to be the best judges. That is why I feel it is a presumption on my part to tell them which are the best. Some people, in my opinion, show the most curious tastes in the varieties they order, but why shouldn't they have the satisfaction of following their own bent in the matter?"

"There is a tendency in some quarters to depreciate the hooded form of the flower?"

"I think we ought to be very careful what is done in that matter. If a flower has beauty and novelty, I don't think it ought to be discarded because of a slight inclination to hood. It may add to the beauty of the flower."

"Are Sweet Peas, in your opinion, often crossed naturally?"

"Not to any great extent. Bees do not seem to work on them much. There is a small black insect that runs in and out among them. I don't know whether that has anything to do with the cross-fertilisation of them."

"It must be a big work to go through these two acres of seedlings, and label them. When is it done?"

"We label them just before they go out of flower."

As we went through the grounds, Mr. Eckford drew my attention to the leading characteristics of some of the most striking varieties. "King Edward VII.," he remarked, "is a very rich colour, and the size of it is so grand. Colonist is a prettily-hooded flower, but it does not show itself so well as a broader-winged one. Triumph has a fully-expanded standard. We really cannot do without the Countess of Powis, although we have Gorgeous. Queen Victoria is more of a cream than a white. I think the colour in Lady Margaret Ormesby-Gore is just delicious. Lord Kenyon is a very rich pink. The Hon. Mrs. E. Kenyon is a fine flower, of a good cream colour. Royal Rose has a very pretty streak down the middle, which lights up the whole flower. Gorgeous is small, but it looks very bright when you get a bunch of it. Lovely is a good size, and has plenty of substance, with strong stems. Alice Eckford is one of the smaller-flowered varieties, but it is exquisitely pretty in a collection. Duchess of York is one of the finest of the stripes. It grows to an enormous size, is well expanded, and looks very rich bunched. Agnes Johnston is a lovely thing, with a well-opened standard."

"What are some of the greatest favourites with the public?"

"Apple Blossom and Lady Grisel Hamilton are exceedingly popular. America, one of the best of the striped kinds, is also much liked. The Hon. Frank Bouverie, which looks very well bunched; Mars, an old favourite, and a most vigorous grower; Duke of York, a very fine one; Duchess of Westminster, which, though not one of the largest, is one of the sweetest; and Royal Rose, may all be included in that category. Lady Nina Balfour, which is inclined to grey, is a very popular variety. I have seen it with stems eighteen inches long. Be generous to it, and it is astonishing what it will do."

"The new white, Dorothy Eckford, is a great improvement, I suppose, on all the older whites?"

"It is half as big again as any of the others, and it is a pure white, without any tendency to cream or pink."

"Does it take long to fix a new type of Sweet Pea?"

"Never less than six years. Fascination, which we sent out some years ago, had been grown by us for about ten years before we could fix it."

"What new varieties shall you distribute next season?"

"Our chief one will be Scarlet Gem, which was awarded the medal at the National Sweet Pea Society's Show last week. I expect we shall also distribute Mrs. Knight Smith, a new pink. It has just sufficient curl to make it interesting. The colour is deeper on the back of the standard than in front; the effect of this is to light it up. Whether we shall bring out any others depends very much on the crop we get."

"How many varieties do you grow here for stock seed?"

"Considerably over a hundred."

"What is your system of growing?"

"We never sow any in the autumn. One reason is that we cannot get the ground ready in time. Our chief month for sowing is February. I don't recommend the amateur to sow in the autumn, as it means having to fight slugs and birds, and one thing and another all the winter, and very often it proves a failure after the greatest of effort to make it a success. Our land is, as you see, full of all sorts of rubbish, but we leave some of the weeds at the bottom of the rows to protect the Sweet Peas from the sun. This year we have suffered very much from the drought, and the haulms are much shorter than usual. Our Sweet Peas are sown fairly thickly, but an amateur should leave at least six inches between the seeds."

"As you leave all the blossoms on the plants, your Sweet Peas must be soon over?"

"They last about six weeks, from the middle of June to the end of July."

"You grow all your Sweet Peas with sticks?"

"Yes; they are generally from six to eight feet high. We keep the haulm in position by winding one or two rows of yarn round the sticks."

"What about manure?"

"There is nothing better than cow manure. We give the land a good dressing of farmyard manure, with a bit of superphosphate."

"When do you carry out your cross-fertilising operations?"

"Directly the Sweet Peas come into flower. It is best to choose a bright day, about noon."

"I have noticed, Mr. Eckford, that there are Sweet Peas named after your daughters and your grand-daughters ,but where is Henry Eckford to be found? Surely that is an omission."

"There was a Henry Eckford once," replied my companion; "it came out many years ago, but it is now forgotten." Mr. Eckford's son interposed here to say that he thought the new shrimp-coloured variety, which I referred to at the beginning of this article, ought to come out as the new Henry Eckford. I quite agreed, and enquired when that would be ready.

"We might be able to send it out in 1905," was the reply.

Mr. Eckford's heart is wrapped up in the new seedlings. "I spend the happiest hours of my life out here," he exclaimed. "Talk about a bunch of Sweet Peas," he went on, "almost everyone here is dissimilar. You cannot take a step without seeing a grand thing. I have no favourite colour, but I like the look of a beautifully expanded flower best. You mustn't run away from the shape."

Some of the older horticulturists who read this account of my visit to Mr. Eckford will wonder why I have made no mention of his work with the Verbena, a flower which he took in hand many years ago, and made almost as great a reputation with as he has since made with the Sweet Pea. It is not that we did not talk about Verbenas—we did; but there has been so much to tell about the Sweet Pea that I have been forced to omit almost everything else.

W. C. SAMBROOK.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 60.—WINTER-FLOWERING IRISES, AND THE BEST PEAS.

DEAR KATE,—You know, I think, that one of my special crazes is for Irises. I have already a good many uncommon varieties, but I am just ordering some new ones, especially of winter-flowering Irises, for the dainty, Orchid-like blooms of these are specially fascinating when flowers are scarce. Iris stylosa, one of the loveliest of these, grows in great clumps on my south terrace, where they get baked with hot sunshine in summer, just under the conservatory wall; and from October till the end of March they throw up plenty of exquisite blossoms, which I am fond of sending to invalid friends (with a few Violets), in the bud state; for the long styles of these flowers should be cut the day before the blossom unfurls, and they then travel perfectly in a box (or even in a pasteboard tube), with a little thin paper rolled round each, and plenty of damp moss. The next morning, on arrival, the opening buds are placed in a glass of warm water, and should stand in a sunny window, when they quickly unfurl their lovely petals in mauve, blotched with golden-yellow, and it gives great pleasure to an invalid to watch the process. This Iris should be put in now, choosing the hottest, driest corner of your garden, with good drainage and light soil; it is quite hardy, and is such an acquisition that it is really astonishing that one so rarely sees this flower. Then, in the conservatory, the pale blue blossoms of Iris alata (a perfect little gem) open very early, and Iris persica, in sea-green, blotched with purple and orange, is most lovely. These are both quite dwarf Irises, and are not easy to grow in the open air, as their blooms so often get splashed and spoiled by winter storms; but for a cool greenhouse, or a glass porch, they are charming, as they don't like too much fire-heat, and only need the protection of glass to flower at Christmas.

Iris reticulata, with taller stems, forces very easily for Christmas, as it naturally flowers early; the blossoms are in deep, rich blue, blotched with purple, yellow, and green, and they are scented like Violets. Then Iris Sindjarensis produces a quantity of lovely flowers in sky-blue, from the axils of its leaves, and is very handsome for the greenhouse in winter. Here it blooms well in the borders, in March, making a great show of colour, but, perhaps, in colder climates than Devonshire it may be safer in a pot.

But I am quite sure of this—that Irises don't like to be disturbed, and do best (when in a suitable soil and position) if left alone for several years. The plan that is sometimes recommended of digging up one's bulbs in autumn,

IXIAS FOR THE GARDEN.

and wintering them in paper bags, is utterly unnatural, and must exhaust the vitality of any bulb, for Nature never treats them in this way, and soil, however dry, always retains sufficient moisture to keep them plump.

When grown in pots, early Irises do best when without fire-heat in their early stages. We keep the pots in a sunny, sheltered position in the garden, as late as possible; then place them on the shelf (near the glass) of a south-east glass porch, and only move them into the conservatory when the buds show. After blooming, the bulbs are placed in a cool frame until May, then planted out, on a border, close under the south wall of the conservatory, without disturbing their roots. The advantages of this position are double, for they not only obtain the dry baking of hot sunshine in summer, which they require, but in winter it is easy to place a pane of glass in a slanting position from the wall to cover them, and so protect their lovely blossoms from the heavy rain of winter. Many South African bulbs flourish on this same border, and are protected in winter in the same way; of these, Ixias and Sparaxis are the most beautiful, and those who have only grown them in pots can have little idea of their vigour when allowed to settle themselves in such a position. They, too, should be planted now, and protected from heavy rains by slanting pieces of glass at once. They like a light gravel soil, and excellent drainage; if your soil is too heavy, take out a trench under the wall, eighteen inches deep, and lay in some broken crocks at the bottom of it, then mix a wheelbarrowful of soil, leaf-mould, and sharp gravel, in equal quantities, and plant the bulbs four inches deep in this, with a little crushed charcoal below them. You can remove the glass next April, when sharp frosts are over.

The Michaelmas Pea, of which I told you in the summer, is giving a very good account of itself, though the weather has been so disastrous. We are now enjoying a plentiful crop of late Peas from this variety; the pods are fine and well filled, and there is no sign of mildew on them, which so often affects the last Peas of the season. I should strongly advise you to grow this new Pea next year, for the season of this delicious vegetable is never too long.

The result of our Pea trials this year has been as follows:—Sutton's Harbinger was the best of all the earliest Peas; Thomas Laxton brought the finest second early crop; the Century, Daisy, and Edward VII. Peas did best a little later, and the new Michaelmas Pea finishes up the season splendidly. There are several other varieties which are nearly as good as this half-dozen; but in this garden these Peas cannot be surpassed. The weather throughout has been exceptionally bad—in fact, the earliest Peas had a terribly hard time of it.

We are busy now, turning out the Vineries and conservatory before the winter, to have the glass and paint cleaned, and to destroy insect pests; but there is no time to be lost, as winter will probably come early this year, after all this rain. One house is done at a time, so that we can shelter the more delicate plants in another glasshouse, though the hardier plants will not mind a night in the open air yet.

There is a great advantage in keeping all glasshouses thoroughly clean; untidy corners not only look wretched, but they harbour slugs, wood-lice, etc., and dirty paint may be full of the eggs of many blights, whilst bright glass will give the full power of the sunshine in winter, which cannot be had when the glass is clouded. Special care should be taken to thoroughly cleanse the paint with hot carbolic soap and water, to which a tablespoonful of paraffin should be added. This mixture must not, of course, touch the leaves of climbers, however, as paraffin burns all young growths sadly. Then, when the whole of the glass and paint is clean, we attend to the borders, and, after taking off an inch or two of the top soil, we give them a top-dressing of fresh compost, and finish off by sprinkling a little freshly-slaked lime over them, and into all the corners, and behind the hot-water pipes, so as to put an end to any insects which may have escaped our vigilance before, and the back walls of the Vineries are white-washed with hot lime and water. Then everything smells so fresh, and looks so bright, that it is a pleasure to rearrange the plants, and I am sure that Chrysanthemums, lifted into such a place, have a much better chance of escaping their insect enemies than when the autumn cleaning is omitted. When all are in, and things ship-shape for the winter, we vaporise at night with XL. All apparatus; this effectually destroys any lurking aphides, etc., and keeps the plants clean and healthy. Plenty of air should be given where Chrysanthemums are newly-housed, or they are apt to suffer from the change from the open air. We very seldom close all the upper ventilators entirely (except in the severest winter weather), and I think you will find that all greenhouse plants are the better for fresh air whenever it is possible to give it, although it may be necessary to have a little fire in the stove at night, and in wet, dark weather.

Your friend, I.L.R.

1906.

ECCLES John of 17 West-square Scarborough gentleman died 22 October 1906 Probate **York** 28 December to William Sayner bank-manager and Sydney Peverill Turnbull solicitor Effects £3885 6*s.* 2*d.*

ECCLES John Christopher of 20 Winckley-square Preston Lancashire gentleman died 13 October 1906 Probate **Lancaster** 6 December to Eliza Mary Eccles widow Effects £39325 7*s.* 3*d.*

ECCLES Kezia Mary Ann of the "Royal" hotel Southend-on-Sea Essex spinster died 17 January 1906 Administration **London** 5 March to Annie Harriot Eccles spinster Effects £835 5*s.* 10*d.*

ECCLES Richard of 5 Somerville Seacombe Cheshire died 25 October 1905 Probate **London** 21 February to Percy Forrest Johnson estate-agent Effects £1657 3*s.* 6*d.*

ECCLES Sarah of Belmont-house Preesall Lancashire (wife of Richard Eccles) died 19 March 1906 Probate **London** 20 August to the said Richard Eccles and James Holding accountant's-clerk Effects £1279 13*s.* 10*d.*

ECCLES William of 15 Cromwell-road Patricroft Lancashire joiner died 30 December 1905 Administration **Manchester** 5 February to Margaret Anne Eccles widow Effects £199 3*s.*

ECCLESTON John of 128 Bilston-street Wolverhampton died 16 December 1905 Probate **Lichfield** 5 January to George Palmer horse-dealer Effects £137 6*s.*

ECCLESTONE Joseph of 19 Frederic-street Stoke-upon-Trent Staffordshire died 27 April 1906 at Princes-road Stoke-upon-Trent Probate **London** 18 May to George Henry Ecclestone designer Effects £221 2*s.*

ECCLESTONE William of the County-lunatic-asylum Stafford died 14 July 1906 Probate **Lichfield** 24 August to Joseph Jervis stationer Effects £153.

ECK Fritz of Mainquai 26 Frankfort-on-the-Maine Germany died 5 February 1906 Administration (with Will) **London** 13 October to Louise Eck widow Effects £492 3*s.* 9*d.*

ECKARDT Andrey Louis of 27 Cathcart-hill Middlesex died 1 October 1906 at 14 Baronsmere-road East Finchley Middlesex Probate **London** 20 October to Frances Maud Eckardt widow Effects £371 15*s.* 1*d.*

ECKERSALL Alice of 20 Bradshaw-street Moss Side Manchester widow died 9 August 1906 Administration **Manchester** 8 September to Sarah Ann Clegg widow Effects £478 1*s.* 8*d.*

ECKERSALL Joseph of 40 Post-street Padfield Hadfield Derbyshire died 3 October 1906 at 42 High-street Blackpool Probate **Derby** 23 October to James Eckersall book-keeper and Hannah Eckersall spinster Effects £2938 18*s.*

ECKERSLEY John of the "Federal-arms" Hindsford Atherton Lancashire died 28 January 1906 Probate **London** 26 April to Martha Eckersley widow Effects £472 2*s.*

ECKERSLEY Samuel of Shaw-street Bolton Lancashire died 11 February 1906 Administration **London** 26 February to Mary Eckersley widow Effects £363 5*s.*

ECKERSLEY Selina of 39 Vine-road Sheffield widow died 9 October 1906 Administration **Wakefield** 19 November to Henry James Johnson dyer Effects £169 5*s.* 7*d.*

ECKERSLEY Thomas of the "Railway" hotel Bag-lane Atherton Lancashire licensed-victualler died 23 March 1906 Probate **Liverpool** 3 May to Ann Eckersley widow Effects £581 1*s.* 11*d.* Resworn £806 7*s.* 4*d.*

ECKERSLEY William of 133 Moorside-road Swinton Lancashire pit-dateller died 23 November 1906 Probate **Manchester** 20 December to Levina Eckersley widow Effects £456 11*s.* 1*d.*

ECKFORD Anne Elizabeth of 111 Malham-road Forest Hill Kent spinster died 27 March 1906 Probate **London** 19 April to Thomas Sheppard ironmonger and Elizabeth Adams widow Effects £343 8*s.*

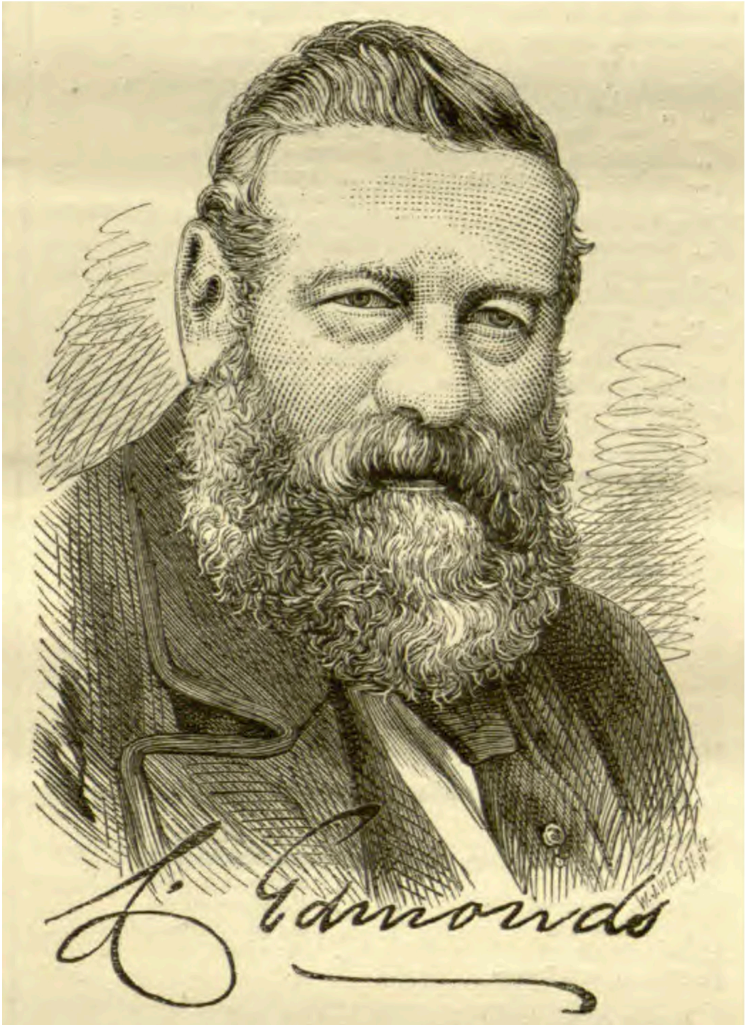
ECKFORD Henry of Wem Shropshire died 5 December 1905 Probate **London** 19 December to Emily Eckford widow John Stainer Eckford seed-merchant and Isabella Sarah Eckford spinster Effects £3795 19*s.*

ECKFORD John Purves of 5 Gloucester-terrace Newcastle-upon-Tyne commercial-clerk died 20 January 1906 Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 15 February to William Eckford estate-agent Effects £114 11*s.* 5*d.*

ECOB Susan of 52 Freegrove-road Holloway Middlesex widow died 30 December 1905 Administration **London** 12 April to Florence Rose Ecob spinster Effects £79 14*s.*

EDBROOKE Anna of Exeter-asylum Heavitree Exeter widow died 9 October 1905 Probate **London** 21 April to Elizabeth Mary White widow Effects £2159 19*s.* 1*d.*

EDBROOKE William of 2 Bellevue-cottages Clifton Wood Clifton Bristol naval-pensioner died 23 May 1906 Probate **Bristol** 16 July to Mary Edbrooke widow Effects £113 7*s.* 8*d.*



Charles Edmonds

Gardeners' Chronicle 1875, n.s. 4

The subject of our present memoir and illustration, Mr. Charles Edmonds, has for a long period occupied a prominent position amongst the horticulturists of the metropolis, having for thirty-seven years had charge of the gardens at Chiswick, formerly as gardener to the late Duke of Devonshire, to whom horticulture and horticulturists owe so much, and latterly to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, by whom Chiswick House is now held. Mr. Edmonds was born on December 7, 1811, at North Aston, a little village in Oxfordshire, and at the age of thirteen entered, as house-serving boy, the garden of the Earl of Clonmell in the same village. There were three men kept in the garden, and here Mr. Edmonds remained for three years, when, to make room for another lad, he was put to work with the men, and soon became promoted to the post of foreman.

"I left this situation," writes Mr. Edmonds, "in 1830, to try my fortune in the neighbourhood of London, when, through the intercession of a friend, I got employment in these gardens. For one year I worked in the pleasure grounds with the ordinary men, the two following years I spent in the glasshouses, and I was afterwards made foreman of the kitchen garden. At that time, although there was nothing remarkable done here in the way of gardening, the range of glasshouses was extensive of its kind, and was devoted to all the usual objects of indoor culture. The whole, however, has long since been converted into one great plant-house or conservatory, with a small division at one end for stove plants.

Somehow its proximity to the Horticultural Gar- dens, and the great reputation of the late Duke of Devonshire as a patron of horticulture, rendered this place, as it then was, a much frequented school of gardening; and Fish, Lumsden, Ford, Dick, Duncan, Cameron, Wilson, and many others whose names have since become familiar in the horticultural world, were among my contemporaries there.

In 1835 I was fortunate enough to be taken on at Chatsworth under Mr. Paxton, who has since made himself so well known to the world as Sir Joseph Paxton. There I continued about three years, and took the management of the plants, more especially the Orchids, which afterwards became such a fine collection. In 1836, under the direction of my eminent master, Mr. Paxton, of whose great geniality and ability I shall always retain the pleasantest and most appreciative recollections, I arranged the great Arboretum which was then formed, and superintended the planting of each specimen. I afterwards prepared in clear white letters on black labels an epitome of the history of each plant, with its scientific and English name, native place and year of introduction, and placed one of these in the front of each; and, as the natural arrangement of classification and grouping was followed, large labels indicating the various classes, orders, and genera, were so placed by the sides of the principal walk that any one, in passing along, could easily see when he had arrived at each special family. It is a little strange that more has not since been heard of this somewhat extraordinary collection, for it comprised all the known species and varieties of hardy trees and shrubs that could then be procured; Messrs. Loddiges of Hackney, who then cultivated this class of plants so extensively, being the principal purveyors. The work of forming the Arboretum brought me into frequent contact with His Grace, who always, in the absence of Mr. Paxton, sent for me to walk round with him, and answer any questions he might wish to ask.

While at Chatsworth also, I had charge for two or three years of *Paxton's Magazine of Botany* and had likewise the supervision of the enormous amount of work required in concocting the Botanical Dictionary.

In May, 1838, the Duke appointed me to take the charge of these gardens, and in this position I have since remained. Those familiar with the glories of the old horticultural shows at Chiswick will long remember the graceful liberality of the Duke of Devonshire, as President of the Horticultural Society, in throwing open his grounds to the visitors to the exhibitions, and the kind feeling which often prompted him to be present himself on

these occasions. Few places could be better adapted for a summer outdoor gathering, and the brilliancy of the private fetes of which they had also been frequently the scenes, have of late been most happily revived in the garden parties given by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales."

Mr. Edmonds occupied for some years a seat at the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society, and was an active member of that body at the time the Society removed from Chiswick to South Kensington, under the enlightened presidency of H.R.H. Prince Albert — for at that time the wholesome rule of placing some practical gardeners on the Council Board, as a counterpoise to the horticultural ignorance of fashion- able residents, was not yet abrogated. At that time, as we happen to know, the welfare of the Society engaged his most constant exertions and his most earnest attention, Mr. Edmonds was also, in conjunction with the late Mr. James Veitch, Dr. Hogg, Mr. Moore, and Mr. J. Lee, one of the original founders and promoters of the Fruit and Floral Committees of the Royal Horticultural Society, while he has been in almost constant requisition as a censor at the chief metropolitan shows.

CHARLES EDMUNDS.

ANOTHER familiar face, too, we shall see no more—that of Charles Edmunds, long gardener to the Dukes of Devonshire, and lately to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, at Chiswick House. He died the other day at Llandudno (where he has lately been residing), aged sixty-nine. Mr. Edmunds was long connected with the Royal Horticultural Society, being alternately on the Council and Fruit Committee, and in both capacities the Society had an efficient helper. In days gone by, when the Society's great shows were held at Chiswick, and the grounds at Chiswick House were thrown open to the public, Mr. Edmunds was oftener met with than he has been lately, but the kindly welcome which he gave his friends on these and on all other occasions will be long remembered. As to his ability as a horticulturist, the gardens at Chiswick House bore ample evidence.

it passed unscathed in 1665, and the dire effect of the civil wars caused the once chartered town of Colnbrook to dwindle into neglect and insignificance. Outside the town, in Middlesex, is Poyle House, which formed the estate of William de la Poyle in 1267, and of William de Langell, of Horton, who conveyed the manor of Poyle to John de la Poyle and Isabel, his wife. This John deceased in 1318, having demised this manor to his wife for life, then to Richard de Waleden, relative of Humphrey de Walden, who died in 1331, and was a crown tenant of Wraysbury Manor. The reversion of Poyle was in Elizabeth, sole heir of John de la Poyle; she was twenty-four years old at her father's decease. Escheat 2 Edward III., 1337. Sir Thomas de la Poyle died seised of this estate in 1424, and in 1452 the same manor was possessed by John Gainsford, of Crowhurst, Surrey, who held it under the Windsors by the service of half a knight's fee; and it continued and was part of the estates included in the forced exchange between Lord Windsor and King Henry VIII. Poyle became the property of the Bullock family toward the end of the sixteenth century, from which it passed to George Paterson, Esq., from whom it became the property of the present proprietor, Alfred Meadows, Esq., M.D. *J.*

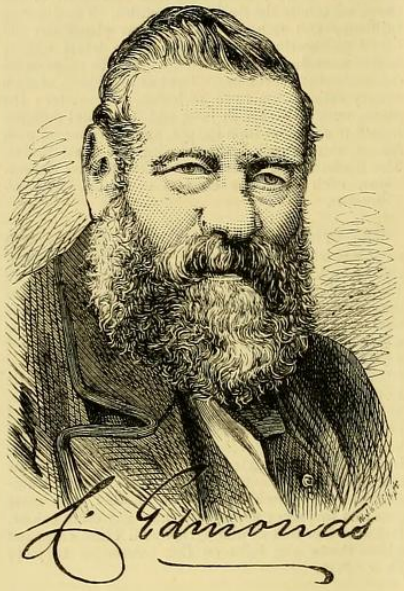
Heating by Hot Water.—Two words have been omitted from a sentence in my letter at p. 21 of last week's issue, which are necessary to make sense of it; the fifth line from bottom of third column should read —"and hot air find a vent into *the flue*, the side or tubes," &c. *Ben.*

Improved Forms of Potatos, &c.—The note at p. 819 of last volume, signed "R. Rushall," asking information about certain kinds of Potatos, affords me the opportunity I have for some time contemplated, viz., of saying a word to certain seedsmen that get hold of "improved" varieties, not only of Potatos, but all other kinds of vegetables, ofttimes as soon as the original stock is in commerce. I have before me at the present moment a seed list in which the word "improved" occurs with such frequency as must make the least observant suspicious of the reality of the fact; and, worse still, in the same list is the name of the firm attached to certain novelties that were sent out by other firms only last year, and yet with the most daring effrontery they are now called "improved." Do these seedsmen imagine that gardeners are as bereft of reason as they themselves appear to be of veracity? I will not insult the fraternity by even supposing that there is a gardener so blind as not to see through tactics so questionable, and on their behalf I venture to give the "improved" dealers a warning, and that is, that such endeavours at gullibility can only end in their own discomfiture. *W., H.*

Grafting Roses.—Most people who have a garden are well acquainted with the art of budding Roses, and many increase their stock by means of cuttings, but few are aware how very easily they may be propagated by grafting; which, if carried out at the right time, is the most expeditious and certain of the three modes, as may be seen by the specimens sent with this, which have only been done just the turn of a fortnight, and yet the parts are united, all cuts callused over, new roots formed, and the buds breaking freely to furnish young shoots. Plants obtained in this way, unlike those from buds or cuttings, are strong the first year, and if planted out in spring flower well during the summer and autumn. For pot-culture they are quite unsurpassed, as being young they are in the full flush of vigour, and therefore where Roses have to be grown largely for forcing I would specially recommend that a lot be worked up for the purpose; and if this be done annually, the old ones may then be turned out in borders or discarded. At one time I used to graft on small young Manettis, but I am not particular about doing this now, as I find pieces of the large roots do equally well or better, and to get these we dig up old stools and replant again after taking off as many roots as we want. These we cut into lengths of about 3 inches, and having trimmed up a lot of small ripe Rose shoots by removing the spines, the scions are obtained from them and inserted in such a way as to get them to fit. This is done by making a notch an inch or so from the tops of the pieces of roots, and then slicing away the part down to it, which leaves a cleft for the point of the scion to rest in. The grafts are made by simply shaving off one side as would be done in making a quill pen, when the ends are just taken off the reverse way to cause them to fit in the clefts, where they remain steady and soon unite. To hold them tightly together till they do this they are tied with matting or Raffia-grass, and then potted singly or put in thickly in boxes of sifted leaf-mould, and stood away where they can be kept dark and in a moist temperature of 60° or so, in which they remain till the scion and stock have got well hold of each other. As soon as this is effected it is necessary to remove them to cooler quarters, where they can also get more air, but at the same time enjoy enough warmth to keep them gently growing till they are hardened off sufficiently to bear full exposure outdoors, which they ought to be able to do by the end of April at latest. *J. S.*

Obituary.

ANOTHER familiar face has gone from among us, and a large circle of gardening friends will regret to hear that Mr. CHARLES EDMONDS, late gardener at Chiswick House for more than forty years, died at Llandudno on Dec. 30, from a second attack of paralysis. The former *habitués* of Chiswick in the days of its great flower shows, and all the gardening fraternity of the past generation, will remember with pleasure the genial countenance, cheerful manner, and cordial hospitality of the friend who so long presided over the gardening establishment of the late and present Dukes of Devonshire, and of the former Duke's relations who succeeded him, as well as of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who occupied Chiswick House in later years. Mr. Edmonds' features were duly presented to the readers of this paper a few years ago, along with a brief notice of his career; and were thus enshrined among other gardening worthies. Since then, owing to infirm health, and to a paralytic affection, he retired from Chiswick,



and lived at Llandudno, where he had, on the 7th of the same month in which he died, just passed his sixty-ninth birthday. It was alike honourable to him and to the generous nobleman whose predecessor he had served so long and so faithfully that, after leaving Chiswick, he enjoyed an annuity almost equal to the full amount of his previous salary, and that, with the aid of prudential savings, he was thus enabled to spend his last years in substantial comfort. Mr. Edmonds was a man of recognised integrity and sterling principle, always ready to do a good action, or say a kindly word. And although he did nothing remarkable in the way of gardening, he was a sound and safe practitioner and adviser, and both on the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society, where he sat for many years, and as a judge at many metropolitan and provincial flower shows, and in various ways respecting other institutions rendered loyal and real service to the profession, and was ever regarded with unvarying respect. Some of these judicial duties were continued to even the latest year of his life. He had the happy quality of disarming enmity and securing friends. And to those who knew him intimately—among whom the writer can claim an unbroken friendship of nearly fifty years—he was so steadily and consistently true, that his memory will be held in lasting and affectionate esteem. *K.*

Notices of Books.

Deutsche Dendrologie, &c. Von W. Lauche. Berlin: Wiegandt, Hempel & Parey. (Williams & Norgate.) (The Trees and Shrubs Cultivated in Germany.)

This is a large handsome 8vo volume of more than 700 pages, with numerous woodcuts and a copious index. It is intended to do for Germany what Loudon's *Encyclopædia of Trees and Shrubs* has done for English-speaking countries. While not so comprehensive as that book, it is more convenient for use, and of course it has the advantage of more recent publication. The descriptions are based on those in the late Karl Koch's *Dendrologie*, to which this book bears about the same relation as the *Encyclopædia* of Loudon before referred to does to the larger *Arboretum*. The introductory sections are devoted to brief accounts of the geographical distribution of trees, the formation of arboreta, and the culture and propagation of trees. These matters occupy upwards of forty pages, and then begins the systematic description of the various trees, beginning with the Conifers. The plan is to give in brief the characteristics of the order, tribe and genus, and then to enumerate the species in a similar manner, specifying first the name, then the geographical distribution, and the distinctive characteristics. Then follows a list of the principal varieties in cultivation. Thus, under the head of the common Yew we have about fifteen varieties mentioned. Synonyms are mentioned, but no reference is given to any standard work or monograph wherein the student might identify or verify the author's conclusions, neither are any indications given as to the books wherein figures may be found. These details are indeed given in Koch's *Dendrologie*, on which this book is founded, but few gardeners, even German ones, are likely to be able to afford to purchase two works on arboriculture.

The list of varieties is not very complete, if we may judge from a few cases that we have lighted on at random; thus, of Cupressus Lawsoniana only seven forms are enumerated, one of the most striking of the whole, that known as erecta viridis, being not mentioned. Those who have been privileged to see the splendid collection of forms of this species got together by Mr. Parker Hamond at Pampesford will smile at seven forms of Lawson's Cypress. Silver Firs and Spruce Firs are both grouped under Abies, Picea being retained as a subgenus. Neither Abies magnifica nor A. Lowiana is mentioned, while of course the newer Japanese varieties are not included. The omission of the Japanese Oaks—and, indeed, of any of the evergreen Oaks so far as we have seen—is not so easily accounted for.

In spite of many omissions the work is very serviceable, and it is a matter of regret that we have no such work of recent date in the English language. The outline illustrations, though occasionally stiff, nevertheless will answer the purpose of identification. We congratulate German gardeners on the possession of so useful a book, and trust that it will meet with such success that a new edition may soon be called for which shall supply the deficiencies in the present volume.

—— *Deutschlands Flora, &c.* Text von Dr. Ernst Hallier. 500 coloured plates. Dresden: W. Baensch. (Williams & Norgate).—This is the ninth issue of a series of coloured copperplate engravings of the wild plants of Germany and Central Europe. The figures are useful for purposes of identification, and the text supplies brief descriptions of the plants and indications of the localities they inhabit.

—— *Cryptogamic Flora of Central Europe.*—Dr. Winter, of Zurich, has just issued the first part of an illustrated description of the fungi of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, on the plan of Rabenhorst's well-known works on the Algæ. The present part contains descriptions of the Schizomycetes, the Saccharomycetes, and part of the Basidiomycetes. The greatest interest now-a-days attaches to the extremely minute and doubtless imperfect structures classed under the two first heads, because it has been proved that they are in some cases the exciting causes of various fatal diseases the attacks of which can be avoided by preventing access of these organisms, and which, on the other hand, can be propagated when they are transferred from one body to another. Various forms of fermentation are likewise proved to

EDMOND George.

Personal Estate under £200.

24 March. The Will of George Edmond late of Bridlington in the County of **York** Brewer who died 9 March 1881 at Bridlington was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Sarah Edmond of Bridlington Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

EDMONDS Catherine.

Personal Estate under £400.

16 March. The Will of Catherine Edmonds late of Falmouth in the County of **Cornwall** Spinster who died 12 March 1878 at Falmouth was proved at **Bodmin** by Stephen Edmonds of Falmouth Gentleman the Brother the sole Executor.

EDMONDS Charles.

Personal Estate under £6,000.

10 March. The Will with three Codicils of Charles Edmonds formerly of Chiswick House and of Chiswick House Gardens both in the County of Middlesex but late of 2 Gloddaeth-terrace Tudno-street Llandudno in the County of **Carnarvon** Gardener who died 31 December 1880 at 2 Gloddaeth-terrace was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Henry Richard Powell of 37 Josephine-avenue Brixton in the County of Surrey Superintendent of the Goods Department of the London Chatham and Dover Railway one of the surviving Executors.

EDMONDS Charlotte.

Personal Estate under £20.

22 February. The Will of Charlotte Edmonds formerly of 28 Montpellier-terrace but late of 2 Crescent-parade both in Cheltenham in the County of **Gloucester** Widow who died 25 February 1880 at Cheltenham was proved at **Gloucester** by Arabella Charter Edmonds of 24 Manchester-walk Cheltenham Spinster the Daughter the sole Executrix.

EDMONDS David.

Personal Estate £1,643 0s. 3d.

22 December. The Will of David Edmonds the Elder late of Aberkenfig in the County of **Glamorgan** Grocer who died 16 July 1881 at Aberkenfig was proved at **Llandaff** by Martha Edmonds of Aberkenfig Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

EDMONDS Elizabeth.

Personal Estate under £500.

7 May. Administration of the Personal Estate of Elizabeth Edmonds late of Elgin Villa Gloddaeth Llandudno in the County of **Carnarvon** Widow who died 15 February 1881 at Llandudno was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Frances Housley of 11 Craig-y-don Llandudno Spinster the Sister one of the Next of Kin.

EDMONDS Harriett Rose.

Personal Estate under £200.

14 May. Administration of the Personal Estate of Harriett Rose Edmonds late of 5 Wrotham-road Gravesend in the County of **Kent** Widow who died 24 April 1881 at 5 Wrotham-road was granted at the **Principal Registry** to William Curtis Edmonds of 5 Wrotham-road Civil Engineer the Son and only Next of Kin.

EDMONDS James Bevan.

Personal Estate £2,269 14s. 1d.

13 December. Administration of the Personal Estate of James Bevan Edmonds late of Penzance in the County of **Cornwall** Grocer a Bachelor who died 23 October 1881 at Penzance was granted at **Bodmin** to Anna Maria Edmonds of Penzance Spinster the Niece and only Next of Kin.

EDMONDS John.

Personal Estate £48 10s. 5d.

12 October. The Will of John Edmonds late of Wenman-street Balsall Heath (near Birmingham) in the County of **Worcester** Gardener who died 20 September

The Florist, 1861

MR. EDMONDS.

THE severity of this winter has been manifest, not only in its effects on the gardener's productions, but on gardeners themselves. A notice of one eminent raiser of florist flowers appears above, and we have to record also the death of another, very eminent as a raiser of Verbenas. Mr. Edmonds was gardener to the Dowager Lady Lacon, at Great Ormsby, Norfolk, and in that capacity not only won the respect of his employer, but became well known, by name at least, to the floricultural world, in connection with a flower so universally grown as the Verbena.

The aim of Mr. Edmonds was to grow the seedlings in the open air, so that it might be seen which were fit for out-door purposes; consequently, except in a very young state, they never bloomed under glass; and out of many thousand seedlings which he annually grew, not more than one or two dozen ever came up to his idea of what was required. In the year 1852, Ormsby Beauty was distributed, and annually, since then, the lists of new Verbenas have borne evidence to his industry and great skill in hybridizing; Leviathan, Mrs. Moore, Lord Shaftesbury, Mrs. Spencer, and other well known and esteemed flowers were of his raising; and it is a melancholy instance of the "Vanitas vanitatum," to see his name affixed to new varieties now coming out, and the raiser himself among us no more; he died suddenly on the 4th inst., respected by all who knew him.

Deal, Jan. 22. D.

EDMAN WISHART heretofore } **Julia Hannah.** *See* "**WISHART.**"

EDMINSON Robert.
Effects under £450.

4 October. Letters of Administration of the Personal estate and effects of Robert Edminson late of East Ord in the County of **Northumberland** Yeoman deceased who died 3 May 1861 at East Ord aforesaid were granted at **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** to Joan Edminson of East Ord aforesaid Widow the Relict of the said Deceased she having been first sworn.

EDMONDS Thomas Crane.
Effects under £200.

11 May. Letters of Administration of the Personal estate and effects of Thomas Crane Edmonds the Elder late of Ormesby St. Margaret in the County of **Norfolk** Gardener deceased who died 4 January 1861 at Ormesby St. Margaret aforesaid were granted at **Norwich** to Thomas Crane Edmonds of Ormesby St. Margaret aforesaid Gardener one of the Children of the said Deceased he having been first sworn.

EDMONDS William.
Effects under £200.

6 March. Letters of Administration of the Personal estate and effects of William Edmonds late of 19 Caroline-place Bayswater in the County of **Middlesex** Groom deceased who died 1 February 1861 at St. George's Hospital in the same County were granted at the **Principal Registry** to Fanny Sarah Edmonds of 19 Caroline-place aforesaid Widow the Relict of the said Deceased she having been first sworn.

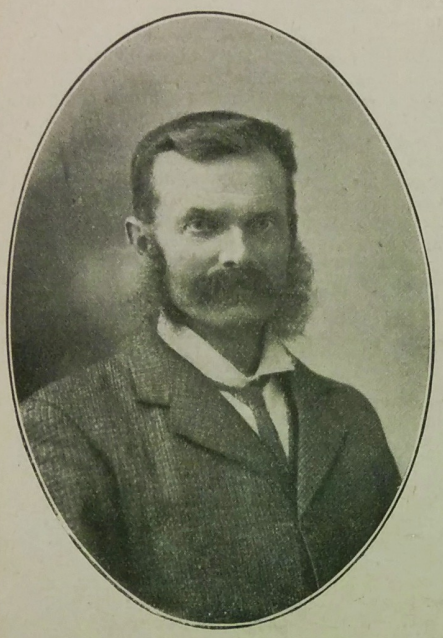
EDMONDSON Henry.
Effects under £300.

6 June. Letters of Administration of the Personal estate and effects of Henry Edmondson late of Barnoldswick in the County of **York** Power Loom Weaver a Widower deceased who died 16 May 1861 at Barnoldswick aforesaid were granted at **Wakefield** to John Edmondson of Barnoldswick aforesaid Power Loom Weaver one of the Children of the said Deceased he having been first sworn.

EDMONDSON Richard.
Effects under £50.

30 July. Letters of Administration of the Personal estate and effects of Richard Edmondson late of North-street Pollard-street Manchester in the County of **Lancaster** Butcher deceased who died on or about

grey, with wavy brown lines, and with yellow patches at the tips. Its hind wings are darker, tinged with yellow. It rests during the day, its folded wings forming a sort of roof over its body, and at twilight wakes to activity, flitting from fruit to fruit, and depositing an egg in each. Spraying with Paris green mixed with lime is recommended, but, to be efficacious, the wash should be applied not later than ten days after the blossom has fallen. During that period the fruit remains upright and the calyx open, so that the solution can easily enter, and leaves



MR. F. EDWARDS.

a deposit of Paris green, sufficient to kill the young caterpillar afterwards. At least, that is the idea. As a rule, the eggs take rather over a week to hatch. The young caterpillars then bore into the centre of the fruit, and, as the result of their depredations, it usually falls prematurely, after which they escape, hiding under rubbish or in cracks in the bark. If the fruit does not drop soon enough for them, they sling themselves down to the ground by silken threads.

More About the Sweet Woodruff.

May 17th.—Since I wrote my note about Sweet Woodruff, I have discovered that it is considered worthy of a place in the "Book of Cut Flowers." The paragraph concerning it runs as follows: "Asperula (Woodruff) gives us at least two first-class plants—the one, the well-known hay-scented Woodruff, one of the most charming members of our indigenous vegetation; the other, A. longifolia, a plant much larger in all its parts, and later to flower. The former may be used by itself for table decorations, or for mixing with flowers in season, and the latter is valuable chiefly to mix with other flowers. They travel well, and are long lasting." It is pleasant to find that this dainty little plant is still not without honour in its own country. The lasting properties, not only of Sweet Woodruff, but also of most other flowers, largely depend upon when they are gathered. More often than not, they are gathered far too late. When the flowers or florets are grouped together in a head, some of those in the centre should not be open when they are gathered; when they follow one another at intervals on a stalk, like the Gladioli, only one or two at the bottom should be open. After they are placed in water, the others will open in succession. To wait until the last flower on a spike is fully out is to reduce its effective period to about a third of what it ought to be. The Japanese never gather flowers except early in the morning, or late in the day, and though the practice cannot always be followed, it is certainly sound, for flowers gathered then last much longer than they do when gathered during the heat of the day.

May 18th.—At this season there is no handsomer tree than the Horse Chestnut. A rapid grower, it is excellent both for shade and for shelter. It thrives in almost any kind of soil, but especially in loam. It is generally propagated by means of seeds sown in spring. There is also a double variety which is less common. This, however, cannot be raised from seeds, and is generally propagated by grafting.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 261.—MR. F. EDWARDS, AT THE GARDENS, WARNHAM LODGE, HORSHAM.

SITUATED about four miles from the town of Horsham, in the midst of charming natural scenery, Warnham Lodge, the country seat of Sir Henry Harben, is very attractive. Perhaps the most astonishing thing about the gardens, extending over about thirty acres, which are on modern lines, and in the smallest detail up-to-date, is the fact that, substantially, they only date back some twenty-five years. The trees and shrubs, as well as the general appearance, convey an impression of considerably greater age. Sir Henry Harben himself has always taken the keenest interest in the development of the gardens, as well as of the whole estate; and, as Mr. Edwards, the head gardener, informed me on the occasion of my visit towards the end of last month, much of the beauty of the former is due to suggestions of the owner. The rain which fell most of the time during my all too brief stay in no way detracted from the attractiveness of the gardens in their spring dress; and, after we had spent a few minutes in the handsome Fernery adjoining the mansion, ornamented no less by hanging baskets of Asparagus Sprengeri eight feet long than by some artistic Doulton panels of pictures photographed by Sir Henry Harben, we proceeded outside.

Bedding Combinations.

"You have some very effective combinations for spring bedding?" I remarked.

"They are designed with a view to contrast in colour," rejoined Mr. Edwards. "Thus, there is a bed of double Arabis and Polyanthus, a bed of Hyacinths (red, white and blue), with Pansies also of mixed colours; a bed of blue Forget-me-nots and scarlet Tulips; also beds of double Arabis and Parrot Tulips, yellow and blood-red Wallflowers, and one, which I think shows up very well, of mixed Polyanthus and Cottage Maid Tulips."

"What will there be during summer?"

"Begonias, Cannas, Verbenas, and Ivy-leaf Geraniums. With regard to Begonias, we raise a few seedlings every year to keep up the stock. About two thousand are bedded out, which means that Begonias are the principal feature. We grow some of the Worthiana, but the leading bedder is Farrant (deep scarlet)."

"Does the soil suit Begonias?"

"Extremely well. It is cold in the spring, but very retentive. All the beds are well drained; in fact, we have every advantage in the shape of drainage. The Begonias are at their best in July and August, but go on until October. They do much better than Geraniums, stand the rain, and do not need sun."

"And the Cannas?"

"Cannas are grown for inside decoration, as well as for outside use. We get the latter out in June, and at the latter end of August they make a striking show in the beds. The best varieties of Cannell's strain include Brilliant, Comte de Bouchard, Doyen J. Liabaud, Heinrich Siedel, Italia, Madame La Baronnesse Phenard, Papa Canna, Partenope, Sécretaire Chabanne, and Reid's Kaizer Furst Hohenloe."

A little distance from the mansion is a fine herbaceous border, with a Sweet Brier hedge on one side, and Cupressus Lawsoniana on the other.

"What is your system of arrangement," I inquired.

WARNHAM LODGE, NEAR HORSHAM.

"We plant the varieties in clumps, with Border Carnations and mixed Pinks in the front rows."

"You might, please, give me the names of the chief varieties?"

"Artemisia lachafolia, Anemone japonica alba, Aquilegia (Veitch's hybrids), Achillea ptarmica flore plena, Campanulas persicifolia (blue and white), Centaurea montana, Chrysanthemum maximum, Chelone barbata, Coreopsis grandiflora, Delphiniums in variety, Dielytra eximia, Echinops ritro, Gallardias in variety, Harpalium rigidum, Helenium autumnale and H. grandicephalum striatum, Helianthus Soleil d'Or, Heuchera sanguinea, Malva moschata alba and rosea, Montbretias in variety, Phloxes in variety, Pyrethrum uliginosum, Rudbeckia Newmanii, Sedum spectabile, Solidago canadensis, and Tradescantia virginica. We have also some rather nice Eucalyptus globulus, which has stood out in the borders for two winters without protection. Now we are approaching The Mound."

The Mound and Arboretum.

"Which, with its slopes of Rhododendrons, is very striking."

"On the other side there are Berberis, gold and silver Hollies, Gorse, and a fine piece of Olearia Haastii and Choisya ternata. The summer-house on the summit, as you see, commands a good view of the cricket ground, which is about three acres in extent. In the gymnasium near the mansion, which was made out of an old barn, the cricket luncheons take place."

"I see, too, that you have a considerable Arboretum."

"It was planted eleven years ago, a belt of Abies brachyphylla being one of the features. The rest are deciduous trees, such as Acorn, Quercus, Prunus, Chestnuts, Elms, and Tulip trees. The Arboretum includes a bed of Ghent Azaleas similar to the bed on the lawn, but very much larger. The Thuja Lobbi hedge on the far side of the cricket ground is about three hundred yards long, and affords admirable shelter. A little further on there is an ornamental wood, covering twelve acres, of Cedrus deodara, planted seventy feet apart."

"Then," I said, as we passed batches of Daffodils and Narcissi naturalised in the grass along the way leading to the farm, "You did not tell me what there is in The Dell near The Mound?"

"There is a pond, with British Ferns and Bamboos. The latter do exceedingly well. In fact, The Dell, with its shelter and moisture, is an ideal spot for them, and the collection of Bamboos is representative, the varieties embracing Arundinaria Simoni, A. palmata, B. metake, and Phyllostachys aurea."

The Rosery and Alpine Garden.

Returning to the north terrace, which faces the Surrey hills, the kitchen gardens' walls behind being covered with Ivy and Pyracanthas, we turned our attention to the Rosery.

"My plan," said Mr. Edwards, "is to keep to one colour in each bed, but to use several varieties. The latter are chiefly Baroness Rothschild, Margaret Dickson, Bouquet d'Or, General Jacqueminot, Nelson Fisher, Dupuy Jamain, Magna Charta, Reine Marie Henriette, Madame de Watteville, Souvenir de la Malmaison, Maman Cochet (the yellow), and La France. The border consists of mixed Roses, with a row of the Polyantha variety in front. The Rosery was made eleven years ago, but the fishpond and Alpine garden only three years since. As to the pond, there is a belt of Rhododendrons at the back, and a collection of British Ferns growing round it; but in the Alpine garden there are a great many choice plants. For example, we have seven varieties of Aubrietias, namely, Bridesmaid, Silver variegata, Golden variegata, Dr. Mules, Souvenir de D. W. Ingram, and Moerheimi."

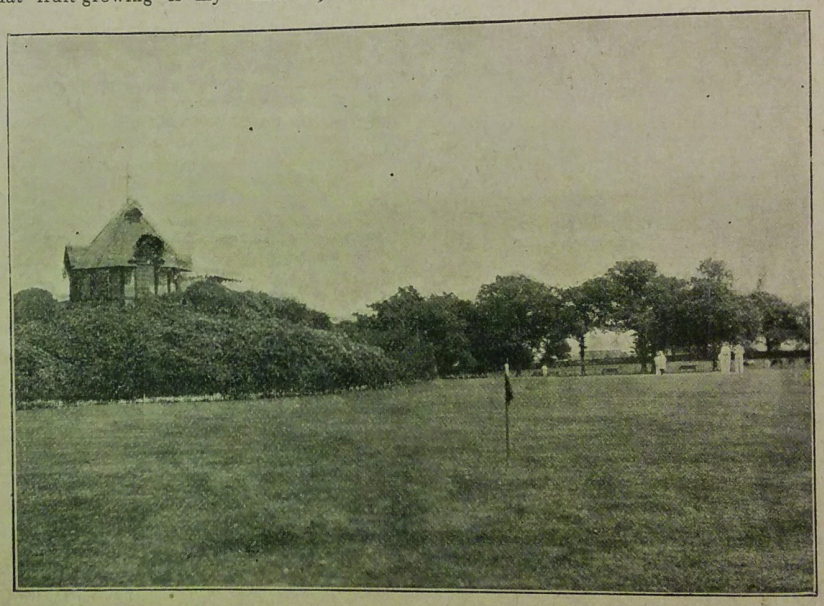
"What are the other chief varieties?"

"Achilleas Huteri and rupestris; Arenarias balearica, montana, purpurascens, and cœspitosa aurea; Arabis albida flore plena variegata; Alyssum saxatile plenum; Campanula garganica hirsuta, bavarica, G. F. Wilson, muralis, and C. garganica; Dianthus superbus and splendens; Omphalodes verna and alba; Saxifrages Wallacei compacta, Guildford Seedling, palmata, ceratophylla, umbrosa, and Hostii altissima; Sedums album, glaucum, spurium, Sieboldi, and pulchellum; Sempervivums arachnoideum minus, tomentosum, and Verloti; Veronicas repens and prostrata; Lithospermum prostratum; Hutchinsia alpina; Linaria pallida; and Gentiana acaulis and septemfida."

A Remarkable Peach House.

We now crossed over to the houses, starting appropriately with one of the finest and lightest Peach houses in the kingdom. I asked its dimensions and when it was planted.

"It is ninety feet long, eighteen feet wide, and fourteen to fifteen feet high. It was planted fifteen years ago. As to its fruit-producing capacity, we pick every year about three thousand Peaches and Nectarines. I may confess that fruit-growing is my weakness, and, though we have a large staff, I do the disbudding and thinning myself. It takes years to build up fruit trees such as these which now yield a great quantity of fruit. The system in planting is a dwarf-trained tree, and then a standard; trained in this way, we get the whole of the wire trellis covered. The early varieties of Peaches are Early Beatrice, Hale's Early, and Early Alfred; the mid-season, Diamond, Bellegarde, Royal George, and Dr. Hogg; the late, Princess of Wales and Sea Eagle. The Nectarines are Early Rivers, Lord Napier, Humboldt, and Pineapple. We picked from the last week in June last year, until the beginning of October."



The Pavilion, Overlooking the Cricket Ground at Warnham Lodge.

Specimen Plants.

"Then you have a large number of specimen and other plants in the house?"

"The standards, Fuchsias, Heliotropes, and Zonal Pelargoniums, we use in the summer for festoons, planting Tropæolum to hide the stems in bedding out. Sir Henry Harben got this idea from the public gardens of Bavaria."

"Which are the best varieties of Fuchsias?"

"One of the best is certainly Rose of Castille improved, and other very good ones are Scarcity, Ballet Girl, Mrs. Marshall, and Madame C. Ambon. Of the Zonal Pelargoniums, Madame Leon Dalloy, Raspail, and Double Jacoby are the best; and the only standard Heliotrope we use is Miss Nightingale. For the festoons, also, we use Diplacus glutinosus, which is grown in pots. We have a dozen and a half. Diplacus is really a greenhouse shrub, but we find it stands well planted outside, and flowers all the summer. We commenced planting it out about four years ago, and it is one of the best things to use for festoons."

Acacias and Plumbagos.

"For sub-tropical beds," continued Mr. Edwards, "we grow a number of Acacias in pots; the variety is lophantha. Also we have a number of Abutilons. I think, of varieties, Thompsonii does the best. We lift in the autumn, grow them for two years, and then let the frost cut them down. Plumbago capensis is grown in pots, which are plunged into the beds, making fine specimens, particularly in a warm summer. There are so few blue flowers that they make a very welcome change."

"You likewise manage to grow vegetables here?"

"Yes, Peas for early work; the variety is Chelsea Gem, and, having used it for pot culture for twelve years, I think I am justified in saying it is the best for the purpose. We picked the first batch on the 15th April, and we grow the same variety in frames to follow on after these."

"You have a notable specimen of Geranium Raspail in your Tomato house?"

"It has been there for thirteen years, and we can always cut flowers from it. We grow here three varieties of Tomatoes—Princess of Wales and Frogmore Selected for summer crop, and Veitch's Dwarf Red, a fine sturdy grower, for winter crops. As with Peas, we keep up a succession of Beans, and commenced picking Veitch's Early Forcing on the 12th March. I always find it excellent, but I am this season trying Veitch's Progress. In this house we grow Bouvardias for cutting in winter. There are only six varieties, Alfred Neuner, President Cleveland, President Garfield, Vreelandii, Mr. Robert Green, and Sang Lorraine (double red). I find that the doubles last much better when they are cut than the singles, and are more useful. Bouvardias and Violets make an excellent combination for the table."

Mr. Edwards then showed me a new house,

which was planted in February with Peaches Alexandra, and Nectarines Cardinal. Here, too, were more Beans, and, on the stages above, a quantity of Strawberries, Royal Sovereign.

"We began to pick these," said Mr. Edwards, "on April 22nd. Royal Sovereign is used entirely for forcing purposes, but outside we grow these, and The Laxton, Leader, Climax (a good-late variety), Givon's Late Prolific, and Trafalgar. The Strawberries are grown on the annual system, the runners being eighteen inches apart, and twelve inches apart in the rows."

Carnations and Chrysanthemums.

"You have Roses in pots in this house?"

"Yes, for early work, the varieties being Celine Forestier, Madame Lambard, Viscountess Folkestone, Souvenir de Therese Levet, and Sunrise, a lovely Tea-scented Rose. On the back wall, Homere and Bouquet d'Or are planted, and I am just adding Niphetos, Maréchal Niel, and climbing Mrs. W. J. Grant. In the little cool house we have Carnations, chiefly Malmaisons, the only two varieties being Princess of Wales and Churchwarden. The Trees include T. W. Lawson (which we started with), Nelson Fisher, Lady Bountiful, Enchantress, Flamingo, G. H. Crane, Lieutenant Peary, Gladys, Rosy Morn, Mrs. H. Burnett, and White Fawn. The Border varieties, which we grow in pots, include Cecilia, Raby Castle, Old Clove, Miss Audrey Campbell, and Mrs. Frank Watts."

"Have you a large collection of Chrysanthemums?"

"Between six and seven hundred, of which three hundred are grown in 6-in. pots. The best varieties for 6-in. pots are: Queen Alexandra, Mrs. E. Thirkel, Charles Davis, Lady Hanham, Viviand Morel, Souv. de Petite Amie, Ma Perfection, Lord Salisbury, Monsieur Freeman, General Hutton, President Nonin, Lord Ludlow, Miss Nellie Pockett, Godfrey's King, Francois Pilon, John Shrimpton, Sensation, Lady Canning, Red Canning, J. S. Fogg, and Admiral Avellan. We propagate Chrysanthemums the second week in May, and, as soon as they are struck, we take out the point, and then put the plants into their flowering pots. This gives us some splendid decorative plants, ranging from twelve inches to two feet high. I adopted this course a few years ago, and am very pleased with the results. The plants are small enough to put into a moderate-sized vase for table purposes."

"When do you finish gathering Grapes?"

"The end of December, and then we bottle what is left, and those carry us on until the end of February. The Vineries are small compared with the Peach house. The only late variety is Mrs. Pince, and the early varieties are Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, and Buckland's Sweetwater. On the wall is Asparagus."

In the propagating house, in addition to Begonias, I noticed a number of Cyclamen.

"These," observed Mr. Edwards, "we have just finished. They are Sutton's strain, and flower from October to April. I grow about two hundred from seed, which is sown in September for flowering the next winter. You are just too late for the Amaryllis. I have some very good crosses, one a light variety, and another a beautiful carmine-pink, called Lady Harben, the best flower we have. They are chiefly our own seedlings, and are known as Warnham Lodge Selected, the stock having been worked up in about ten years. We give them very liberal treatment, put them in cold frames to thoroughly ripen, and well manure the bulbs, in order to get them to throw out strong spikes. At the back of this house is a batch of Streptocarpus, which is useful between the seasons, after Cinerarias, and before Gloxinias. It fills up a gap in May, and is easily grown. The treatment is similar to that of Gloxinias, but we do not dry off Streptocarpus. Another useful little plant for flowering in May, and requiring only an intermediate temperature, is Browallia speciosa, with very pretty blue blooms."

"If not so large as your great Peach house, your show house is very attractive."

"Its special feature is that every plant shows up distinctly. It is also singularly tight, and, though put up as many as fifteen years ago, the rain has never penetrated. We aim rather at brilliance in the winter and coolness in the summer, using more of flowering plants in the former, and of foliage plants in the latter. The predominating feature just now is the collection of Cineraria stellata."

"You certainly have a number of beautiful flowers, and I notice that you grow both the taller and the dwarf varieties."

"Those in the centre are Sutton's strain, and the dwarf variety is Veitch's Feltham Beauty. After the Cinerarias the centre stage will be filled with Pelargoniums."

"Then you have a number of Schizanthus in bloom."

"One of the advantages of the Schizanthus is that flowers can be obtained almost at any time. It is a very useful decorative plant for winter and early spring. For the rest, there are Lilacs in pots, and Imantophyllums, grown from Veitch's seed, with very rich and dainty flowers."

Then we went into the kitchen garden, and Mr. Edwards having explained that winter greens are grown in another garden a little distance away, and Potatoes—except those grown in frames and early borders in the kitchen garden—at the farm, my attention was immediately attracted by a number of Campanulas in pots on one of the paths, the variety being pyramidalis, which is sown in March, and flowers fifteen months later.

Double Cordon Fruit in Diamond Shape.

"You go in largely," I said, looking round, "for double cordon fruit in diamond shape?"

"Yes, it is quite a feature, and, once started, does not require any special attention. It is thirteen years ago since we commenced it. On the south walls are Peaches, Apricots, and Plums; on the west, Pears; and, on the east, Plums and cordon Pears. Cordon Cherries were only planted this year. The varieties of Apricots are Shipley's Large Early, Moor Park, and Powell's Late; of Peaches, Noblesse, Barrington, and Royal Ascot; and, of Plums, Jefferson's Denniston's Superb, Greengage, Transparent Gage, Boddart's Gage, Black Imperial, and Coe's Golden Drop. Morella Cherries are grown, not only on the north wall, but there are also three rows on wire trellis. I started these five or six years ago, and they answer admirably. There are rows of single cordons of Apples and Pears, eight feet high."

Pears and Apples.

"You have not mentioned any of the varieties of Pears?"

"The best include Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Hardy, Duchesse d'Angouléme, Thompson, Winter Nelis, Charles Ernest, Marguerite Marillat, Le Lectier, Catillac, and Verulam, the two last for stewing. As to Apples, we have Lane's Prince Albert in all forms. It is the best for cooking purposes. Other varieties of pyramid and bush Apples are: Devonshire Quarrenden, Worcester Pearmain, Keswick Codlin, Lord Suffield, Beauty of Kent, Peasgood's Nonsuch, King of the Pippins, Warner's King, Cox's Pomona, Cox's Orange Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Bramley's Seedling, Newton Wonder, Allington Pippin, Adams' Pearmain, Cockle's Pippin, Chelmsford Wonder, and Wellington."

"How long have you been growing the Loganberry?"

"For three years. It is a splendid addition to our summer fruit. We also grow a late variety of it, Rubus laciniatus, and the Japanese Wineberry, all on wire trellis. All the bush fruit is also grown on wire trellis, four feet high, the advantages of which are numerous. Protection is afforded more easily from frost in the spring with netting, the crops are larger, and the flavour is superior. Of Gooseberries we grow more of Warrington than of any other red. The other reds are Whinham's Industry, Clayton, Dan's Mistake, Speedwell, Slaughterman, and Lancashire Lad. The yellows are Leveller, Langley Beauty (very fine), Broom Girl, Trumpeter, and Railway. The white and green are Langley Gage, Fearless, Plunder, Thumper, Whitesmith, Telegraph, Champagne, and Matchless. The Red Currants grown on wire are Mammoth, La Versaillaise and Red Dutch. White Dutch and White Versailles are also grown."

A System of Protection.

"You afford an immense amount of protection to the fruit?"

"And we find it worth while to do so. To protect the Apricots and Peaches on the walls, there are fifteen-inch removable coping boards, with poles in front, twelve feet between each, with ordinary curtain rings at the top, and cords to pull up the canvas. For Plums and Pears on the walls we have half-inch netting, and the Apples and Pears on the wire trellis are also protected in the same way. This enables us practically to defy the late spring frosts."

"Evidently, of vegetables, Peas are most prominent?"

"They occupy pretty well a third of the kitchen garden. In addition to Chelsea Gem, of which I have already spoken, we grow Exonian, Criterion, Chelsonian, Gladstone, and Autocrat. I grow a few others, but rely chiefly upon these, Chelsonian being perhaps the best. Next to Peas, Beans are our principal vegetable crop, Ne Plus Ultra being one of the best Runner Beans. Asparagus is grown on the plot, in rows three feet apart, the variety being Connover's Colossal. Onions are also a great feature, and they are grown in boxes, and planted out. We grow about a thousand of Ailsa Craig, and, though they do not get any special attention, we have plenty of bulbs two pounds each in weight. Lettuce is grown in large quantities, and one thousand heads of Celery, which is in constant demand for stewing. We possess every minor advantage, such as the asphalte paths in the kitchen garden, two motor lawn-mowers (which save an immense amount of trouble, and improve the appearance of the lawns and cricket ground), a water tower which gives us an unfailing supply, 'and last, but not least, the electric light."

"You have been here, I think, for some fifteen years?"

"Yes, I have had charge of the gardens for that time, and I have always been well supported by my employer. Previous to my engagement at Warnham Lodge, I was very keen on exhibiting Chrysanthemums and fruit, and was very seldom defeated. But here exhibiting is prohibited, and I am quite content without it."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Campanulas for Hanging Baskets.

A PLEASING variation upon the usual basket plants—Geraniums, Marguerites, Lobelia, and the like—is afforded in the charming little trailing Campanulas, fragilis and isophylla. The former grows about six inches in length, and bears large numbers of small white blooms from July onward. C. isophylla is of larger habit, the stems reaching a length of about a foot. The blooms of the type are mauve, and there is a very beautiful white variety, known as alba. A rich, loamy soil is most suitable, to which may be added a little well-rotted manure. The species named also form good pot plants for window decoration, and bloom about August. Plant at once.

BRENSIS.

THE great annual show of the Royal Horticultural Society will be held in the Temple Gardens, on the 28th, 29th, and 30th inst.

FAMOUS GARDENS :: IN WAR TIME. ::

HOW THEY ARE BEING MAINTAINED WITH REDUCED STAFFS.

XVII.—Interview with Mr. G. M. Edwards, The Cedars, Addlestone.

THE gardens of The Cedars, Addlestone, are among the best known in a locality where good gardens abound, and although, by comparison with some of their neighbours, they are on a modest scale, they are skilfully designed and planted, and embrace a number of distinctive features. The owner, Mr. G. M. Edwards, is an enthusiast who makes gardening his hobby, and takes an active part in maintaining his gardens at a high level of excellence; indeed, he spends all his spare time on them, and studies the welfare of every plant. He it was who piloted me round when I visited the gardens early in October.

The house is approached by a circular drive, and faced by a well-kept lawn. The front was resplendent with the autumn tints of many creepers of the Ampelopsis family, and the broad leaves of the Dutchman's Pipe (Aristolochia Sipho) were also conspicuous, together with Polygonum Baldschuanicum. The beds on the lawn were still gay, Begonias, Ageratums, Lobelia, and Kœniga maritima, in various combinations, making an effective display. At the back of the lawn, screening the house from the roadway, Rhododendrons and other evergreens make a thriving hedge; while to the right may be seen some of the Cedars from which the place takes its name.

As we made our way towards the principal flower gardens, Mr. Edwards said:

"The staff here is never a large one, and at the present time it is reduced to two men and a boy. Two of my under-gardeners have been killed at the front, and Kemp, the head gardener, is still out there. My present "head," Mobsby, is seventy-four years old, and came here in 1873, when my father built the house and had the grounds laid out. The two Wellingtonias across the lawn were planted then, and so was the Weeping Beech between them, and also the Cedars—all very fine trees now."

GOOD AUTUMNAL ROSES.

The Beech, I noticed, almost completely hid a pretty summer-house; and is, I was told, some forty feet through. These trees are at the far end of the principal lawn, and between them and us were many beds of Roses, most of them still in flower.

"Roses seem to be one of your strong features here," I remarked.

"They are among my favourites," replied Mr. Edwards; "and I like to have them in bloom as long as possible. These are all good, free-flowering varieties, easy for an amateur to manage. The beds are kept to one colour in each, though not, of course, to one variety."

"What do you consider the best sorts?"

"Those I especially like include Duchess of Westminster, a lovely flower of rose madder; Madame Mélanie Soupert, one of the best for bedding; General McArthur, always good; Gloire de Chédane Guinnoisseau, a deep velvety crimson, very fragrant; Frau Karl Druschki, always reliable, like Caroline Testout, which is in another bed; Madame Maurice de Luze, a deep rose; K. A. Victoria, and Lady Hillingdon. Here is another bed with Irish Elegance; and opposite that, one with Irish Fireflame. You notice how full of bloom they are even now. I prune them very lightly—say about eighteen inches from the ground—and find they do best when so treated. Lady Hillingdon is pruned in the same way, and always does well. Two other favourites that I ought to mention are White Killarney and Prince de Bulgarie, both very lovely flowers."

"You also have Ramblers wherever it is possible to put them," I observed, noticing some Apple trees carrying fruit, while Roses were twined among their branches.

"That is so," replied Mr. Edwards. "These Apples are old trees, not of much value for their fruit—the best trees we will look at later—so I have planted Roses to grow over and among them. Here is an arch of old Apple trees, with American Pillar and Dorothy Perkins roaming among the growths on one side, with Gruss an Teplitz still in bloom on the other."

Beyond the Roses, and within the shade of the trees fringing the side of the lawn, are other beds, where Michaelmas Daisies were making a fine show, Climax being especially prominent. Pæonies occupy other beds, and provide a good breadth of colour in their season; while in another bed were some attractive plants to which Mr. Edwards called my attention. They were about two feet high, with many branches to the stem, each terminating in a cluster of small flowers of deep scarlet and orange.

AN UNCOMMON PLANT.

"This is a very uncommon herbaceous plant," he said, "Asclepias Carassavica. It is tender, but is decidedly good for bedding. Seed was sent to me from South Africa, and the plants have been in flower for a long time. Of course, they have to be raised in heat."

Delphiniums do well here, and by cutting down the flowering stems after the first lot of bloom is over, a second lot is obtained in late summer. But these, too, were over for the season, as were many other herbaceous subjects here and in the wild garden, which we next visited.

We then made our way towards the Rosery, on the other side of the gardens, where a great feature is made of arches of climbers, the supports fixed into drain pipes let into the ground, and filled with concrete. This not only gives them greater stability, but keeps them from rotting.

"Among the best varieties here," said Mr. Edwards, "are Excelsa, Hiawatha, American Pillar, Dorothy Perkins, White Dorothy, and Blush Rambler. Adrian Riverchon is very delicate and pretty in its colouring, rose and white, and is in bloom throughout the season. It is an excellent pillar Rose, and so is Lady Waterlow. These two I can strongly recommend for this purpose."

"You grow dwarfs beneath standard Roses in the beds," I remarked.

"It is perhaps not the best or the proper way to grow them, but I feed them well, and the results are satisfactory. The standards are Hugh Dickson, and the dwarfs Irish Elegance. They are both very free-flowering. George Dickson, in this further bed, makes great growth, which will not flower well in the ordinary way, but pegged down as you see them they bloom profusely."

"Besides Roses, you also have Clematis growing up old trees?"

"That is another plant I am very fond of, and wherever possible I get varieties among the trees. On this Apple tree is Clematis Jackmanii; and here is the true Traveller's Joy, Clematis vitalba, growing all over another tree, which, you see, is full of fruit, and does not seem to suffer from the Clematis. Over this old Plum tree is Rose Hiawatha. It is facing the west, and as the setting sun shines on it it looks gorgeous when in bloom."

Running parallel with the Rosery, on the other side of the path, is a broad herbaceous border, with tall flowering shrubs intermixed, presenting a sight at once natural and pleasing. There was still a show of bloom, and Mr. Edwards singled out Anemone japonica and Scabiosa caucasica for special praise.

SEVENTY-FOUR AND SEVEN—THE OLDEST AND THE YOUNGEST GARDENER AT THE CEDARS.

"They are two of my favourites, for I think the white of the Anemone and the blue of the Scabious are so pure, and the flowers so shapely. They have done extra well this year."

THE ROCKERY.

We had now made the circuit of the lawn, and approaching the house came in view of the rockery. This was made before the war by Messrs. Pulham and Son, and over sixty tons of Kentish rag were used in its construction. It runs close up to the back of the house, and is intersected by a crazy path, and at one end has a dripping well, which empties itself in a small pool.

"We are generally told that rock gardens should be as far away as possible from the house," said Mr. Edwards; "but it is very pleasant to be able to sit indoors in bad weather and to look out at one's favourite plants, which, if not in bloom, are yet cheerful and green. This rockery is my chief delight, and I love to be out here looking after the plants."

"What are the most important subjects here?"

"There are all sorts of things, and I like every one—Aubretias, Saxifrages, Rock Roses, Phloxes, and so on. Here at the back near the waterfall, growing over the stones, is the tiny Arenaria balearica, which makes a perfect carpet of greenery. Sempervivum arachnoideum, the Cobweb Houseleek, are planted in full sun

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in crevices where nothing else will grow. They have a pretty effect, seeming to grow out of the rock and showing no bare soil. Dwarf Phloxes are good, especially the variety Vivid, a bright rosy crimson. There is a plant which is a mass of bloom in summer, and deserves to be mentioned, Saponaria ocymoides splendidissimus, a brighter flower than the ordinary sort, and very lovely as it hangs over the stones."

HOW TO TREAT RAMONDIAS.

"Does Ramondia pyrenaica thrive with you?" I asked, noting a number of plants in pockets here and there.

"Yes," was the tnswer; "I made little corners for them especially, and they bloomed well this year. They are in shade, and are planted on their sides, so that moisture does not settle about their crowns."

"You contrive to get a little colour on the rockery, even at this season."

"There are a few things in bloom now. One of them is Veronica pimeleoides, whose foliage is also very pretty; and the Cotoneaster carries plenty of bright leaves."

"Is the Veronica hardy with you?"

"I planted it only this spring, and so I cannot say. But I lost several things last winter, such as Lithospermum Heavenly Blue and the Rock Roses. The Cotoneasters did not suffer, however. There are two species here, angustifolia, which grows so close to the stone as to take its shape, and horizontalis, which is of spreading habit, and droops over the stones very gracefully. That is the one that is so full of red berries, and I have some bushes of it under the house windows. Here is a dwarf Yucca, not a foot high, which has bloomed this year."

In the pool is a Water Lily, and darting in and out among the leaves were many gold fish.

"The gold fish did not suffer from the severe winter," said Mr. Edwards. "They took shelter in the cavity at the end of the pool, where there is a little shelter. This is made to suggest that a piece of rock had fallen, partly overhanging the pool, and then others gradually sank and so formed a cavity."

Overlooking the rockery on the side farthest from the house is a small tea-house, under trees, and with climbing Roses, chiefly American Pillar, trained over it. These were planted last year, and have not yet reached their full strength, but when established the arbour will be a delightful retreat in summer.

PRIMULAS ON THE MORAINE.

"This year," went on Mr. Edwards, "I have made a small moraine, and the Primulas on it have been very good. Mrs. J. H. Wilson is a beautiful thing, so rich in its purple colouring. I had, too, a good show of Primula rosea on the edge of the moraine. Above this, you see what a pretty effect is produced from Nepeta Mussini and Gypsophila repens, which cover the stones, and hang over the edges of the rocks. There is another Primula that I ought to mention, for it is one of the most beautiful—Mrs. Robson, an exquisite shade of pale yellow."

"With so many different subjects, do you study the requirements of each as to soil?"

"I give each one the soil that suits it best, and top-dress them all every year. For this I use a compost of loam, leaf-mould, brick rubble, and sand."

Leaving this most charming rockery, we next turned our steps towards the greenhouses, passing on our way a fine border of shrubs, some assuming their autumn tints. One that caught my eye, Pyrus Malus Neidzwetzkyana, was in bloom for a second time this year, its rosy purple blossoms and foliage giving a rich touch of colour.

A GOOD PLANT HOUSE.

The principal greenhouse is fifty feet by eighteen feet, and was designed by Mr. Edwards himself. The central staging is on legs, hinged so that they can be folded up to accommodate tall plants, and let down for small plants.

"The idea of this," it was explained, "is to allow the plants to be brought nearer the level of the eye. When the tall Chrysanthemums are housed the staging is lowered, so that it is not necessary to crane one's neck to see them. The pulley overhead raises and lowers the staging as required. Then, beneath this, is a tank where the water is stored. It is rainwater from the roof, which is brought here by pipes from outside. I am a firm believer in having the water of the same temperature as the house. There is plenty of ventilation on both sides, and the roof, and a portion of the house is divided off for plants that require a higher temperature."

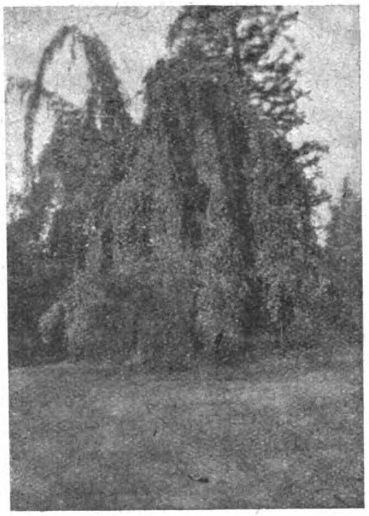
"How is the house heated?" I asked.

"By means of Messenger's sectional boiler," was the answer. "This is a remarkably useful system, for you can increase the size of the boiler to suit your requirements. I have done so already, and find it very satisfactory indeed. I have never had any trouble over the heating arrangements."

"You are going to have a good show of Chrysanthemums," I remarked, noticing a healthy batch lately housed.

CHOICE CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

"They are all Singles and Pompons," said Mr. Edwards. "Singles I consider are the most



THE WEEPING BEECH ON THE LAWN AT THE CEDARS.

artistic, graceful, and light, and each plant gives a quantity of flowers as against one from the big Japs. The Pompons, too, are very pretty, and I wonder they are not grown more. Some of the best Singles are Mollie Godfrey, Mensa, Edith Pagram, Bronze Edith Pagram, and Mary Morris; and the Pompons, Primrose League, Baby Button, Royal Rose, Eclipse, Miss E. Walters, and W. Westlake. I may say that, owing to the war, I wanted to give up all the Chrysanthemums, but the old gardener was emphatic in his opinion that it is best to grow them, so I let him have his way."

"You have some Orchids here, too," I remarked.

"Yes, there are a few, but they have to look after themselves, as I am not very fond of them. I prefer flowers with their natural foliage, and Orchids rarely have good foliage, so that there is nothing to cut with the flowers. More to my liking are the Perpetual-flowering Carnations, and of these I have about a hundred and fifty plants. I am able to cut from these every week throughout the winter—indeed, I have Carnations in the house until July."

"Do you propagate your own plants?"

"I take cuttings in December, and also buy some plants. These are all the best varieties, such as Mary Allwood, Gorgeous, Carola, Scarlet Carola, Enchantress Supreme, White Enchantress, and Cinderella. Gorgeous I find does best as a two-year-old plant, but the others are at their best the first year."

Passing through to the warmer end of the house, two very beautiful plants were pointed out to me—the Cape Violet, Saintpaulia ionantha, and Brunsfelsia or Franciscea calycina floribunda, both in bloom. A Myrtle, the parent of which had been a piece of Queen Victoria's bridal bouquet, was another interesting plant here.

Then we moved on to the Melon house, this year devoted to Tomatoes, which had been spoiled by the ghost fly; and from this to the Peach house, where Cardinal and Milton Nectarines, and Royal George and English Galande Peaches had been a prey to red spider, owing to the lack of labour to attend to them. Passing on, we next entered the Vinery, containing Muscats and Black Hamburgh.

"The Vines had borne well, but they shanked badly last year," said Mr. Edwards, "so we took out the border and re-made it, allowing a foot and a half for drainage. The roots are outside, and pass in under arches. We put in cross drains to allow the surplus moisture to fall away."

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GARDENER.

We had now completed the inspection of the houses, and emerged on the garden where much of the fruit is grown, together with the herbaceous plants and annuals for cutting. Noticing here a roughly made path with little beds of flowers, alternating with Cabbages, Mustard and Cress, and even a Celery trench with diminutive plants, Mr. Edwards said, in reply to my question:

"This is my little son's garden. He is very keen on gardening, and knows a lot about the plants he grows. He also takes great interest in my plants, and if I miss anything I come here to look for it, and am fairly sure of finding it. He bagged some gravel, when it came, to make the path. Some of his plants are from seed he sowed, others he has begged from me."

Hardy fruit here, as in most other gardens this year, has cropped abundantly. In the kitchen garden is a splendid arch, with thirty cordon Apples on one side, and thirty Pears on the other, making an attractive display with its ripening fruit. The only Apple that does not seem to do well here as a cordon is Peasgood's Nonsuch, but Cox's Pomona, Ribston Pippin, Winter Pearmain, Warner's King, Reinette du Canada, Allington, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Duchess Favourite are all that can be desired; and the same can be said of the Pears, which include Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Superfin, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Olivier de Serres, and Winter Nelis.

"How did the vegetables do this year?" I asked.

"Most of them were excellent, but Onions did badly, owing to being attacked by the fly. Potatoes were a good crop, especially May Queen and Up-to-Date; British Queen had a touch of disease. All the usual vegetables are grown. The Carrot is Early Market; Turnip, All the Year Round; Parsnip, The Student; Leek, Musselburgh; Beet, Turnip-rooted; Savoys, Drumhead and Sugarcone; Onion, Ailsa Craig; Marrow, White Bush. Of the four varieties of Strawberries, King George V. is by far the best, the others being Bedford Champion, Royal Sovereign, and Laxton's Reward."

This by no means exhausted the features of interest. There were more herbaceous borders; Mulberry, Medlar, Quince, and Walnut Trees in full bearing; one thousand three hundred Violas in frames and a bed of Polyanthus for planting out in spring; paths festooned with Roses on thick ropes instead of wires, which are too hot in summer and too cold in winter; and a bed of Lilies of the Valley, of which Mr. Edwards said:

"This variety is Fortin's Giant, and I will back it against any other in the country. It is by far the best."

W. J. Chittenden.

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deeper seeds are buried, the better is vitality preserved. Hard seeds of the same species retain their vitality much better than those with softer seed coats. Unhulled seed, especially of the grasses, is more resistent than hulled seed, and the vitality is always better preserved. Seeds of plants from the same genus often retain their vitality in a very different degree. Vitality is best preserved, even in weed seeds, when the seeds are carefully harvested and stored in a dry and comparatively cool place." There is nothing very novel here. It is merely a confirmation of what experience has already taught us, but to that extent it is valuable.

MR. RICHARD EDWARDS.

One sentence, however, requires some qualification. The statement that "the pernicious character of weeds is directly proportional to the length of time the seeds will remain viable" seems to ignore the fact that they are not all entirely dependent on seeds for their perpetuation. The Thistle must be classed among the most pernicious weeds; yet the difficulty of exterminating it is due not merely to the vitality of its seeds, but also to their power to scatter themselves over wide areas, and hardly, in a less degree, to the fact that its deep-running roots can throw up stems from every joint. The Nettle may be placed in the same category. The Bindweed, again, owes its continued existence in gardens largely to the brittleness of its roots. They snap so easily that it is almost impossible to get rid of them all, especially when they are turned about the roots of some tree or shrub, and every scrap left in the soil will grow. Other weeds, again, have an immense advantage, not in the vitality of their seeds, but in the rapidity with which they start into growth as soon as the conditions are favourable. The common Groundsel is a case in point. Sow a plot with any garden crop, vegetable or flower, and, if seeds of Groundsel are present, the young plants will be up long before the proper occupants show their heads above the ground. In short, the reasons why we continue to be pestered with weeds, even in the most carefully tended gardens, are as many as the weeds themselves.

December 9th.—A fine group of Malmaison Carnations is shown in the photograph. The section has been enormously improved of late years, and it owes much to the introduction of American varieties. They are excellent plants for a cool greenhouse, for, if properly managed, they will flower all the winter.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

NO. 219.—MR. RICHARD EDWARDS, AT THE GARDENS, BEECHY LEES, SEVENOAKS.

THE nearest station to the lovely Kentish seat of Mr. C. A. Morris-Field, Beechy Lees, is Otford Junction, and from here it is a pleasant ascent to the kitchen gardens, which, on my arrival, on a beautiful afternoon at the end of October, I first visited. The gardens, as it will be seen, have varied attractions, and Mr. Richard Edwards, the head gardener, is emphatically an excellent, all-round man. But his most brilliant successes, as an exhibitor, have been gained in respect to fruit, and we, therefore, naturally started our round in the space which is devoted to the cultivation of Apples and Pears. This embraces a large portion of the kitchen garden, which is most picturesquely situated on the slope of the hill facing south, and commands a fine view extending to some nine miles of typical Kentish scenery, with Sevenoaks in the distance. Perhaps the most remarkable fact in connection with Beechy Lees was mentioned at the outset by Mr. Edwards, who said,

"Twenty years ago, in February, this kitchen garden was a field of Oats, and there was not a brick in the park."

"Judging by appearances to-day, I should have supposed that nearer half a century had elapsed since the mansion was erected and the grounds laid out, for the place appears to possess the advantages of comparative age as well as those of modern equipments."

"Speaking of advantages," rejoined Mr. Edwards, "there is one disadvantage—chalk—which we have had to fight against in the cultivation of hardy fruit—Pears, for instance. We are obliged, in growing Pears on the wall, to make a very large trench at a distance of about five feet, dig down and take out the poor soil and put back loam and road grit, with a very little manure. The top spit is thrown back. When this has not been done, the leaves of the trees are yellow; on the other hand, the chalk puts colour into the fruit, and, of course, this is a gain."

"Were the Pear trees planted by you?"

"Yes, the whole of them. One of the varieties of Pears which always does well here is Pitmaston Duchess, and others are Gansel's Bergamot and Doyenné du Comice. In a very sunny summer, Beurré Clairgeau, although ordinarily a stewing Pear, is very good for dessert purposes, but if there is no sun, upon which the flavour entirely depends, it is not worth eating. If you judge Pears for flavour, I think you can almost count the number of good varieties upon your fingers."

"I should like the names of those which you include in this category."

"Beurré d'Amanlis, Beurré Superfin, Beurré Dumont, Doyenné du Comice, Durondeau, Glou Morceau, Jargonelle, Josephine de Malines, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marguerite Marillat, Marie Benoist, Marie Louise, Thompson's, Triomphe de Vienne, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Winter Nelis, and Gansel's Bergamot. We grow about thirty other varieties, of which Doyenné d'Alencon is very late. They include Emile d'Heyst, Fondante d'Automne, Fondante de Thericaut, Parrot, Passe Crassane, Rivers' Princess, and Souvenir du Congres. We also grow another Pear, called Theresa. It is not much known, but is a good dessert variety.

"Pears," continued Mr. Edwards, "are grown chiefly on the walls, either trained, or as cordons. The varieties I have named do very well, but I have continually to moisten the roots. We have, fortunately, a splendid supply of manure water, and I attribute a good deal of success in cultivation to my ability to apply continued moisture. Very often fruit trees round the walls get too dry, and that is the cause of the buds dropping."

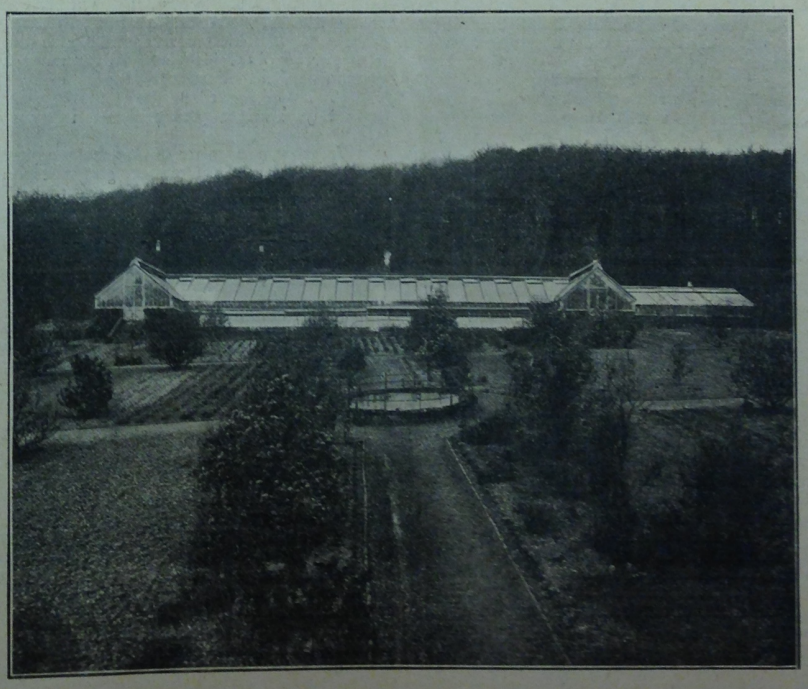

Photo by] THE KITCHEN GARDENS AT BEECHY LEES, SEVENOAKS. [*C. Essenhigh Corke.*

"Do you find that the Pears thrive particularly well on a south wall?"

"Yes; but my experience is that they do just as well on the west. Apart from the soil being unsuitable for fruit culture, unless assisted, this is an ideal spot for hardy fruit. We are protected from all winds but the south-west, which, in certain seasons, batters the fruit about."

"You have not mentioned the north wall."

"Morella Cherries are grown there, and we had some good fruiting trees, but the Morella does not last longer than ten or twelve years. This year we had a nice lot of fruit from the young trees."

"You seem to grow most of your Apples on bushes."

"They do very well on that system, and the colour is really good. Of course, Cox's Orange Pippin and Ribston Pippin are two of the best varieties. Blenheim Orange is also good, but it will not fruit until after eight or ten years. After that we may expect good crops."

"Do you grow any unusual varieties?"

"Very few people, I think, grow Bess Pool, a late cooking Apple, which looks very pretty and has a nice flavour. Another very late cooking Apple is Smart's Prince Arthur, which, however, does not fruit till after eight or ten years. Cornish Gilliflower is a late dessert variety, and fruits on the points of the young branches, so that you have to be careful how you prune it. The same remark applies to Smart's Prince Arthur and several other varieties. Mr. Gladstone is good to pick off the tree, but, if you store it, it gets woolly, and loses its flavour. Margil is an Apple that never fails to yield a good crop, and, as you see, the buds are on the trees for next year. Allen's Everlasting is also a good late Apple. Among good, reliable bearers for cooking are Belle de Boskoop, Belle de Pontoise, Bramley's Seedling, Byford Wonder, Ecklinville Seedling, Golden Noble, Cox's Pomona, Lady Henniker, Lane's Prince Albert, Lord Derby, Stirling Castle, The Queen, Striped Beefing, and Seaton House. For dessert purposes I should recommend Allington Pippin, Beauty of Bath, Claygate Pearmain, Duchess Favourite, King of Tomkins' County, Beauty of Bath, and Lady Sudeley. We have about fifty other varieties. I think that the longer you keep Apples, or any hardy fruit, on the tree, the longer you will keep it in the fruit room after. Fruit, picked too early, shrivels, and is very unsatisfactory."

"Do you believe in the summer pruning of Apple and Pear trees?"

"Yes, I quite agree that they should be summer-pruned, but this operation should be done when there is no danger of getting a second growth. As a rule, I do it in August, considering July too early."

"I see you have an avenue of Apple arches?"

"That is our latest achievement. I took all the Apples from the walls and the Peach cases this week. In addition to some of the varieties I have already named, they include Gascoyne's Scarlet, Bismarck, Maltster, Tyler's Kernel, Peasgood's Nonsuch, and Hambling's Seedling. In many cases the Apple trees are in pairs; they had been standing in the Peach case for ten or twelve years, and were taking up room that was wanted for other purposes."

"On which walls do you grow Plums?"

"The east and west; and they do equally well on either. The varieties include Gages, (Green, Transparent, Red, and Purple), Archduke, Diamond, Monarch, Golden Drop, Late Orange, Pond's Seedling, Victoria, Belgian Purple, Kirke's, The Czar, and Jefferson. In cultivation we have to do the same with Plums as with Apples and Pears. They might, perhaps, flourish without so much attention, but it is certainly beneficial. We also grow several varieties of Raspberries, Gooseberries, and Currants."

"Have you anything special in vegetables?"

"I should rather say that we grow a fair supply of all kinds. We get Cabbages very early—Ellam's Dwarf and Wheeler's Early—and the vegetables are good in flavour, but not very large. Owing to the sheltered position, we pick French Beans up to the end of October. Celery is always very free from the maggot. I prefer Sandringham (white) and Early Rose for early cutting, and Major Clarke's and Williams' Matchless for late keeping."

Noticing that there are two herbaceous borders in the kitchen garden, we then proceeded to the Peach cases, one of which is ninety-five feet long, and the other forty feet.

"Here," said Mr. Edwards, "we grow Nectarines, Victoria, Spencer, Lord Napier, and Pitmaston Orange; Peaches, Sea Eagle, Goshawk, Noblesse, Bellegarde, and Dymond."

"And in the early Peach house?" I asked, as we entered the fine range of houses looking on to the garden.

"Nectarines, Rivers' Early, Rivers' Early Orange, and Humboldt, with Early Galande Peach. In the late house we have Dryden and Victoria Nectarines, and Barrington and Waterloo Peaches. The varieties in the case follow those in the late house. With regard to Peach and Nectarine cultivation, I may say that bud-dropping is often caused by the borders in which they are planted being too dry during the winter months. Amateurs and young beginners are inclined to think that the trees are done with for a time after the fruit is picked, but such is not the case. Great attention is required in the way of watering and syringing. Borders should never be allowed to get dry when the trees are at rest, and, on the other hand, they should never become water-logged. If the border is properly made, there is no danger of this, as the drainage will be suited to the position of the border. Of course, I am only referring to inside fruit culture."

"How many Vineries have you?"

"Three. In the early one we grow Foster's Seedling and Black Hamburgh; in the medium, Muscats; and, in the late Vinery, Lady Downe's Seedling, Alnwick's Seedling, and Black Alicante. I do not believe in too many varieties in one house. Before we leave the fruit, I may mention that I have a block plan of the kitchen garden shewing every fruit tree grown in it. If a label gets lost, it does not, therefore, much matter, as I can always find the name from a book which corresponds with the numbers on the plan. It saves an immense amount of trouble, and affords great pleasure."

"Now, with regard to the plants grown in the houses, you might please mention any specialities."

"We grow a number of Agathæa cœlestis. It begins to flower in October, and goes on for a month, and if the old flowers are picked off it will continue to bloom for a longer period. It will grow in quite a cool place, and is, I believe, hardy in some parts. We have a nice batch of Primulas—old double-white, and mixed—Calanthes, and a few Gloire de Lorraine Begonias."

"Carnations seem to be rather a feature."

"Yes. We go in rather largely for winter-flowering Malmaisons and Border varieties. The best of the first are Fairy, Leslie, Mrs. Moore, Princess Alice de Monico, Triumphans, Florists' Scarlet, Royalty, Ethel Croker, Prosperity, Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild, Lady Roberts, and the Hon. H. Fellowes. Of Malmaisons, I recommend Grace, King Oscar, Churchwarden, Horace Hutchinson, Princess of Wales, Florizel, Mercia, Gemma, and Prime Minister. The Border Carnations, of which we have a large number, because they rather like a chalky soil, include Mephisto, Raby Castle, Miss Audrey Campbell, Midas, Gladys, Daniel Defoe, Helmsman, and Golspie."

"Then you have a house full of Zonal Pelargoniums?"

"We have about sixty varieties, and grow between three and four hundred. Here are a dozen of the best:—Single crimson and scarlet, Captain Holford, Lord Hopetoun, Rev. H. A. Hall, The Sirdar, Nicholas II., Mrs. C. C. Tudway, Hall Caine, Chaucer, Trilby, Enid, and the Rev. Dr. Maurice. Other colours include Lord Roberts, Lady Hopetoun, Lady Brooke, Duchess of Fife, Ian McLaren, Cassiope, Lady Sarah Wilson, Winston Churchill, Mrs. David Saunders, Snowstorm, and Lady Chesterfield. The stove is devoted to a mixed collection of Palms, Asparagus, Dracænas, etc., with a back wall of Ferns, and in what is really the Strawberry house we have, at the present time, Chrysanthemums. The Strawberries grown are Royal Sovereign, La Grosse Sucrée, and Sir Joseph Paxton; and, as to Chrysanthemums, we are not now growing any for show purposes, though I used to show."

"You aim at quantity of flowers, I suppose?"

"That is our principal object now. The best Japanese of about eighty varieties are Henry Weeks, Elmer de Smith, Madame M. Ricard, Simplicity, Pride of Madford, Edith Tabor, Mrs. Barkley, G. J. Warren, Miss Nellie Pockett, Madame G. Debrie, Lord Ludlow, Mrs. W. Popham, Stanstead White, Lady Audrey Buller, Mutual Friend, Madame Carnot, W. H. Lincoln, Golden Gate, W. Tricker, and Lord Brooke. Decorative varieties in the way of singles and small-flowering sorts are also grown."

The pleasure grounds at Beechy Lees are some distance from the kitchen garden, and are approached by a delightful walk, close to the imposing mansion being artificial rockwork of the most effective character.

"The spring bedding just put in on the south front of the terrace," said Mr. Edwards, "includes Erysimums mixed with white Hyacinths; two beds of white Arabis, and yellow Daffodils, with borders of Wallflowers at the back, one variety, White Dame, being new; while at each side of the front door there are Wallflowers—Ruby Gem. Then there are two beds of Forget-me-nots and white Tulips, and a batch of Wallflowers in design with nine beds. Four of these are in pairs, the varieties being Tom Thumb, Blood-red, Primrose Dame, and Easter Queen. The centre bed is made up of Extra Dark."

Leading to the fountain, there are a number of shrubs and Conifers, a very large bed with variegated Dogwood as a carpet to a number of varieties of Holly, a bed of Portugal Laurels as an undergrowth, with various Thorns above, and a bed of Horse Chestnuts, with various shrubs underneath. Then, passing an avenue of Thuja occidentalis, with golden Hollies between, and a corner with rustic steps leading into the wood opposite the fountain, we arrived at a delightful Fernery and summer-house. In this vicinity, too, are grown a few Roses, which were planted, when there was a pond, with Water Lilies. One Rose tree—Homer—was planted seventeen years ago, and is eight feet through.

"Homer," remarked Mr. Edwards, "is a good, useful variety for buttonholes and table decoration. But, of course, most of our Roses are grown in the Rosery, which, as you see, is in a very sheltered spot. Some of the varieties of Hybrid Perpetuals are Abel Carriere, A. K. Williams, Alfred Colomb, Annie Wood, Baroness Rothschild, Charles Lefebvre, Dr. Andry, Duke of Edinburgh, Edouard Morren, Fisher Holmes, General Jacqueminot, and Horace Verner. Of Hybrid Teas, we have Bessie Brown, Captain Christy, Caroline Testout, Cheshunt Hybrid, Gloire Lyonnaise, and La France. The Tea-scented varieties are Beauty of Waltham, Catherine Mermet, Etoile de Lyon, Gloire de Dijon, Madame Willermoz, Niphetos, Madame Isaac Periere, and Madame Gabrielle Luizet."

"You seem to have many beds of shrubs on the lawns?" I said, as we returned.

"Yes, the most notable is a bed the shape of a Pear, with eight beds attached to it. Two of these are filled with Heather, and the others are made up as follows:—Golden Yews, with Azaleas; Skimmia japonica, Pernettyas; Pyrus japonica; Andromeda, with a golden Box hedge; and Daphnes. Another large bed consists of Golden Ligustrum, Portugal Laurels, Acers, Berberis, and Laurestinus. We are able to keep the lawns in such good order with greater ease owing to the splendid water supply. It is pumped up from a well two hundred and sixteen feet deep into a reservoir which holds seventy-five thousand gallons. The same engine makes electric light."

"I gather that you have been here from the first, Mr. Edwards."

"I have been with the family twenty-two years, and here ever since the place was made, so that I have naturally taken the keenest interest in its development."

"You have done a good deal of showing."

"I began with Melons and Grapes and twelve varieties of Roses at Farningham, and I have shewn a good deal since then. I secured both first prizes in the Kent county classes for Apples and Pears at the Royal Horticultural Society's Show in London this month, and I have shown table decorations at Tunbridge Wells, the Crystal Palace, and other places. I have also exhibited Cactus Dahlias at the shows of the National Dahlia Society. In 1902 I won the certificate of merit awarded at the Crystal Palace for a floral exhibit of forty-eight square feet filled with table decorations and dessert fruit. This year, at the Sevenoaks Summer Show, I took six first and one second prize; and a few years ago, at the same show, I won the star of honour which was offered by Messrs. H. Cannell and Sons." ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No 175.—FLOWERING PLANTS FOR A ROOM IN WINTER.

DEAR KATE,—A friend asked me lately what flowers she could grow in her window at this time of year, without a greenhouse. She was in lodgings, you see, away from home, and, being devoted to flowers, she did not want to get plants which would die directly in a room, as many will when taken out of the moist warmth in which they are grown, and obliged to put up with dry, hot air from fire and lamps, sometimes, with an icy draught in the early morning, and plenty of dust.

Fortunately, there are a few flowering plants which will stand these conditions, all except the bitter morning draught, and this can be guarded against by removing the plants from the window every evening into a sheltered corner, where they can be covered with a sheet of newspaper to keep off the dust, and the draught, too, until after the room is aired in the morning. Gas they will *not* stand, so it is of no use to attempt to grow flowers where this unhealthy light is used; the sulphurous fumes it gives out are simply deadly, and all flowers droop and die in it. But where electric light is used (or a lamp can be substituted for gas in the sitting-room), flowers will live, with proper care, if suitable plants are selected, even in the winter.

One of the best for the purpose is the Chinese Primrose (Primula sinensis), with a succession of bright flowers which are scented (as our own Primrose is) with a fragrance which might well be called "essence of spring." Fresh, delicate, and wholly delightful, this scent takes one back to the woods and streams where the "yellow Primrose" is at home, and for this reason, as well as for the beauty, it is precious.

For a south window, or one with the morning sunshine, you may choose a crimson or rich pink Primula, but for a more shady place the white variety is better, because the red flowers do not reach their proper tint without plenty of sunshine, and, consequently, soon look faded and melancholy; but the white flowers do not feel this difficulty. Don't, on any account, choose one with blue-pink blossoms, for these will look as though they had heart-disease, poor things, before long. The yellow-pink tints are far finer, and these glow like rubies by lamp-light. Of course, you can, if you like, grow any amount of different tints from a packet of good seed sown in May; but, I warn you, they are fidgety seedlings to manage, and, unless you don't mind the trouble of potting on dozens of them again and again through the summer, you had far better content yourself with choosing a few good plants now, with their first spray of flowers open. Some of them have fimbriated, Fern-like leaves, which are very pretty, and others have double or semi-double flowers. I never can make up my mind which I like best; they are all so sweet. If you buy your Primulas in very small pots, they may need a shift into a slightly larger size, with a compost of good loam, leaf-mould, a little decomposed manure, charcoal, and sand; this you can get made up in a bag at the horticulturists, if you like, or you can get a bag of Jadoo, which suits all plants, and is so nice and light and clean to handle in a room. After repotting, you must be careful not to over-water your plants, for they need a few days to get over the shock before they can get hold of the new soil, and if soaked when already wet, at that time, or kept in a very cold, sunless place, they may go off suddenly in a highly disastrous way. Always give them tepid water, enough to run through their pots, but never pour this on their centres, as their leaves are very apt to become mildewed, and thus rotten, just below the soil, if kept too wet. They should only be watered when the surface soil is really dry, and the horrid plan of watering them every day, or twice a week, or at any fixed period, regardless of their real needs, is sure to do them harm.

A FINE WHITE PRIMULA.

Another excellent room plant is the Persian Cyclamen (C. persicum), which is just now beginning to blossom, too; this is also a plant which is better selected as a good specimen than grown from seed, if you want it for a room, as young Cyclamens need a greenhouse, and great care, to bring them along safely. Most elegant they are, whether in white, pink, or crimson; they belong to the order Primulaceæ, and are, therefore, first cousins to the Primrose, but they are very different in appearance. Their thick, handsomely-spotted leaves need to be kept thoroughly clean from dust, and also from green-fly, which is sure to find them out in a dry atmosphere; thrips, too, is a terrible enemy of their foliage, and must be kept at bay by sponging it often (underneath) with warm soap and water. A little fresh, moist moss should be placed round the corm in the pot, both for the sake of appearance, and also to give a little moisture to the leaves, and keep insects from attacking them, as they are sure to do if the foliage be allowed to droop. If you want larger flowering plants, try a pot of Arum Lilies; they are so very decorative, and will do very well in a window if given plenty of water, for they are semi-aquatic plants, and may stand in a bowl which is not emptied, after watering them, with impunity. Their great leaves should be often sponged, and must be kept absolutely free from green-fly, which will be sure to try to get into the buds, and destroy the ivory purity of the flowers, if allowed to do so. A plant which is not often seen in a room, but is very decorative, is Salvia splendens; not the variety Bruanti, which blossoms in the autumn, but the taller scarlet Salvia, which produces long spikes of bloom, the buds looking exactly like red velvet of the brightest tint. This plant is a very hungry one, and needs a largish pot (unless the plant is a small specimen), and rich soil, with an abundant supply of water, and a dose of soot-water twice a week when in bloom, which, by the way, all your room plants will enjoy if given to them in a clear, thin state. You can easily make this most useful liquid manure (the only one fit for a room, as it is pure and inodorous) by getting the maid to brush a little soot down from the chimney in the morning, and putting this soot into a small bag of coarse muslin or butter-muslin, with a stone or two to keep it down in the water. The mouth of the bag must be tied securely with string, yet the soot should be loose enough inside to move about, and you can drop the bag into a pan of water and stir it round occasionally with a stick. The black water, which will then surround it, must not be used so thick as to leave a sediment on the surface of the soil; you can dilute it largely, and fill up the pan again and again when you want more liquid manure, for about two months.

If you feed your Salvias highly, they will go on blooming for months in a sunny window, but every blossom must be cut off before it drops, taking care not to injure the next pair of sprays, which are in embryo just below it, in removing the faded flower. The plants will produce a great many sprays in this way, but if

THE GARDENS AT HURSLEY PARK, WINCHESTER.

Interview with Mr. James Elder.

THE Hampshire seat of Sir George Cooper, Bart., is situated in one of the fairest portions of the county. Hursley has associations which are cherished by thousands of English people who have never seen it, because it was for so many years the home of John Keble. Often his admirers pay a pilgrimage to the beautiful church in which he carried on his ministrations, and rejoice that he was able to live so much of his life in such charming surroundings. The park, and the stately mansion, with its delightful pleasure grounds, constitute, however, the great attractions of the district. By the courteous permission of the owner, I visited the gardens a few weeks ago, and I had the satisfaction of seeing them as they were assuming their spring dress. They are in charge of Mr. James Elder, who, on my arrival from Winchester, at once commenced to show me round, starting with the south front.

Here there is one great expanse of lawn in splendid order, the only bedding being two narrow borders under the mansion, and these were only recently added. They contain Lavender, dotted with Roses (The Pet), grown for fragrance, while the walk of brickwork (fishbone pattern) between them and the lawn throws up the beauty of the grass. On each side of the house is a handsome Venetian vase, and a bed filled in spring with white and blue Hyacinths, about two hundred in each, edged with Crocuses, to be followed by Verbenas (Miss Willmott), with standard Ivy-leaf Geraniums (Mrs. Charles Turner), edged with Lavender. On the mansion, the creepers include Magnolia grandifolia, Clematis montana and rubra, Roses (Gloire de Dijon, Caroline Testout, and Niphetos), Passiflora in variety, and Bignonias. The winter garden on one side of the house is chiefly furnished with Palms.

"How large is the lawn?" I asked, as we strolled across it, and watched the motor-roller in operation

"Two and a half acres. We find that the motor-roller saves labour, and is altogether a great help. You will notice that Daffodils and Tulips are planted irregularly under the trees on each side of the lawn. There are no clumps, and the varieties of both are mixed. Some of the Daffodils now in flower are Princeps, Horsfieldii, Conference, and Emperor."

"The effect, at any rate, is very pleasing. What is the area of the park, which spreads itself so delightfully beyond the lawn?"

"Four hundred acres. The gardens are about twenty acres, and one of the features of the pleasure grounds is the number of informal beds and borders."

Rhododendrons in Masses.

"Does that apply to the Rhododendrons, of which already I have seen many fine specimens?"

"Yes; the Rhododendrons were in beds all over the grounds, but Lady Cooper, who takes a keen interest in the gardens, prefers having them in clumps, according to colour. For example, here is one bed with Queen (white), at the back, and W. Waterer (dark red), and Cynthia (a lighter red)."

"Is there much peat in the soil?"

"The peat has to be imported from another part of the estate. We take out the clay soil to a depth of eighteen inches, and substitute peat."

"Rhododendrons," continued Mr. Elder, "form an excellent background for the new herbaceous border we are passing. This border contains, in particular, a panel of hardy Fuchsias, Podophyllum rosea and alba (pink and white), Lupins in variety, Delphiniums in variety, Roses

MR. JAMES ELDER.

(Lady Gay and Hiawatha), with a panel of Azalea mollis at the end. Another mixed border has hardy Hibiscus (alba plena, cœrulea plena, and rubra plena) as a feature. This is a warm corner, and Hibiscus does well, flowering freely in August. So does Chamærops Fortuneii."

"And Bamboos?"

"Yes; Bamboos flourish in some quarters, but not in others. It is rather remarkable that they grow so luxuriantly in pure clay."

"You have masses of Daffodils under those trees?"

"This piece of ground was formerly an orchard, and has been added to the gardens. We use it for growing quantities of white Narcissus and double Daffodils. Of course, there are many more beds to see yet, but you may like to inspect the rockery and the slab garden as we are near them."

The Slab Garden.

"When was the rockery made?"

"Only three years ago. It is not on an ambitious scale, but the varieties growing on the rocks include a number of Alpine Phloxes, Hepaticas, Ericas, Veronicas, Saxifrages, Stachys lanata, as well as beds of Cyclamen europæa, and Cistus in variety. Just outside we made a bank of Penzance Briers and Rosa rugosa. Now we come to the slab garden, which was only made last spring."

"I notice that the banks are planted with Wichurian Roses, which must heighten the effect of the sunk garden. What is the scheme of bedding?"

"There are two beds of Rhododendrons—Pink Pearl and Ascot Brilliant, a little darker variety; two of Knaphill Azaleas, mixed with Andromeda formosa; and two of Acers sanguineum. All the beds are planted with Tulips for spring, and Liliums for summer; and in the centre of the four corner beds, Ageratum Leonii (purply-white) are used. On each side of the water is a pair of Chamærops Fortuneii, and round the Rhododendron beds there is Irish Heath. Below each flight of steps is a little bed of Erica carnea alba; and at each end of the fountain is a bed of Japanese Irises, mixed. The water gets below them, and they thrive exceedingly."

"Are there Lilies in the pond?"

"Yes, Nymphæas Gladstoniana, Laydekeri fulgens, and purpurea, Marliacea carnea, and William Doogue. The pergola running right round the slab garden is planted with Clematis paniculata, and Vitis in variety. Ayrshire Roses and Polygonums grow up the statuary."

Notable Specimen Trees.

"Perhaps before we proceed with the beds, you would mention some of the specimen trees."

"First and foremost is the famous specimen of a Narrow-leaved Lime (Tilia parvifolia). There are two trees, but the hardier one is the better specimen. Oaks (especially Quercus Turnerii, said to be one of the finest), Chestnuts, Walnuts, and Liquidambars, are all flourishing, and the Nettle-tree, which is not supposed to be hardy, does well. Magnolias in variety, including M. glauca, stellata, and conspicua Soulangeana, flower regularly. But to resume the beds, here is a clump of Austrian Brier Roses, edged with Scotch Briers, which were only planted last year. Underneath the Austrian are English Briers, and Ards Rambler is used as a pillar."

Some of the Bedding Combinations.

"Then you have a great bed of Iris."

"That also was only planted last year, and the sections include the pallida, neglecta, pumila, germanica, and siberica, with Snow Queen and Blue King. These are planted in succession, and in the front is a line of pumilas of mixed colours, cream and blue chiefly. Most of them have flowered. There are also a few Japanese varieties in the bed. Another new bed has many flowering shrubs in clumps—Prunus triloba, Spiræa palmata Spiræa Thunbergi, Prunus sinensis, Viburnum plicatum, and V. macrophylla, with Phloxes to fill, and a groundwork of Campanulas laciniata and persicifolia, edged with Pyrethrum Early Pink and Early White. Last year, the first time it was in flower, the effect was very pleasing."

"The next bed looks like a combination of flowers?"

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"It is filled entirely with Delphiniums in variety, and Lilium tigrinum, edged with Funkias stellata variegata. Near the mansion, and quite in the shade, is a bed of European and Japanese Pæonies, pink, red, and white. I intend to plant white Foxgloves in succession, to flower when the Pæonies have finished."

"What is the arrangement of the two beds now gay with Crocuses, still nearer the house?"

"One has Delphiniums of a light shade, Anchusa italica (Dropmore variety), Spiræas arguta, and clumps of Asters to come on later. The groundwork is Spiræa triloba, and the edging Deutzia gracilis. It was only planted last year. The other bed is made up of Prunus Pissardi, Syringas, and Lupins (white and pink). The blue and white Crocuses last in flower for about three weeks."

A Remarkable Rosery.

Leaving the main pleasure grounds, we next went into the Rosery.

"This," said Mr. Elder, "was only laid out last year. The principle adopted in the beds is three colours in each. For instance, the first ('A') is a bed with two lines in the centre of Ulrich Brunner, two end lines of Nabonnand, and a front line of Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, with standards and half-standards of Madame Ravary."

"I should be glad if you would give me full details of your scheme, which has the charm of novelty."

"The beds are all different as to varieties, but identical as to arrangement. In 'B' the two centre lines are Frau Karl Druschki, the two end lines Grand Duc Adolphe de Luxembourg, the front line Blush China, and the standards and half-standards Gruss an Teplitz. The other mixtures are Madame Chatenay, La Tosca, Laurette Messimy, and Viscountess Folkestone; Richmond, Madame Hoste, Eugenie Lamesch, and Caroline Testout; Mrs. J. Laing, Lady Ashtown, Ducher, and White Maman Cochet; Gruss an Teplitz, G. Nabonnand, Crimson China, and Dean Hole; Caroline Testout, Grand Duc Adolphe de Luxembourg, Madame Eugene Resal, and Madame Lambard; Marie van Houtte, Richmond, Cramoisie Superieure, and Gustave Regis; Madame Abel Chatenay, Augustine Guinoisseau, Blush China, and Gruss an Teplitz; and Frau Karl Druschki, Madame Ravary, Princesse de Sagan, and Anna Olivier."

"How many beds are there in all?"

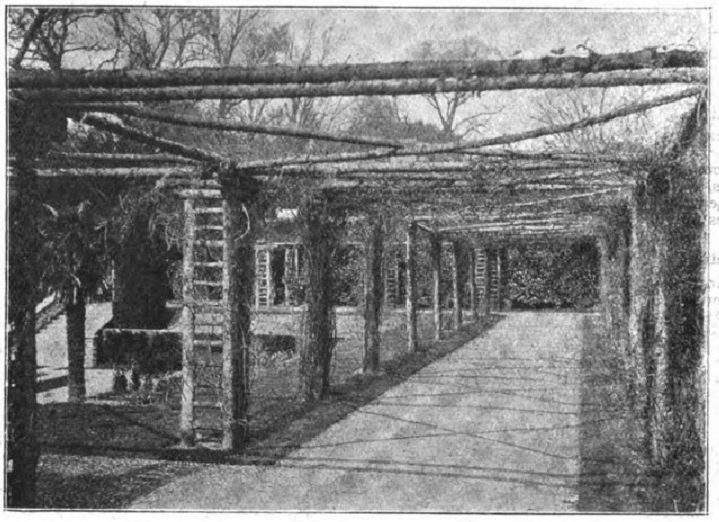
"Sixteen. The varieties on the poles and chains include Crimson Rambler, Alberic Barbier, Aglaia, Dorothy Perkins, Lady Gay, Hiawatha, Rubens, Tausendschon, Tea Rambler, Psyche, Pink Roamer, Philadelphia, Thalia, The Farquhar, Gardenia, American Pillar, Ards Rambler, Longworth Rambler, Pink Rover, Electra, Claire Jacquier, and others."

"The pergola is not confined to Roses?"

"No, it also includes Vitis purpurea and Coignettiæ, Wistarias multijuga, sinensis, and alba, Lonicera sempervirens (scarlet trumpet); Polygonum Baldschuanicum, Clematis in variety, and others. The Roses represented are all the varieties of Ayrshire, Dundee Rambler, and Bennett's Seedling.

"I should like to have the dimensions of your herbaceous border. It must be quite a hundred yards long?"

"It is twelve feet wide and ninety-six yards long, and all the varieties have to flower in July. The colours represented are mauve, white, pink and blue. With regard to the principal varieties, the masses include some very fine Eremurus (eleven and twelve feet high), Polemoniums (with large spikes of clear blue flower and Fern-like foliage), Salvias virgata and nemorosa (mauve, one of the prettiest and most effective varieties, quite hardy), Campanulas pyramidalis alba (with a groundwork of C. glomerata), a quantity of Sweet Williams, Heuchera sanguinea in clumps, Lithospermum salicaris grandiflora (red), Sidalcea Listeri (pink), and candida (pure white), Wallflowers in variety, panels of Verbenas, Miss Willmott, panels of Pyrethrums, and a number of Tree Pæonies. Here, too, at the back of the Rosery and in clumps in the herbaceous borders, are Sweet Peas."



THE PERGOLA AT HURSLEY.

HURSLEY MANSION, SHOWING SOUTH FRONT LAWN.

How Sweet Peas are Grown.

"When do you sow your Sweet Peas?"

"Early in January, in 'sixty' pots, planting two or three seeds in each pot. This is repeated at intervals of three or four weeks to keep up a succession, and we plant out when the weather is favourable in prepared ground. I take out a trench two feet deep, and place a quantity of good rotten manure in the bottom, with one foot of well broken soil on the top. When planted in lines, I put them from nine to twelve inches apart, the clumps being two and a half feet in diameter. I have seven or eight plants in each. The young plants are supported with twigs until they reach the stakes."

"Will you give me the names of a few of the best varieties?"

"Etta Dyke, Audrey Crier, Elsie Herbert, Helen Lewis, Helen Pierce, King Edward, Countess Spencer, Mrs. Collier, George Herbert, Marquis, Queen Alexandra, Constance Oliver, Breadmore Lavender, Mrs. C. W. Breadmore, and Gracie Greenwood."

Favourite Carnations.

From the Rosery we made our way to the plant houses, which are rendered quite picturesque, as far as the exterior is concerned, by beautiful and closely-clipped Yew hedges.

"In the stove and adjoining house," observed Mr. Elder, "we have a number of Orchids, chiefly Cattleyas, with about two hundred

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Calanthes, and foliage plants, mostly broad-leaved Crotons and Dracænas. The Carnation house is at present occupied by Azaleas in variety, Lilacs in variety, Schizanthus Wisetoniensis, and Nicotiana Sanderæ (which flowers through the winter and stands well in vases for at least a week). But primarily the house is used for Malmaisons, and then for Perpetual-flowering Carnations."

"What are your favourite varieties?"

"The best Malmaisons are Duchess of Westminster, Calypso, King Oscar, Prime Minister, Lord Welby, Lord Rosebery, Mrs. Trelawny, Princess of Wales, Blush White, and Mercia. Of Perpetual-flowering, I prefer Enchantress, Mrs. T. W. Lawson, Nelson Fisher, Britannia, Robert Craig, Marmion, Mikado, Victory, White Enchantress, Lady Bountiful, Christmas Eve, Mrs. H. Burnett, and Beacon. You may like to notice that we force a number of Rhododendrons, namely Cunninghami, Doncaster, Nobleanum, and Christmas Cheer. The last comes into flower a fortnight before Christmas."

Forcing Solomon's Seal.

"Any specialities in the way of flowers for winter would be interesting."

"One of the most useful to flower in November is Plumbago rosea, which we use for table and house decoration, getting long spikes of bloom. Warm treatment is essential, and when you begin growing Plumbago rosea, you must go on protecting it. Even more than Crotons, it is susceptible to cold. Then we force a number of Solomon's Seal."

"They are worth forcing for the sake of the beautiful green foliage; but how do you manage to bring them on in winter?"

"We lift from the outside, where we have a quantity in reserve, and, when lifted, we place the plants in pots or shallow boxes, of course in plenty of heat. We force Solomon's Seal for decorative purposes, both in the house and church, and practically use it for the sake of the foliage. We have from three to four hundred Poinsettias, which keep on flowering until after Christmas. They are grown alongside the Chrysanthemums out of doors until August, and by this means they get nicely hardened off. There are about six hundred Chrysanthemums, about half for producing large blooms; the others, specimen or bush plants, we also disbud."

The Treatment of Liliums.

"You must grow an enormous number of Liliums?"

"They are grown largely in the borders and under glass. I suppose we have nearly two thousand in pots. The varieties of these are longiflorum, longiflorum formosum, Harrisii, (the South African Lily), and lancifolium speciosum roseum and alba."

"What is your treatment of them?"

"We bring them on in quantities of about a hundred bulbs all the year round, retarding and advancing as required. As a potting compost we use equal parts of loam, peat, leaf-mould, and a quarter part of sand. They are put into 8-in. pots, and when we put the bulbs in, we leave plenty of space for top-dressing. To finish with flowers, we have a large collection of Hydrangeas, Dr. Hogg, which are planted in vases outside the mansion."

Fruit Inside and Out.

"What are the features of your fruit houses?"

"The principal fruit houses are the Vineries. In the early house we have Black Hamburgh, Foster's Seedling, and Buckland's Sweetwater. In the second we have only Black Hamburgh, from which we get useful crops. The third house is devoted entirely to Muscats."

"What varieties of Peaches are grown outside?" I asked, as we walked round the kitchen garden.

"Dymond, Bellegarde, Hale's Early, Waterloo, Sea Eagle, Barrington, Royal George, Goshawk. The Pears are chiefly Beurre Easter, Conference, Doyenne du Comice, Clapp's Favourite, Beurre Superfin, Souvenir du Congres, Emile d'Heyst, Beurre Clairgeau, Olivier de Serres, Josephine de Malines, Fondante de Thirriot, and Beurre Rance."

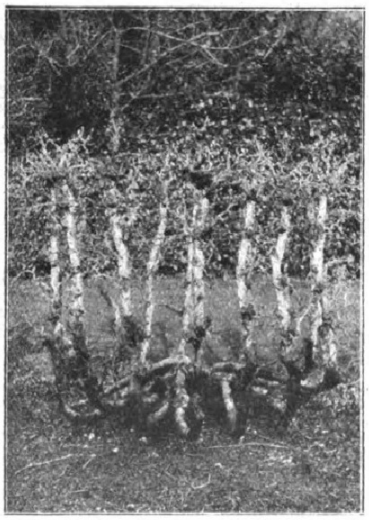
"Do you go in for many varieties of Strawberries?"

"Only five—Royal Sovereign, The Bedford, La Grosse Sucree, Elton Pine, and President. With respect to other features in the kitchen garden, we have the usual bush fruit, and large sections of vegetables. Of the latter, we force French Beans in pots, and Potatoes, Cucumbers and Tomatoes in frames."

Tub-trained Apples.

"Then there are Apples?"

"Our ordinary collection of Apples includes most of the best dessert and culinary varieties, but we have a remarkable feature in form. For many years a number of Apples have been grown to represent vases and tubs, there being upwards of a hundred such trees running round the walls. I believe they are from fifty to a hundred years old, and many of the varieties are not in commerce. The fruit



A TUB APPLE TREE.
One of the features of Hursley.

is not, as a rule, large, but there are some good cooking varieties amongst them. One of these is Cockle's Pippin, which looks very nice when it begins to colour. Another is Northern Beefing, from which we get some fairly large fruit."

"Do you prune them much?"

"Yes, they want knifing freely in order to get them to break away. In addition to pruning, we thin them out, give them a dressing of alkali to keep off the blight, and, as a rule, we have very fair crops. Tub-trained Apple trees are certainly not common, and I have scarcely had any visitor here who has seen them before. We make the grass borders look as pretty as possible by carpeting them with Violets, with a border of ponticum Rhododendrons. The Violets are constantly kept going. We lift a certain number every year, and transplant. The variety is Admiral Avellan, and as we are speaking of Violets, you may like to add that we grow the yellow variety, Yellowette."

Mr. Elder's Experience.

"How many years' experience have you enjoyed as a gardener, Mr. Elder?"

"Just thirty. I served my apprenticeship at Arbuthnot House, Kincardineshire, proceeding next to Fetteresso Castle, where I remained for a year, and to Monymusk House, where I put in two years. In 1884 I came South, and was for a time in Laing and Sons' nurseries. My first private appointment in England was as foreman at Danson Park, Kent, and then at the end of three years I tried the North Country again as general foreman at Crathes Castle, Aberdeen. My first experience as head gardener was at Maryhill, Elgin, where I stayed for six years; then I had charge of the gardens at Barrechay House, Kincardineshire, for seven years; and seven years ago I came to Hursley Park, when Sir George Cooper bought the estate."

ALFRED WILCOX.

MR. WILCOX'S article for next week will describe a notable Middlesex garden.

How to Make an Arbour.

THE smallest garden may well have an arbour, and the largest pleasure grounds can be charmingly adorned by several, situated so as to have different aspects. Facing west is an agreeable position, especially if a pretty view lies between the seat and the western sky; but a north aspect is delightfully cool during summer, just as a south one often enables a seat to be enjoyed in winter.

A Natural Arbour.

A simple but attractive method is to set up Hop-poles in a semi-circle, a foot apart; then tightly nail and tie common garden or fish-netting all over this horseshoe-shaped erection; and, after bending some branches across to form a roof, cover this also with the netting. The tendrils of climbers cling with great readiness and persistence to it, so that the whole becomes quickly hidden, and it is wonderfully lasting, so can be used advantageously for permanent plants, which will have woven a thick covering of their own branches before it decays.

Japanese variegated Hop is the best summer climber to employ for a speedy effect, and there is no reason why the Convolvulus or Canary Creeper should not ramble over it. Seeds of the Hop can be sown where necessary, but results are hastened by making the soil rich with old manure. If in a shady place, it is better to sow seeds singly in 4-in. pots, stood on a sunny window-ledge, and turn the young plants out when they are a few inches high. The Convolvulus is of no use in the shade, but Canary Creeper flourishes. There is seldom need to tie up Hop branches, but should any show signs of straying, they should be drawn up high, and fixed there, in order that they may rapidly attain full height.

Wire Netting.

Wire netting arbours are satisfactory when painted dark green; they can be made in the same manner, or with straight, instead of rounded, backs and sides, so as to resemble half a square instead of a semi-circle. Deal supports, painted green, are more suitable than Hop-poles, or the useful Bamboo poles can be used.

The shut-in effect of an arbour is increased by planting or sowing a hedge around it, either in borders close against it, or in some made just across a surrounding path. Giant Sunflowers produce a remarkable effect in one season, so will the Giant Hemp, Cannabis gigantea. Sweet Peas can be well grown in this fashion, and their sweet perfume adds to their value.

The seat within the arbour may be merely a wooden bench; this will not be uncomfortable if it is both low and broad, and a flat, low footrail is always advisable, to keep feet off the damp ground. Fine tub plants can stand on either side of the entrance, and long, narrow boxes of growing flowers can flank the path up to it.

HOBBY GARDENER.

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closely they make their own soil—leaf-mould, which is the best of all soils. They are thus independent of manure, and are able, even in the hottest summer, to maintain their freshness. "However poor the land may be when the trees are first planted, the annual layers of fallen leaves soon form a deposit of black mould, be-

MR. C. J. ELLIS.

tween which and the natural soil the roots of the trees are always found in great numbers; the older the wood the deeper the leaf-soil. In old Beech and other forests it is extraordinary to what an extent this leaf-mould has accumulated. If it were not for it, the crops of the same tree could not have succeeded each other on the same ground generation after generation, as they have done. Mountains which, unplanted, would have been almost bared to the rock by constant denudation, have a deep covering of leaf-mould; the same may be said of Fir and Spruce woods, in which the fallen pine-needles have formed a bed of deep mould." He, therefore, concludes that those who are trying to beautify the Black Country by planting trees on the rubbish heaps, are going to work in the right way, and are likely to succeed.

March 3rd.—Now that sowing has begun, the germinating peculiarities of different seeds may be observed. Some gardeners keep a book in which the time of sowing each batch, and any points that seem worthy of mention are duly noted, and an interesting record it often is, and a useful one, too. Perhaps one of the most difficult plants to raise is Dictamnus fraxinella (the Burning Bush). If the seeds have been kept for any length of time, they hardly ever germinate. They ought to be sown as soon as they are ripe—if possible, the very day they are gathered. They will then be dormant in the soil during the winter, and germinate in the following spring.

March 4th.—A fortnight ago I referred to the use of the corona in the Passion-flower in rendering the flower more conspicuous. The illustration shows a white Primula in which the dark centre serves the same purpose. It is an unmistakable signal to the insects which frequent these flowers. When they see it, they know at once where the honey lies. H. C. DAVIDSON.

PRIMROSES are in full bloom along the roadside near Witham, Essex.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 179.—MR. C. J. ELLIS, F.R.H.S., AT THE WARREN HOUSE GARDENS, STANMORE.

AMONG the most important gardens in the county of Middlesex, or, in fact, in the country, those at The Warren House, Stanmore, the seat of Mr. and Mrs. Bischoffsheim, take a high place, and they are of particular interest at the present time, owing to the very extensive alterations and additions which are being carried out. When I went to see Mr. Ellis, the head gardener, towards the end of January, he, however, was able to give me an excellent idea of the great improvements which will be effected by the changes. We did not attempt to walk over the whole estate, which covers two hundred and sixty acres, and includes extensive woods, an excellent golf course, and a large lake; but we went the round of the pleasure grounds, and the kitchen gardens, of which there are seven acres. One of the features at Warren House is the fine winter garden which has been made out of a Camellia house, and was only completed six months ago. Camellias still flourish in the winter garden, and are the newest varieties obtainable, all self-colours, such as pink, white, and scarlet. But, of course, there are many other interesting contents. The centre bed is kept furnished with flowering plants through the season, and is also beautified with Palms, including Cocos flexuosa, Kentia Belmoreana, and Bambusa gracilis variegata. Two splendid plants of Dracæna indivisa on either side of the entrance, and striking clumps of Palms at each corner of the building combine to give the winter garden a noble appearance; while a back wall behind the Palms containing Camellias that have been at Stanmore for some time makes a natural bank.

"Your glass department is on a very big scale," I said, as we made our way into one of the Orchid houses.

"There are forty houses," rejoined Mr. Ellis. "In this department Orchids play, as you see, an important part. Cattleyas, Lælias, and Lælia-Cattleya hybrids are largely grown. L. c. purpurata and its varieties make a considerable display."

"How many plants of Cattleya Mossiæ and Mendelli are there in the collection?"

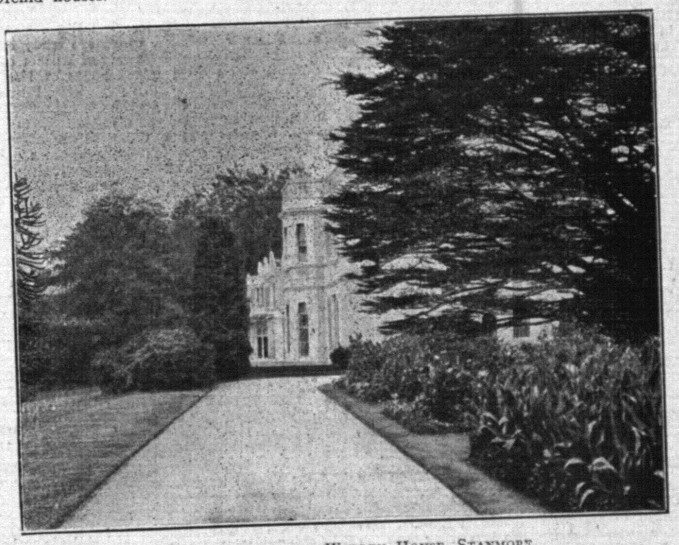
"About two hundred. There is a batch of fifty Cattleya anceps, and the other Cattleyas are gigas, Gaskelliana, Trianæ, Skinnerii, Schroderii, Creaina, speciosissima, maxima, amethystina, Aclandii, Jonghiana, grande tenebrosa, Digbyana, and Crispa, in batches of each variety. The hybrids include L.-C. callistoglossa, nice plants of Bletchleyensis, Charlesworthii, Highburyensis, Canbaneana, Ascania, Haroldiana, Wellsiana, and a large batch of Lælia anceps, with many other notable crosses. The Labiates are represented by upwards of two hundred specimen plants."

"And the cool-house Orchids?"

"There are some six hundred plants of Odontoglossum crispum. The others include Halli, odoratum, luteo purpureum, aurantiaca, Ærides, Masdevallias, Epidendrums, Odontoglossum grande, Oncidiums Roopersii, crispum, macranthum, tigrinum, Sarcodes, Marshallianum, and concolor, Cymbidiums Lowianum and eburneum, Calanthes, Vandas, Phalænopsis, and Zygopetalums, forming altogether a very fine collection."

"I conclude that choice flowers of most kinds are grown for decorative purposes?"

"Yes, in large quantities. A constant demand throughout the whole year necessitates an abundant supply. There is no branch of gardening which, in my opinion, so taxes the abilities of a gardener as the supply of a ceaseless succession of plants and flowers suitable for decorative purposes. It can only be met by constant forethought, space, and by thorough conversance with that which is most appreciated, so that preparations may be made at the right time, and confusion avoided."



THE DRIVE AT THE WARREN HOUSE, STANMORE.

"You might tell me the names of the principal varieties at the present date?"

"There are Callas, Poinsettias, Euphorbia jacquinæflora, Cineraria stellata, Primula stellata, Primula Kewensis—quite a new thing and most valuable for decorative work—Bouvar-

dias, Cyclamen, a few Malmaisons and Tree Carnations, Azalea indica, Roman Hyacinths, Tulips, Acacia (Mimosa persica), Violets, late Chrysanthemums—such as Princess Victoria, L. Canning, and W. H. Lincoln—Narcissi, Daffodils, Lilacs, Cattleya Trianæ and Odontoglossum crispum, and Begonias Gloire de Lorraine and Turnford Hall. These, with Lilies of the Valley, of which we have weekly supplies, and Raspail Geraniums, help to keep us gay during January and February, which are the worst months of the year."

"Which do you consider the best of Bouvardias?"

"President Garfield, Humboldti, jasminiodes, President Cleveland, Brilliant, The Bride, Vrelandii, and Dazzler. They are grown in batches of each variety, and are useful for table decoration."

"Your collection of Cyclamen is very good."

"The Cyclamen are Sutton's strain. They are sown in August, and we have just transferred them for the following year into thumb pots. Fifteen months are required to grow them successfully. These started to bloom in November, and we have used many hundred blooms."

"What is your treatment of Euphorbia jacquinæflora?"

"Similar to the treatment of Poinsettias. Both should be cut down after flowering to within six to eight inches, given a slight rest by carefully withholding water, but not drying them entirely, and inducing them to grow to fine cuttings during March and April, which are taken off with a heel and inserted thickly around a 5-in. pot—or, better still, singly in 2½-in. pots, placed in the propagating pit. When rooted, they are brought to a shelf near the glass, gradually inured to the light in the same temperature, and gradually hardened to greenhouse treatment. During the summer months they are grown in span-roofed cold pits, to induce short-jointed growth, and when taken in at housing time they are given an intermediate temperature, brought to the influence of the sun near the roof glass, until forming their racemes and bracts. They are then given a higher temperature, and assisted by a little artificial manure, to develop their flowers perfectly. The four hundred plants now in bloom will last well into March."

"What is the number of Chrysanthemums?"

"About two thousand are grown, a thousand being for providing large blooms, and the remainder bush varieties. We have Chrysanthemums in bloom from early October until the beginning of March, when large specimens of Acacia armata, standard Lilac (Charles X.), Imantophyllums, Callas in abundance, standard Azalea Mollis, and the main batches of Cinerarias and other forced plants relieve them."

"You go in considerably for Malmaison Carnations?"

"They are grown to the extent of five hundred layers, which carry one bloom, three hundred two-year-old, which carry from eight to twelve blooms each, and two hundred three-year-old, which carry from twelve to eighteen blooms each. The varieties include Mrs. Martin Smith, Baldwin, Calypso, Lord Rosebery, Ivanhoe, Lord Welby, Princess of Wales, King Oscar, President McKinley, John Coles, Duchess of Westminster, Yeller Gal. About seven hundred Tree Carnations are grown. Among the best are Mrs. L. de Rothschild, Mermaid, Mrs. J. W. Lawson, President Roosevelt, American, and Ethel Crocker."

"Do you devote a house to Anthuriums?"

"Yes, entirely, all the year round, and, as you observe, the centre stage is occupied with specimens of the Andreanum type, and the sides with Scherzerianum and S. Rothschildianum, which present a glorious sight when they are in bloom."

As we passed into the elegant corridor separating the show-houses, I asked Mr. Ellis to mention the chief contents.

"Amongst climbers are Solanum Wendlandii, S. jasminioides, Clerodendron Balfourii, Bougainvillea spectabilis, B. glabra, and B. Sanderæ, Allamanda Hendersoni, Gloriosa superba, Tacsonia van Volxemi, Hibbertia dentata (now in bloom), Streptocarpus Jamesonii, Brachycoma acuminatum, Passiflora princeps, and there are beds of Java and Himalayan Rhododendrons. Of the last we get a good sprinkling of flowers throughout the year from Queen Alexandra and the Giant Hercules. The corridor was planted last spring, and the beds and roof glass are now finished."

"Now we come to the two large stoves."

"They contain specimen Ixoras, the varieties being Duffii, Williamsii, coccinea superba, and Westii, with numerous small plants of each variety propagated during the last year. There are also specimen Acalyphas, Crotons, Dracænas, and many new and interesting plants. Asparagus Mydocladius is quite an acquisition to this decorative class of plant. The heated span-roofed pits, close by the stove, are used chiefly for growing plants, whence they are taken to the large flowering house for cut flowers and plants, and to the conservatory and show houses for effect."

In the fruit houses we first turned our attention to the Pines, some of which were throwing up their fruit at the time of my visit. They are grown in two fruiting houses.

"Where are they propagated?" I inquired.

"In the stoves. Then they are brought along in batches of twenty-five of each variety. Those throwing up fruit are Charlotte Rothschild, and the twenty-five others occupying the same bed, to follow the Rothschilds, are Queens. The Queens are grown in successive batches for summer fruiting, and Charlotte Rothschild in the same manner for winter fruiting."

"You have exhibited Pines?"

"Yes. I exhibited twenty-two fruits of the Queens, averaging six pounds each in weight, at the new hall of the Royal Horticultural Society in Vincent Square, last year. They were awarded a Knightian medal, but my notion of showing is not to show for the sake of showing, but to stimulate a love for horticulture. I should like to see Pines take the same position in Great Britain to-day as they did twenty years ago, and the Royal Horticultural Society might do more to encourage young growers."

"After Pines, Vines?"

"They follow in order, first Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling, which are ready in June. Next comes the second house of Muscat of Alexandria, and then a mixed house of late Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, Mrs. Pince, with Black Alicante, Prince of Wales, Alnwick Seedling, and Lady Downe's following, the latter now stored in the Grape-room. The new Vineries include a first-early house to supply Grapes by the end of May. Intermediate houses will contain Muscat of Alexandria, Madresfield Court, and Mrs. Pince. The last-named Grape must have an intermediate house and a long season to finish it properly, but now we have Prince of Wales, which is a much better variety in every way, Mrs. Pince is scarcely wanted. Appley Towers, Alicante, Gros Colmar, Melton Constable, Prince of Wales, and Lady Downe's Seedling will follow on in the order named."

"Do you grow Figs in succession?"

"Yes, and they are represented by White Ischia, White Marseilles, Brown Turkey, Brunswick St. John's, Black Ischia, and Negro Largo. Pot Figs are brought forward at intervals. With regard to Peaches, the earliest house contains Early Albert, Alexandra, and Royal George Peaches, Lord Napier, Cardinal and Early Rivers Nectarines, with pot trees of Early Silver, Hale's Early, Early Beatrice, and Waterloo. After these, in succession, come, in their respective houses, Royal George, Early Rivers, Exquisite, Early Albert, Dymond and Barrington Peaches, and Pineapple, Melton, Elruge and Dryden Nectarines."

"What is the length of the orchard-house?"

"A hundred and twenty yards. It has successional varieties on the back wall, as well as many in pots. The varieties include Alexandra, Exquisite, Royal George, Early Alfred, Salway, Sea Eagle, Thomas Rivers, Princess of Wales and Lady Palmerston Peaches, Spencer and Victoria Nectarines. Pears and Cherries are grown as cordons and in pots in the same house. Among the best Pears are Benoist, Beurré Hardy, Souvenir du Congres, Conference, Beurré Superfin, Plumeres, Durondeau, Pitmaston Duchess, and Doyenné du Comice. The Cherries include May Duke, Elton, Archduke, Black Eagle, Bigarreau, Napoleon, Early Rivers, Florence, Governor Wood, Royal Duke, Waterloo, and Early Purple. An entire house is devoted to Cherries of two varieties, May Duke and Belle d'Orleans. I strongly recommend the system of growing Peaches and Nectarines in perforated pots, and sinking them in the borders after stoning, to swell their fruits. Throughout the glass department cleanliness is an important factor in cultivation, and every house should certainly be thoroughly cleansed before the turn of the year."

Outside the houses, spring bedding engaged our attention, and I asked for details of the system adopted.

"The beds," said Mr. Ellis, "are planted in pairs, and with material which flowers simultaneously with the following combinations. There are two beds of standard Royal Silver Tulips, with a groundwork of pink Daisies; two of Artus, scarlet Tulip, with a groundwork of white Arabis, edged with white Daisies; two of golden Standard Tulips, with a centre groundwork of pale primrose Polyanthus, edged with pink Daisies; two of Duchess de Parma Tulips, and a groundwork of Aubrietia Leichtlini; two of Thomas Moore Tulips, with centre of Vulcan Wallflowers, edged with white Daisies; three with a centre of golden Vulcan Wallflowers, dotted with White Swan Tulips; two of Pottebakker yellow Tulips, with a groundwork of Cliveden purple Violas; two of Vermilion Brilliant Tulips, with a groundwork of single white Arabis, edged with scarlet Firefly Daisies; two of Kaiser Kroon Tulips, with groundwork of double white Arabis, edged with white Daisies; two of Cottage Maid pink Tulips, with groundwork of pale yellow Violas, edged with white Daisies; two of Proserpine Tulips, planted in clumps of twelve, with a groundwork of single white Arabis, edged with Crocus to match Tulips; two of Cottage Maid Tulips, with a groundwork of Aubrietia Leichtlini, panelled with diamonds of striped purple and white Crocus; two of Hovedean Tulips, with a groundwork of dwarf Phlox, edged with Saxifraga muscoides; two of Yellow Prince Tulips, with a groundwork of Violas, True Blue; two of Kaiser Kroon Tulips, edged with Stipa glauca; and two of Doronicum excelsum, mixed with Parrot Tulips.

"In this style of bedding," he continued, "the Tulips are planted six inches apart, and the beds are generally full of bloom from the end of April until the latter part of June, when they are required for the summer occupants. Beds of Tulips and Hyacinths look well while they are in bloom, but they seldom last good more than a week, and a sudden spell of cold weather spoils them entirely. Although a great deal of time and forethought are required in raising and growing the Phlox, Daisies, Violas, Arabis, Aubrietias, etc., for this style of spring bedding, the magnificent contrast of colours which can be produced when the method is adopted, and the different tints of the surrounding trees and shrubs bursting forth into their spring radiance, lend charm to a picture never to be forgotten by a true lover of flowers."

"What are the main features of the summer bedding?"

"Studied combination and true blending of colours, chiefly in sub-tropical style. Beds of Begonias dotted with Abutilon Schwartzii, with a groundwork of Mesembryanthemum, tall three-year-old-plants of Iresine, dotted amongst dwarf Cineraria candidissima, running out to a bank of Cannas, and such like. Among the plants used are Cannas, Celosias, Acalyphas, Abutilons, Salvias, Lobelias, tall Ivy-leaved Geraniums (three feet high), and other varieties, such as Constance, Crystal Palace Gem, Flower of Spring, Gold and Silver Chain, Mrs. Pollock, Souvenir de Charles Turner, Achievement, Henry Jacoby, and Madame Crousse. Fuchsias also are largely employed, especially in

damp places, and Lantanas, Echeverias, Violas, Pansies, Alternantheras, Ageratums, and Verenicas, with other plants, may be included in the summer bedding."

"Your herbaceous garden is another interesting feature?"

"It contains a collection of the choicest things. For example, there are more than a hundred varieties of Tritoma. Pæonies, Phlox, Rudbeckias, Helianthus, Echinops, Montbretias, Delphiniums, and Lythrums are grown in quantity. Among the novelties are Cimicifuga simplex, Eremurus himalaicus, and Astilbe Davidii. The herbaceous garden is about half an acre in extent, and is planted in such a manner as to obtain the best effects in succession throughout the season. Many of the larger plants are grouped, and thousands of annuals are raised every year to fill the places chosen and prepared for them, and at present occupied by bulbs and spring-flowering plants. We have a very choice collection of Pentstemons, including four dozen named varieties."

"Now about the Conifers and flowering shrubs?"

"Among the specimens in the lawns is one of the finest Cedars of Lebanon in the country. Near the mansion are many good specimens of Cedrus deodara, Wellingtonia gigantea, and some fine Beeches and Limes. An avenue of Scotch Firs, four deep, is a fine sight. Within the last two seasons we have introduced, among trees and shrubs, Abies Picea concolor, Cupressus Lawsoniana, Quercus rubra, Acer colchicum, Prunus Pissardi, Cornus sanguinea, Picea Litchensis, Cedrus atlantica, Acer negundo variegata, Weigela Eva Rathke, and Souvenir de van Houtte. Many of these are said to have been introduced on several occasions without success, but they came through the ordeal of last summer with a good growth. When they were planted, large holes were taken out and filled with fresh soil."

"The kitchen and hardy fruit gardens are quite away from the pleasure grounds, glass departments, and flower gardens?"

"Yes, about half a mile distant. A constant upkeep of vegetables is required, and we have houses for the forcing of many, and for the growing of Cucumbers and Tomatoes. Violet frames and borders for growing plants for spring bedding, and for the greater supply of cut flowers, are also here, so that the effect obtained in the herbaceous garden is kept intact."

"You might name some of the specialities among vegetables?"

"Peas are grown largely, and the Marrowfats are most appreciated. Veitch's Earliest Marrow, Gradus, Excelsior, Sutton's Duchess of York, Harbinger, May Queen, Centenary, Veitch's Exonian, Autocrat, and Ne Plus Ultra are good varieties. Among vegetables which deserve special mention from last year's trial are Veitch's Early Forcing Cauliflower, Sutton's Early Snowball Turnip, Abundance Potato, Best of All Tomato, Carter's Record Onion, Red Elephant Carrot, and Veitch's Challenge Cucumber."

"There remains the Rosery."

"The Rosery has been re-arranged, and the colours blended. The centre bed contains La France, with a bower in the centre. There are a dozen standards and forty dwarfs in each bed, standards of one variety, and dwarfs of another. The latter include Captain Hayward, Margaret Dickson, Ulrich Brunner, Mrs. John Laing, Madame Lambard, and Viscountess Folkestone; the former, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Caroline Testout, Duke of Edinburgh, Gladys Harkness, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, and Catherine Mermet. There is also a large collection of mixed Roses, including all the newer varieties."

"I feel that it is impossible to do justice to such a large place as this in a short article, but before I go I should like some particulars about your own career."

"My ambition in horticulture was apparent in my schooldays. The playground was bounded on either side with a large strip of border, and the boys who would cultivate and keep gay an allotted plot during the summer months were offered a prize. I was twice in succession judged first, and, on going to a private school afterwards, at my suggestion there was a similar competition. As I only remained for a term, I did not see it in progress. When it came to the choice of a livelihood, I could fancy nothing but horticulture, and, showing an aptitude as well as a desire to enter the profession, I was apprenticed in the gardens of the late Right Honourable Charles Seale-Hayne, M.P., under the late Mr. Dawe, at Pitt House, Chudleigh. Mr. Dawe was considered in that part of the country an excellent gardener and estate manager. After his death I was given a higher position, and remained at Pitt House for upwards of four years."

"Where did you go next?"

"After two years' experience in outside work, I was sent by Messrs. Robert Veitch and Sons, of Exeter, to take charge of the glass department at Culve, Exeter, under Mr. George Camp. At the end of two years there, I was asked by Messrs. James Veitch and Son, of the Royal Exotic Nursery, Chelsea, to fill a vacancy in their establishment, and they subsequently sent me to the late Mr. Miller, gardener to Lord Foley, at Roxley Lodge, Esher, under whom I remained for about two years. Few young men remained long under Mr. Miller's close scrutiny. He was always on the alert, and would forgive no one for neglect; in fact, I have read since that indifference to their duties was the one thing he could not overlook. But those who stayed with him have done well since. I then returned to the nurseries at Chelsea, and, having received various offers, I decided to go to the gardens of Belvoir Castle, in charge of the plant department and floral decorations, under Mr. Divers. There is plenty of scope for an active mind at Belvoir Castle, and I was careful to miss nothing in other departments, making also the most of my time during the summer and winter evenings. At the end of two years, having many offers, I accepted a position as general foreman at Dingley Hall, Market Harborough, the seat of Viscount Downe. After the necessary time there, I returned again to Chelsea, and having spent a season decorating in London, I was engaged as general foreman here."

"How long have you been head gardener?"

"When Mr. Bischoffsheim purchased the estate, two years ago, I was given the head appointment, and since then we have been engaged in improving the gardens and estate generally. As you have seen to-day, we are at present employed in laying out over two acres of new pleasure grounds, making a formal geometrical garden, and planting three Vineries, two Fig houses, and one Peach house a hundred and ninety feet long. These have been the result of my own ideas and suggestions to my employers, who are always delighted to give employment during the winter months to men in the immediate neighbourhood. For the last three months nearly a hundred persons have been engaged in works on the estate, and forty are employed constantly." ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 135.—FLOWERING SHRUBS, AND PHYLLOCACTI.

DEAR KATE,—I see in the papers that there has been a failure in the Onion crop abroad, and that this most useful bulb is likely to be very dear. I hope you have plenty of Tripoli Onions (sown last August) for planting out now, as they will be decidedly valuable before the maincrop Onions are ready. The Onion crop is much neglected in England, but, perhaps, we shall now "wake up," and keep the millions we spend (quite unnecessarily) with Portugal, France, and Germany, for these necessary bulbs, at home. Most gardeners sow their Onions too late, and then they become a prey to the Onion-fly in May, or, even if they escape this pest, they have not always a long enough season to make large bulbs. There is an idea that Onions are delicate, but this is not so; some years ago we had a terrible blizzard in Devonshire, with everything horrid in the way of cold that you can imagine; it took place the second week in March, and I had insisted on old John sowing his Onions (which he didn't want to do until the end of March) early in February! When the frozen hail and snow cleared off at last, I went out to examine the Onion-bed in fear and trembling, quite thinking that old John would "have the crow" over me that time. But, no, there were the little dears, all as perky as possible, not a bit the worse for the blizzard, so I have never been anxious about young Onions since. If you are likely to be short of Onions, you should now plant Shallots, which make a very good substitute for Onions until the Tripolis are ready, and come in very quickly.

PYRETHRUM APHRODITE.

The conservatory is now very gay with Azaleas, Deutzias, and other shrubs which have been slightly forced for early bloom. Amongst these, the pretty, little white rosettes of Prunus sinensis fl. pl. are conspicuous, produced at every axil of the sprays, and the dwarf Spiræa Thunbergi is a charming little plant, covered with tiny white blossoms. Spiræa arguta is rather similar, only on a larger scale; this, too, makes a good pot plant in its younger stages, and can be planted out afterwards, choosing a moist situation, for all the Spiræas like to have their feet in water. Lilacs, too, are useful in the conservatory at this time, and their fragrance makes them delightful; we find Syringa Charles X. (mauve) and Marie Legraye (white) the best for forcing, the latter being especially good. Then there are the beautiful Japanese Azaleas (mollis) coming on, and we have a plant of the new hybrids between these and the Indian Azaleas, which is not quite expanded yet, so I will tell you more about it later on. In the cool greenhouse the long sprays of Cytisus (Genista) Præcox are conspicuous, covered with pale primrose-yellow flowers; and the earliest Rhododendrons (Nobleanum, in carmine red, and arboreum, in crimson) are very decorative. That most floriferous plant, Sparmannia africana, has been covered with bloom in this place (with-

THE GARDENS AT SWANMORE PARK, BISHOP'S WALTHAM.

Interview with Mr. George Ellwood.

WITHIN a few miles of the quaint town of Bishop's Waltham, perched on a hill above the famous ruins of the Abbey, is the beautiful seat of Mr. W. H. Myers, for fourteen years Member for the city of Winchester. Although the weather was unpropitious when I visited the gardens at Swanmore in mid-winter, the manifold charms of the place were quite apparent; and before I left the rain ceased, so that I was able to go round the outside, as well as to inspect the numerous houses. Mr. George Ellwood, who is in charge of the gardens, and under whose auspices during the nine years he has been at Swanmore many improvements and developments have been carried out, spared no pains in giving me information; and during my visit I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Molyneux, looking the embodiment of health.

"What is the size of the pleasure grounds?" I asked, as we stayed near the house to inspect the creepers.

"About fourteen acres. But the acreage of the park is very considerable. The creepers on Swanmore House are rather numerous, and include Ivy, Banksian Roses, Akebia, Ampelopsis in variety, Ceanothus, Abelia rupestris, Pittosporum, Escallonias, and Myrtles. The brick arcade running eastward from the mansion is clothed with Roses, Garrya elliptica, and Jasminum in variety. We are about four hundred feet above sea level, and eight miles from the sea. On a clear day there are vistas from the terrace of the Isle of Wight and the Portsdown Hills."

"You have some fine specimen trees on the lawn?

"Notably a Cedar of Lebanon, and a perfect specimen of an evergreen Oak. You will see others as we proceed. The aspect where we are now is north, and here the features are the bulb ground and the flower beds. The large stretch of lawn in this direction is used for croquet."

A Succession of Bulbs.

"I should like to have the names of some of the shrubs on the left of the bulb ground, with a splendid Holly hedge behind."

"The Holly hedge is nine feet high and through. The flowering shrubs are chiefly Arbutus unedo and rubra, Benthamia fragifera, Calycanthus floridus, Clerodendron, Coluteas, Corokea, Cotoneaster, Coronilla emerus, Cotoneaster angustifolia, Kerrias; Magnolia conspicua, Alexandrina, parviflora, stellata and speciosa; Nandina domestica; Pittosporum Tobira and Mayii; Rosemary, Skimmias, Cercidiphyllum japonicum, Hydrangea paniculata, Prunus prunifolia flore pleno, Decaisnea Fargesii, Rhamnus alaternus variegatus; Cistus florentinus, crispum, and angustifolium."

"I suppose you have a great variety of bulbs?"

"Almost endless, and continuous from early in January, beginning with Aconites. These are followed by Snowdrops, Crocuses, Lenten Lilies, then all the Narcissus tribes, and the season is wound up with early-flowering Tulips."

"How are the flower beds made up?"

"With Begonias, Fuchsia Mrs. Rundle, pyramid plants of Lantana, Calceolaria amplexicaulis, Lobelias cardinalis and Queen Victoria, and Veronica Andersonii variegata. Dot plants are used for contrasts in colour. With the Fuchsias we have a groundwork of Iresine Herbstii, edged with Mesembryanthemum cordifolium variegata. The edges of many of the beds are skirted with Echeveria secunda glauca. The number of beds (which differ in size and shape, some being raised) is about a score. They are quite informal.

"On the south side," continued Mr. Ellwood, as we passed some very fine tennis-courts, "is the octagonal Rose garden, surrounded by an Arbor vitæ hedge, clipped to a height of four feet. We have another Rose garden."

"On what principle are the Rose beds here arranged?"

Mr. George Ellwood.

"They are in pairs, and the varieties mainly used are Caroline Testout, Liberty, the Lyon, Madame Abel Chatenay, Gustave Regis, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, and Cheshunt Scarlet. Here you get a vista of Thuja occidentalis aurea."

"The length of the Long Walk must be more than a quarter of a mile?"

"Yes, it is; and the flowering shrubs on the south side embrace a representative collection. They are intermingled with deciduous plants."

The Pæony Garden.

Turning our steps westward, passing under a Rose pergola spanning the path, we arrived at the Pæony garden.

"How many varieties find a home in this garden?" I enquired.

"About fifty. The garden is enclosed by a Yew hedge, and on the outskirts of this are specimen trees with shrubberies. On the grass is a striking specimen of the Siberian Crab, and a very ancient Mulberry tree."

"You seem to have a number of special gardens?"

"That is one of the characteristics of Swanmore. Now, in the northerly direction, I am going to show you the rock garden."

"It is a delightful combination, with an abundant supply of water. A bank of Bamboos is one feature, I notice."

"And clumps of Phormium tenax, another. Gaultherias and Megaseas also make good clumps, and Cotoneaster horizontalis hangs over the rocks. Then there are Coronillas, Euonymus and Ericas, Gunneras, and Rock Roses, Irises and Hellebores."

"You might mention a few of the principal Alpines?"

"The Cyclamen and Aconites are the first favourites in January and February, followed by the Scillas, Chionodoxas, and Muscari, the varieties of Aubrietias, and bold Funkias, Gentiana acaulis and verna, varieties of Phlox, and various Saxifrages; Sanguinaria canadensis, a plant that should be more grown; Dryas, Drabas, Primulas, Dianthus in variety, Veronicas, Tunica, the Thymes, with sheets of Tiarella cordifolia, Smilicina, Spergulas, Saponarias, Lithospermum, Iberis, Helianthemums, Hutchinsia alpina, Herniarias, Ramondias, Gypsophila repens, Erythræas, Erinus, Dodecatheons, Cerastiums, dwarf Campanulas, Arnebia, Armerias, Arenarias, Arabis, dwarf Anemones, Antennarias, Androsaces, Œthionemas, Acænias, Trilliums, Hepaticas, Omphalodes verna, Fritillarias, Epimediums in variety, and Pinguiculas. Next we come to the mixed Rose garden."

The Sunk Garden.

"Which, I observe, has pergolas running round three sides, and is a sunk garden."

"Mixed with the Roses are climbing plants for autumn effects, such as Vitis Thunbergii, Cognetiæ dissecta, purpurea, and flexuosa major; Bignonia radicans and major; Clematis flammula; Polygonum Baldschuanicum, Akebias, Jasminums, and Ampelopsis. The beds in the garden are all mixed."

"You have a magnificent Weigela hedge one side of the Rose garden."

"Yes, it is one of the sights of Swanmore. We prune it hard; in fact, all flowering shrubs should be pruned hard occasionally. There are two varieties of Weigela, amabilis and rosea; the former is darker and more beautiful. On the other side of this hedge is the Aster garden, which is protected on the north side by a Portugal Laurel hedge, twelve feet high."

Skirting the Rose and Aster gardens on the east side is a long grass walk, backed up with specimen Conifers. On the west side a Holly hedge runs the entire length to the commencement of the herbaceous border.

"How far does the herbaceous border extend?"

"It runs upwards of two hundred yards on three sides of the kitchen garden, Pyrus japonica making an archway on the east side, while Lilies of the Valley and Tulips are on the north side of the wall."

Plants for Walls.

"Then, there are the plants on the walls. What varieties thrive in such positions?"

"Chimonanthus fragrans, Abelia floribunda, Carpenteria californica, Choisya ternata, Akebia quinata, Cistus ladaniferus, Cotoneaster microphylla, Cratægus pyracantha Lelandii, Cydonias, Elæagnus macrophyllus, Escallonias, Garryas, Ivies in variety, Indigofera Gerardiana, Ampelopsis sempervirens, Tunica granata, Jasminums,

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Magnolias, Escallonias, Aristolochia, Ceanothuses, Loniceras, Clematis, Myrtles, Eugenias, Erythrinas, and Jasminum primulinum."

"Are the varieties in the herbaceous border in clumps?"

"That is the principle, and the plants grown include all the best of each species.

"Finally, with regard to flowers," said Mr. Ellwood, "you see that the kitchen garden is approached from the house by a broad green walk, with hedges of Holly and Berberis on each side. The latter are left to flower through May before being clipped. Bedded in blocks of one colour are Begonias, Pentstemons, Larkspurs, Veronicas (dwarf), Cannas, Lantanas, Antirrhinums, Fuchsias, and foliage plants."

"This must be one of the great attractions of the gardens?" I observed, as we arrived at the end, and started our pilgrimage through the glasshouses.

"Our aim is to have a succession of attractions so far as flowers are concerned. After the bulbs are in bloom come the Alpines in the rock garden, and then following on, the Pæonies, the Roses, the Asters, and all the bedding. Right up to the end of October, the gardens are more or less gay with masses of colour."

The Mansion, Swanmore Park.

Treatment of Primulas.

Taking the houses as they came, we entered the Rose house, which just then contained a number of Chrysanthemums, which I remarked were all white.

"Yes," rejoined Mr. Ellwood, "white is our predominating colour, because we do a great deal of church decoration. Here are some Primulas, Improved sinensis, which is propagated in April and May, and from Christmas to Easter is almost perpetual-flowering. We use the yellow as well as white for church decoration. That also applies to Chrysanthemums, of which Aurora Borealis is a nice yellow. One of the best whites is Madame R. Oberthur."

"Your Primulas look so well that you might say something about the treatment."

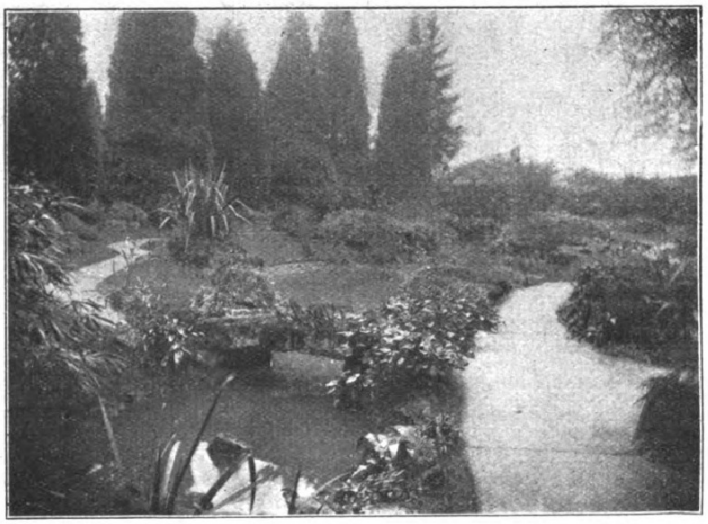
"It is of the ordinary greenhouse character. We propagate on a Melon or a Cucumber bed in 'sixties,' then pot on in loam or sand, move into a warm pit until the plants are established, and finally pot in 5-in. or 6-in. pots, housing in frames through the summer, and bringing them in here in September to flower later. In January we get tier upon tier of white flowers."

"What are the varieties of Roses?"

"Lamarque and Fortune's Yellow. The former is a Noisette, and is in bloom for six weeks about Easter. Fortune's Yellow flowers early in February here, and in a colder house in April. The back wall is covered with Geranium Madame Crousse, which flowers in March and April, so that we get blooms with long stems when they are very much wanted."

"You plant your Peaches on the crossway system?"

"The advantage of the crossway system is that you get in eight trees, whereas in the old system you only got two. The trees run right up the house and over the top, instead of on the wall."



The Sunk Garden at Swanmore Park.

Tree Carnations and Cinerarias.

"How many seasons have you grown your Tree Carnations?"

"This is the fifth. One of the best varieties is certainly Carola, and the others we grow in this house are Enchantress, Mrs. Burnett, Winsor, Beacon, Britannia, Afterglow, Fortunei, Rose Dore, Countess of March, and Victory. In the centre of the house, Cinerarias, the French strain, are grown, the object being to get as many shades of colour as possible. Dark and light blue, rose, pink, and violet are represented. We save the seed and give them the same treatment as ordinary stellata, keeping them in frames until September, when they are brought in."

"You have more white flowers in the frames?"

"Yes, Freesias, and white Stocks, Monarch and Beauty of Nice. We grow a quantity of the latter."

"When was your early Vinery planted?"

"The Madresfield Court thirty-three years ago, and the Black Hamburgh ten years; the former have been lifted once or twice. We get fine crops of both. The borders are inside and out. In the second Vinery, the original Muscats were planted thirty-three years ago. We put young rods on the old roots, and increase the root action."

How to Prevent Shanking.

"Do you protect the outside border?"

"No, we break it up in the spring and autumn, when the roots will allow, in order to let the air through, and prevent shanking. If outside borders are clogged on the surface, shanking is very likely to develop."

"Have you any seedlings in your Cucumber house?"

"Yes, No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3. We also grow Toogood's Iceberg, which is an excellent Cucumber, specially suitable for amateurs. Other plants in this house are Roman Hyacinths in quantity; Streptocarpus, which make huge plants and start flowering in April; Euphorbia jacquinifolia (in pots), Lilium Harrisii, and spring-flowering Calceolaria Clibranii."

"How does it differ from ing Calceolaria Clibranii."

"It is more straggly, and has wiry stems. The flower is a lovely yellow, and sure to be popular where that colour is admired. You see, we have more of Fortune's Yellow Rose in our second Carnation house. These flower later. The varieties of Carnation are similar to the other house, but also include Malmaisons."

Endive in Frames.

"You must get a constant supply of Mushrooms?" I said, as we entered a house full of them.

"We never run out of them. Seakale, Rhubarb, and Chicory are forced in this house. Endive is grown in a frame only. We protect it with straw, darken it, and it comes out hard and thick. I do not bring it into the Mushroom house, because if it is housed, the flavour is lost. The frame ground includes ten

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lights of Violets, Marie Louise, Princess of Wales, and Comte de Branza. We make a great feature of spring-flowering Roses in pots."

"What month do they come into flower?"

"At the end of April and during May and June we get a wealth of blooms. The varieties are Fortune's Yellow, Carmine Pillar, Lady Gay, Hiawatha, Dorothy Perkins, Madame Plantier, Aglaia, Polyantha grandiflora, White Dorothy, Liberty, Flower of Fairfield, Crimson Rambler, and Jessie, a perpetual bloomer. A number of Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Teas are also grown in pots. Deutzias, Azaleas, Prunus, and Spiræas are forced, and found very useful."

A Fine Crop of Apples.

"Did the weather last season injure your Apple crops?" I said.

"We certainly had no reason to be dissatisfied with them. Of vegetables, perhaps the most noticeable are Onions. The varieties are Ailsa Craig, Sutton's Globe, Improved Reading, Perfection, Longkeeping, and Bedford Champion. Some of the Onions weigh nearly three pounds. Cabbages and Cauliflowers are as thriving as one could wish."

"I am afraid that time will only allow me to enquire your own experience in gardening and showing."

"Before I came here I was gardener for five years at Enbridge Lodge, Newbury, and previously I was general foreman at Lockinge under Mr. Fyffe, and under Mr. Beckett at Aldenham House. I have shown at Newbury and Swanmore, and have been successful at Southampton, Portsmouth, Reading, London, and Winchester, with both fruit and vegetables."

ALFRED WILCOX

A FAMOUS Suburban Garden, that at Belsize Court, Hampstead, London, will be described in next week's interview.

Alpine Plants in Villa Gardens.

(Concluded from page 394.)

IN a small Alpine garden, in the late autumn, one is cheered by the beautiful blossoms of Cyclamen ibericum, hederæfolium, Galanthus cilicicus, Colchicum alpinum, C. autumnale, Iris alata, and Saxifraga Fortunei. December and January bring up the little Winter Aconite, and February Bulbocodium vernum, Narcissus minimus (only two or three inches high), Chionodoxa Luciliæ, C. gigantea, C. sardensis, Scilla bifolia, and Iris reticulata, to be followed by Crocuses, Snowdrops, Scillas, and Puschkinias, until the story is taken up by the earlier Saxifrages, such as S. apiculata, S. sancta, S. Elizabethæ, S. Burseriana, and the new dwarf S. retusa and S. oppositifolia, with their rosy-purple flowers.

The Effects of Hoar Frost.

Another source of delight in the Alpine garden is the wonderfully fairy-like results after a night's hoar frost. The silvery rosettes of the Saxifrages have dainty crystal fringes all round them. Sempervivums take on a wonderfully star-like aspect; while the old seed-pods of many of the Sedums are transformed into what appears to be glittering pieces of coral, the full beauty of which must be seen to be appreciated.

If so much interest and beauty could be derived from plants which required hothouse treatment, doubtless they would be greatly sought after, but because they can be grown to perfection without any heat whatever, and when once established require very little looking after, they seem to be neglected. How strange it is, when so much time and money is each season spent in putting in a few Geraniums, Lobelia, Golden Feather, etc., whose beauty at best is very short-lived. I feel sure that if the average amateur gardener would give up a portion of the most sunny part of the garden to a rockery, constructed so that it could be extended if desired, and planted somewhat on the lines I have indicated, it would, in the course of two or three years, form the most interesting as well as the most beautiful and appreciated portion of the garden, especially during the long, dreary winter and early spring, when the remainder of one's garden, despite every care, looks desolate.

REGINALD A. MALBY.

Making a Japanese Garden.

(Continued from page 397.)

A WORD with regard to the landscape and plant "effects" attained in some tea gardens may prove of interest. The "river tea garden" is a highly-interesting phase of landscape work in this direction. A winding brook or stream of clear water, spanned by rustic wooden bridges, will give the central idea. Its banks may be lined with water-worn boulders, or sand and shingle, to denote either a mountain stream or a lowland river. The ground on either side must be arranged in conformation with the idea expressed. Your mountain stream will break between hilly mounds that will be aglow with mountain blossoms and hillside vegetation. A cliff-face of boulder will be ablaze in summer with Azalea, or overhung by the wonderful Maple colourings. In some gardens, a serried, undulating line of Pines will call to mind mountain scenery around Fuji Yama, or delightful Nikko.

Sometimes the tea-house is arranged to overlook a leafy dell, where the visitor may sit in due season, and look down upon a vale of "snowy Mume" (Plum blossoms), or a wealth of dainty Cherry blossoms, or possibly later in the season a luxuriant growth of glowing Maples. The tea-house, open to breeze and sunlight, supported by braced rustic poles, in the very midst of leaf and blossom, birds and sunshine, surely revels in a delightful position.

The "Winding River."

The lowland "winding river garden," with its gently sloping banks, is usually typical of a certain particular phase of floral beauty. The main object may be masses of Kerria japonica, or Lespedezas, or groups of the heavy-flowered Hydrangeas, of which many beautiful varieties are grown. A few waterside Reeds and Calocasias, with a fine mass of the glorious Nelumbiums (or Lotus), may add grace to the water area. Bridges in these gardens are usually of the simplest character. A ford of stepping stones, set like those in Tennyson's poem, amid a grouping of Irises—

"And see—the tall flag-flowers when they sprung,
Below the range of stepping stones,"

may provide the sole way of crossing the stream. At times an irregular plank bridge, or rough-hewn stone slabs, provide a way over; at others, a rustic trestle bridge, covered with soil, is all that is necessary.

Iris and Wistaria.

At Hori-Kiri (of which I shall have more to say in some future notes) there is the most famous Iris garden in the world, and little tea-houses are set here and there amid that billowy sea of Iris blossom which gives such delight to multitudes every summer.

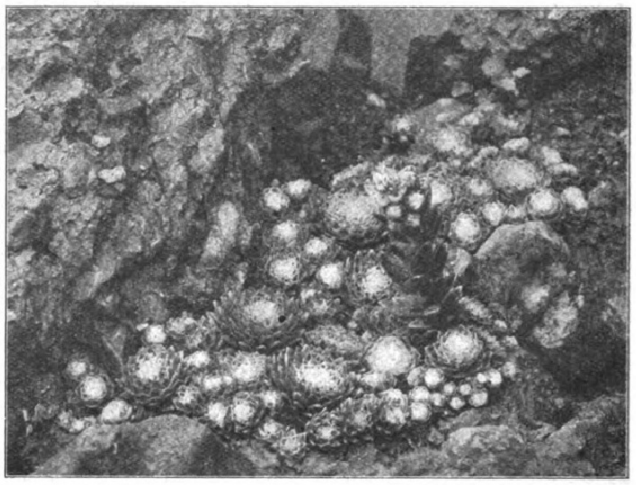
The Wistaria trellis is often an adjunct to the tea-house, and is sometimes of great length, the whole being festooned with the exquisite "Fuji," as the Japanese call it. The Wistaria gardens at Kameido (though, strictly speaking, they are Temple gardens), are in season entirely given up to the lover of beauty and pleasure, and the crowds that patronise the little matted tea-houses sit and gaze upon the wondrous misty cascades of blossom to their hearts' content.

Need more be said of the exquisite charm of the tea-house in a garden? Surely, if there is any justification for garden buildings at all, the tea-house certainly merits the first attention of the garden-maker.

Suitable Plants.

The subjects which the Japanese consider especially suitable for tea-garden planting include, in addition to the best types of Pines, Maples, and Japanese Oaks, Andromeda japonica, Euonymus, Eleagnus, Deutzias, Petasites gigantea (marsh-loving plant), Nandina domestica, Vitis (or Vines) in variety, Aralia spinosa, and Gardenia florida. Almost all types of Ferns and ornamental Grasses are admissible, also the hardier Bamboos. Clipped and stunted-growing shrubs are not desirable, the whole idea being to give a haunt for rest and refreshment among sylvan and rural surroundings

P. S. HAYWARD.



The Cobweb House Leek—Sempervivum arachnoideum.

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FAMOUS GARDENS :: IN WAR TIME. ::

HOW THEY ARE BEING MAINTAINED WITH REDUCED STAFFS.

VI.—Interview with Mr. George Ellwood, of Swanmore Park, Bishop's Waltham, Hants.

SWANMORE HOUSE, situated within ten miles of the Solent, and commanding extensive views of the surrounding country, including the Isle of Wight, is four hundred feet above the sea level. The owner, Mr. W. H. Myers, takes a deep interest in the estate, and especially in his garden, having a wide knowledge of horticulture. He is an active member of the County Appeal Tribunal, and is very much interested in war work, especially hospitals and Red Cross aids; therefore he naturally is wishful that his garden should contribute liberally to the pressing needs of the nation, and hospitals generally.

In pre-war times the exhibits from these gardens were much to the fore in county shows, and at the displays of the Royal Horticultural Society in London, especially in vegetables, Mr. Ellwood having proved himself a past master of vegetable production. So much has the regular staff been reduced by war needs that the whole of the lawns are not now mown, but have been allowed to produce a crop of hay, so that the whole of the employees' time can be given to the more pressing needs of vegetable and fruit culture.

On my visit I found Mr. Ellwood very busy, but he willingly offered to give me any information I might desire in inspecting these well-known gardens.

"What was the extent of your pre-war staff, Mr. Ellwood?" I enquired.

"I had three men in the houses, four in the kitchen garden, and six in the flower garden, shrubberies, and Alpine garden. Now I have three men and five boys. We do the best we can. My employer, who is most considerate, never complains at the appearance of the place; therefore we work away, raising as much produce as we can. Eleven men joined the colours voluntarily, and I am pleased to say none have been killed, although they have seen much active service."

"How long has this Rose pergola been built?" I asked, as we commenced our perambulation, and I noted how well furnished it was with popular varieties.

"Ten years. Do you note how floriferous are the varieties The Garland and Brunonis—the Himalayan Brier? Under the Roses you will notice we have put out the specimen Fuchsias and standard Lantanas, which we usually employ in the beds."

"This is a good method of preserving the stock and economising space," I replied.

We next came to a border one hundred yards long, on the west side of the kitchen garden wall, formerly occupied with herbaceous plants, I learned. It is now filled with Potatoes, which promise a full crop later on.

MANY VARIETIES OF POTATOES.

Turning a corner we came to the flower beds proper, on the south side of the kitchen garden. Cut out in grass, some two dozen of them, which are in peace times filled with the usual flowering and foliage subjects, are all now occupied with Potatoes, I noted.

"Have you many varieties?" I enquired.

"Yes, we are testing many, such as Mighty Atom, Prosperity, International, Lochar, Carter's Snowball, Drummond, Berwick and Warwick Castles, Dobbie's Prolific, Great Scot, King Edward, and Arran Chief. This border was formerly filled with herbaceous plants. Half the Michaelmas Daisy border, too, is now planted with Potatoes."

"I note you have good crops of Peaches on the south wall, and Plums on the east."

"Yes; all the trees are well laden. The former, too, have escaped an attack of blister this year. Dymond, Stirling Castle, and Gros Mignonne are the best Peaches. Of Plums we have Orleans, Denniston's Superb, Transparent Gage, Pond's Seedling, Washington, Count Althan's Gage, and Greengage."

"Your pillar Roses are flowering handsomely on the tripods. How deeply coloured is Tausendschon."

"Yes; that variety succeeds well on the spurring principle, instead of cutting out all the old wood. Tea Rambler, Jersey Beauty, Excelsa, and Minnehaha are the leading sorts. Do you see that bank of Diervillas? That is the way to display that handsome deciduous subject—in a mass."

"Quite so," I remarked.

A SUNKEN ROSE GARDEN.

"Now here we come to a Rose garden slightly sunken, as you see. It was formerly a winter tennis court. The pergola on three sides of it is furnished with a variety of subjects. Note the entrance, how it is covered with Ivy dentata, very appropriate, we think, especially during the winter weather. Aristolochia sipho, Bignonia radicans, Jessamines, and various forms of Vitis, planted to give effect in the autumn also, when the foliage is deeply tinged with crimson, as V. Thunbergii usually is. The beds are planted with various sections and sorts in a mass."

"Yes; I note what a fine display they make, and with variety, too; much more interesting than when in a mass of one sort only."

"Here we come to a small Alpine garden, which for several months in the year is full of interest."

"Yes; how well do the Ramondias succeed in the partial shade you give them. That mass of Nepeta Mussini is attractive, a very interesting spot in April and May," I noted.

"This," Mr. Ellwood noted, "three acre plot of grass among forest trees is what we call the wild garden. It is full of bulbs, as Snowdrops, Narcissi, Tulips, and Crocuses; and a fine display they make in the spring. That long border, and the bed in front, are filled with choice shrubs and trees, of which Mr. Myers is very fond."

"I see you have more Roses here"—pointing to several beds within an enclosure of American Arbor-vitæ.

"Yes; they give huge quantities of blossoms, which go mainly to the Red Cross Hospital in Winchester. The varieties are Caroline Testout, Daily Mail, Gustave Regis, Madame A. Chatenay, etc."

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

As we rambled on we entered the kitchen garden, which is an acre within the walls, set out in four squares, with the usual borders surrounding. At once the appearance of the crops impressed me very much.

"I note you grow Onions largely, Mr. Ellwood?"

"Yes, we find them useful all the year round. The Tripoli varieties are White Emporor, Giant Red, Leviathan, and Monster White, sown in August and planted out in February. They are not so liable to 'bolt' as they are when planting is deferred until March."

"Your bed of Ailsa Craig is extensive and looking well."

"Yes, we have about one thousand two hundred planted. They promise very well."

"Your spring-sown batch look wonderfully well," I remarked. "I note you do not thin them much."

"No," Mr. Ellwood remarked, "there is no necessity. We get a heavier crop like this. Brown Globe, Rousham Park, Improved Reading, and James' Keeping are the sorts."

"I note you favour the large-podded Peas," as we inspected rows of Alderman, Sutton's V.C., and Quite Content.

"Yes," remarked Mr. Ellwood "see what you obtain—pods with ten Peas, and of excellent quality, too. I look upon Quite Content as a

MR. ELLWOOD AND THE STAFF AT SWANMORE PARK, BISHOP'S WALTHAM.

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wonderful Pea for cropping, making laterals so freely, which bear in succession right up to August from June. As an early Pea I like Pilot, and Market Favourite for a cold season."

"What are these Beans?" I enquired, stopping opposite some dwarf plants.

"Oh, those are Haricot Beans. We are trying Webb's Abundance, which is a white French Bean, for drying for winter use, and Butter Beans, also Magnum Bonum for the same purpose. Whether they will be perfect remains to be seen."

CROPS ON OUTSIDE VINE BORDERS.

"I note you do not hesitate to crop your outside Vine borders," noticing them fully occupied with vegetables in frames and out of them.

"We grow Ashleaf Potatoes close to the Vinery wall, where they get some warmth. In those frames we had early Cauliflowers. Milan Turnips—which sown in March, come better than when sown in February. Then we had Carrots, Lettuce, Endive, Parsley, quite a lot of useful things, and I see no harm done to the Vines," remarked Mr. Ellwood.

"What a lovely bed of Carrots!" I remarked, as we sauntered on. "I notice you do not thin them severely."

"No. I do not see the necessity, as we get such a lot of useful roots from the late thinnings. Of sorts we grow Favourite, Early Gem, Altrincham, New Intermediate, Inimitable, and Champion Horn. Of Short Horn types we sow from February to the end of August, thus obtaining a succession of useful small roots."

"I note you grow Beet largely."

"Yes; it is useful in the winter as a salad. Sutton's Black, Green Top, Blood Red, and Carter's Perfection are the sorts we favour. You will note we grow a good batch of Cabbage," remarked Mr. Ellwood. "Sutton's Favourite and Webb's Emperor are useful sorts. Leeks, I find, are much appreciated in the hospitals, where we send considerable quantities of vegetables. Lyon, for general use, is good."

"I should like to ask you many more questions, Mr. Elwood, as I see you have not any vacant space; but I fear I have already trespassed on your time, and I have not yet seen the houses, which look commodious and well adapted to their various requirements," I remarked, as we approached the principal range.

THE HOUSES.

"Yes; this block is two hundred and twenty-two feet long, eighteen feet wide, and of substantial height. This is a greenhouse now mainly filled with Tomatoes, chiefly of the Perfection type. You will note that old Rose tree on the back wall, and under the roof. It is Lamarque, on its own roots. I understand it has been here thirty-eight years. It gives a full crop of useful blossoms for Easter every year."

As we entered the next compartment, a Peach house, I noted the trees were planted and trained crosswise on the front of the house, four feet apart. This is a different method of training from that generally seen, but it appears to suit, judging from the appearance of the trees, which were carrying grand crops of fruit. "Yes, the trees do very well," Mr. Ellwood replied. "The varieties are Royal George, Dymond, Hales', Alexander, Stirling Castle, with Lord Napier and Cardinal Nectarines. The varieties on the back of the house are Noblesse and Gros Mignonne."

The next house was a plant stove, the front now occupied with Cucumbers.

A central span-roofed portion was next entered. The middle of the house contained Tomatoes in pots, seven feet high, carrying full crops of fruit. The side stages were filled with Perpetual Carnations in pots, the flowers of which are much appreciated by invalids.

We then entered the first of three Vineries, some twenty-eight feet long. Half the house was occupied with Black Hamburgh, and the remainder with Madresfield Court. The latter, Mr. Ellwood said, had been planted thirty-nine years, and was still giving good crops. The Hamburghs I noted were nearly ripe, the bunches averaging three pounds, good berries and colour.

"I note you utilise your back wall by growing Figs."

"Yes; they do capitally."

The next compartment was devoted to Muscats entirely, the same age as the Madresfields in the earlier house. The crop was very fine, the bunches averaging three and a half pounds. The late house, some thirty feet long, was mixed late and mid-season varieties. Lady Downes and Mrs. Pince were especially promising.

Mr. Ellwood remarked: "Nearly all the Grapes are used for sick people and hospitals."

A set of span-roofed houses were occupied with Melons—a fine crop—Cucumbers, Tomatoes, and Carnations.

"A nice range of pits," I remarked.

"Yes; they are useful for Potatoes, Carrots, French Beans, etc., and now Melons."

"I am exceedingly obliged to you for the pleasant interview," I remarked as I left. "You are certainly doing your share in providing food."

A RAMBLER.

Next week: The gardens at Ford Manor, Lingfield, will be described.

"Garden Sunday"—which has been arranged in order to promote helpful association among the cultivators of gardens and allotments in the London district—will be celebrated on the 29th inst. at Browning Hall, Walworth, at 7 o'clock in the evening. It is organised by the Vacant Land Cultivation Society and the London Gardeners' Guild, and the addresses will be interspersed with music.

The death is announced of Mrs. E. H. Denison, of Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted, whose gardens were described in this journal a few years ago, in the course of an interview with Mr. A. G. Gentle, the head gardener. Mr. Gentle has been a frequent exhibitor of well-grown vegetables, which have carried off numerous important medals at the R.H.S. shows, and no doubt will find his services eagerly sought for.

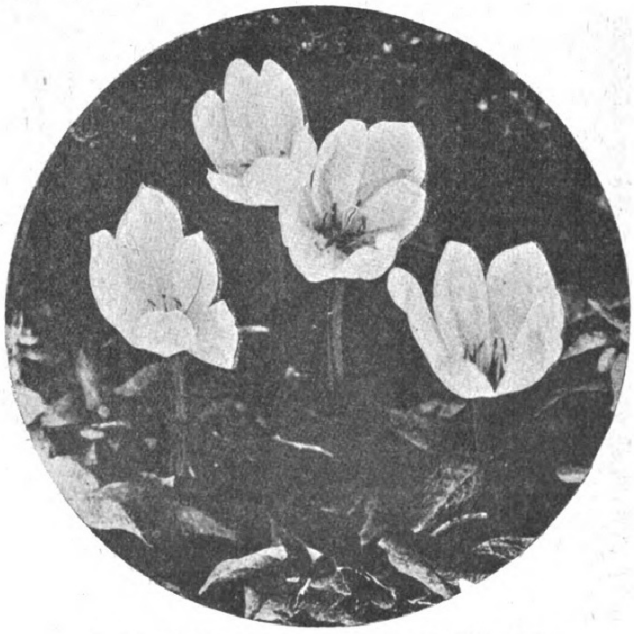
MEADOW SAFFRONS.

The Meadow Saffrons, or Colchicums, are handsome plants not unlike Crocuses—indeed, they are often erroneously called Autumn Crocuses, although there are several species of true Crocus which also bloom in the autumn.

The Meadow Saffron affords us the opportunity of having bright tufts of colour at a time when other flowers are getting past their best. They send up the long flower tubes from September onwards, the leaves following in spring. Plant the corms as soon as possible now, but care should be taken that cattle cannot get at them, as they are poisonous.

The commonest form of the Meadow Saffron is our native species, Colchicum autumnale, with flowers of rosy purple. There are several varieties of this, album being pure white; album plenum a white double; and plenum, lilac, double.

Very choice is C. speciosum, the colour of which is varying shades of rosy purple. In this species the texture of the petals is stouter, and the flower tubes stronger, so that it is not so liable to be beaten down by autumnal rains. Of this there is a fine white variety, C. speciosum album, a comparatively recent introduction, worthy of a place in the most select collection.



A GOOD MEADOW SAFFRON, COLCHICUM SPECIOSUM ALBUM.

Other good species are C. Sibthorpi, a somewhat rare form, with extra large flowers of a pleasing shade of soft lilac, marked with white; C. giganteum, another with large flowers, rosy lilac with white centre; and C. libanoticum, rose and white, which, however, does not flower until spring.

These plants will grow almost anywhere, and have no special cultural requirements. They are good subjects for the rockery, where flowers are generally scarce late in the year. In the border they are very effective, and they succeed in partial shade. Then they can be naturalised in the wild garden, or in grass, but it must be remembered that the grass must not be mown until they have ripened their leaves, or there will be no flowers the following season. Once planted, they can be left undisturbed for years.

When planting, put a little sharp sand under each corm, and if the soil is heavy it should be lightened.

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or third, as the case may be; and s1, s2, s3, meaning, "If sown in the open ground in spring will flower the first year," or the second or third, as the case may be—there would seldom be any need to add a single page to the present length of a catalogue.

December 29th.—In connection with the subject of lists of plants for special purposes, I have, in the course of some miscellaneous reading, come across rather a good list of shrubs

MR. J. K. ELSEY.

which may be grown in the shade, and even under trees. Here it is:—Aucuba japonica, Berberis aquifolia, B. Darwinii, Buxus sempervirens (Tree Box), Cotoneaster, Cornus sibirica, Cytisus scoparia (Broom), Elder, Escallonia, Euonymus, Holly, Hypericum calycina (St. John's Wort), Ivy, Laurel, Laurestinus, Pernettya, Privet, Rhododendron ponticum, Ruscus aculeatus (Butcher's Broom), Skimmia, Symphoricarpus racemosus (Snowberry), Vinca, and the common Yew. To these may be added many of the spring-flowering plants, such as Primroses and Anemones, and most of the spring-flowering bulbs, so there should be no difficulty about covering bare places—at any rate, under deciduous trees. Even under Conifers most of these shrubs will grow if once they are established; the trouble is to find a place for them when the trees are old—the ground is so completely occupied by the roots. In any case, fresh soil must be brought to the spot; it would be absurd to expect anything to grow in hard, dry ground, exhausted many years ago. One of the shrubs mentioned, the Snowberry, is extremely effective if, instead of being allowed to straggle about without any attention, as it generally is, it is cut close to the ground every spring. So treated, it forms a dense carpet of greenery which, in summer, is covered with masses of little pink flowers, to be replaced later by glistening white berries. The effect is quite charming—the more so as it is uncommon.

December 30th.—A few of the various types of Chrysanthemums are shown in the photograph. In the whole range of horticulture there is nothing more remarkable than the number, widely different in their characteristics, which have been obtained by hybridisation from a single species not in itself particularly striking.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

ORDINARY Geraniums may be rendered proof against frost by giving them no water from November till April, but they must be fairly large and strong.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 222.—MR. J. K. ELSEY, AT THE GARDENS, COPPICE LEA, MERSTHAM.

THE gardens at Coppice Lea, which I visited on November 25th, are remarkable for the adroit use which is made of the six acres of pleasure grounds attached to the comfortable residence. Driving from Redhill, I was impressed by the admirably-arranged approach, past the lodge, to the house, and by the trimness of the lawn. Here, in fact, as soon as I saw Mr. Elsey, the head gardener, I commenced making notes. Facing the croquet lawn is a border which, in the autumn season, Mr. Elsey informed me, had been all yellow.

"Consisting, of course, of specially-selected varieties of plants?"

"Yes; and largely of varieties of Helianthus, including Harpalium rigidum, giganteus, multiflorus, multiflorus plenus Source d'Or, latiflorus, strumosus, and Miss Mellish. The Heleniums were autumnale, Hoopesii, and pumilum. Then, there were Heliopsis scabra, Rudbeckia Golden Glow, Thalictrum glaucum, Verbascum Chaixii, Papaver Prince of Orange, Montbretia crocosmæflora, Alstrœmeria aurea, Coreopsis grandiflora, Œnothera speciosa, Œ. Youngii, Œ. Nazerii, and Œ. macrocarpa. In the coming season we shall keep up the colour, but have more Michaelmas Daisies and Asters, with clumps of Stocks in the front."

"You have an interesting little Dutch garden here?"

"That was only made two years ago, and is one of a good many alterations which have taken place during the thirteen years I have been here. It is a great feature with Mrs. Pelly."

"You might tell me the nature of the spring bedding which you have just put in."

"In the four corner beds are double white Arabis; in the next four, Forget-me-nots (Sutton's Royal Blue); and in the four centre beds, mixed Violas. There are Tulips in every bed, including fulgens (the dark variety) and Parrot Constantinople, Parrot lutea major, and the Golden Crown. In four of the small beds are Picotee, the white Tulip with a pink edge. The Dutch garden faces south, and the sundial in the centre is on what was one of the pedestals of the old Kew Bridge."

"Perhaps you can tell me what will be the summer bedding for the Dutch garden."

"Four of the beds will be Miss Willmott Verbenas, edged with Ageratum Imperial Blue; four of the same size will have West Brighton Gem Geraniums in the centre, with a band of white Verbenas round; two others will have a row of Tricolour Geranium (Mrs. H. Cox), and two of Madame Salway silver-leaved Geraniums, all edged with Lobelia Emperor William; while the four beds in the centre will consist of Tropæolum Mrs. Clibran (yellow), edged with Tropæolum Vesuvius (dark scarlet)."

"Then, there are the beds at the entrance to the Dutch garden."

"For spring, in one of these beds there are Royal Blue Forget-me-nots and Summer Beauty Tulips, whose petals are very lovely; in another, double white Arabis with a double scarlet Tulip (rubrum perfectum), rather dwarf, but of very fine colour, something like a small red Pæony; while a third is filled entirely with yellow Alyssums. The border under the house is filled in spring with Forget-me-nots, and in summer it will consist of Striped Beauty Petunias, and white Stocks as dot plants. Facing these beds, as you see, is a graceful specimen of Abies Nordmanniana."

"On the house you seem to have a very fine specimen of Solanum jasminioides, still full of flower spikes."

"It has been there four years last autumn. There is no doubt it is a great mistake to coddle Solanum indoors, when it will grow easily in the open. Of course, this one has the advantage of a south aspect, but it usually remains in flower until November. The Passiflora cœrulea underneath has also flowered well, and the contrast of colours has been very effective. People say that Choisya ternata must have a south wall, but it does quite well here in the open, flowering twice a year."

COPPICE LEA, MERSTHAM.

Passing on to the east side of the house, where there is a second tennis lawn, I noticed two or three trees of Amelanchier canadensis looking exceedingly well, and Mr. Elsey said, "That is one of the finest shrubs to open in the spring, if the weather is at all genial. The flower, which is a mass of white, comes before the foliage, is succeeded by a purple berry, and in the autumn the colour of the leaves is mag-

nificent. We get plenty of light and sun, to show them up, but it takes some time to grow a good specimen."

"How do you fill in the bed on the lawn on the south side of the house?"

"In spring it is devoted to white Sweet Rockets (which grow to three feet high), and in summer to Zinnias."

"In what way do you treat Zinnias?"

"I grow them in as cool an atmosphere as possible, and I am sure it is a great mistake to make use of strong heat. I prick them out as soon as they begin to crowd one another. If you get a good strain of Zinnias, the colour of some of the flowers is very effective.

"One of our features," continued Mr. Elsey, "is the tea garden, which, as you can judge by the Pine trees, is pleasantly shady in summer. The borders are planted, like those of a rockery, with Periwinkles and Ferns. I believe the Pines were planted in 1881, when the house was built; these gardens were then a field. At the corner of the tea garden is a bed of Rhododendrons, with a few named varieties in the front, backed by ponticums. This bed is dotted early in the year with Foxgloves, and later there are Lilies."

"You might give me the names of some of the varieties in the herbaceous borders which run right along."

"Amongst the named varieties of Michaelmas Daisies in it are Lady Trevelyan, lævis arcturus, White Spray, Novæ-Angliæ, pulchellus, N.-A. W. Bowman, Novi-Belgi F. W. Burbidge, N.-B. Robert Parker, versicolor, St. Brigid, acris, turbinellus, amellus bessarabicus, ericoides, and horizontalis (a very pretty, small, white-edged, red-centred flower). Other herbaceous plants in the border are Delphiniums (mixed seedlings), Lupins (polyphyllus and p. albus), Lychnis chalcedonica, Asclepias incarnata, Asphodelus luteus, Chelone barbata, Chrysanthemum maximum, Dictamnus fraxinella, Doronicums excelsum, austriacum, and Clusii, Galegas officinalis and alba, Gypsophila paniculata, Monarda didyma, Rudbeckia Newmanii, Incarvillea Delavayi, Flag Irises, Spiræa filipendula fl. pl., Arum dracunculus, Helleborus, Guttatus subpunctatus, Pæonies (double, red and white), Anthericums liliago and liliastrum, Gentiana acaulis, Campanulas carpatica and alba, Hepaticas angulosa, triloba alba and t. cœrulea. At the back of the border are a few standard Roses."

"When was the Rose garden itself made?"

"It was remodelled two years ago, taking the place of a clump of Laurels, a Yew hedge being planted all round. The Hybrid Perpetuals include A. K. Williams, Alfred Colomb, Beauty of Waltham, Captain Hayward, Ben Cant, Charles Darwin, Fisher Holmes, Frau Karl Druschki, General Jacqueminot, Her Majesty, Madame Victor Verdier, Margaret Dickson, Mrs. John Laing, Ulrich Brunner, and many others."

"What about Teas and Hybrid Teas?"

"They include Augustine Guinoisseau, Caroline Testout, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, La France, Marquise Litta, Papa Gontier, Anna Olivier, Catherine Mermet, Francisca Kruger, Madame Hoste, Marie van Houtte, and Marie d'Orleans. In the border, round the back of the Rose garden, China varieties are grown. Some of the beds are still open, after thirteen degrees of frost ten nights running. The varieties are chiefly the common China, the crimson, and a few plants of Duke of York and Hermosa. The four beds were put in the centre, with borders round, in order that the ladies might be able to pick the Roses more easily."

"What are the names of the climbers on the Rose arch?"

"Alister Stella Gray, Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, and others; and the climbers grown on pillars include Aglaia, Celine Forestier, Gloire de Dijon, Longworth Rambler, Thalia, The Lion, and Queen Alexandra."

"You have another herbaceous border close to the Rose garden?"

"Yes; it took the place of another bank of Laurels, and at the back is composed in autumn of Michaelmas Daisies, including the varieties which I have already named. There are standard Roses at intervals, the one that does the best being Eugene Freust, a very dark and lovely Rose. There are also in this bed clumps of a very good variety of Chrysanthemum maximum (seedlings), the strain being Sutton's Perfection. In the front, also, are clumps of Rudbeckia Newmanii, which does well in the shade, different varieties of Phlox, white and yellow Irises, and Pæonies, both the old red and the old pink. A great feature here in the spring is a yellow flower named Doronicum excelsis, and D. Harpur Crewe, another variety. The border is four yards wide and thirty-six yards long."

We next proceeded to the kitchen garden, which is adroitly divided by a Yew hedge, with a herbaceous border round it, and I asked what were the names of the varieties in the latter.

"Aquilegias (mixed), Alyssum saxatile, Campanula grandiflora, Digitalis grandiflora, Eryngium planum, Funkia Fortunei, F. F. variegata, Malva moschata alba, Michauxia campanuloides, Matricaria inodora fl. pl., Papaver orientalis, Chelone barbata, Polemonium Richardsonii, Veronica spicata, Veronica gentianoides, Dielytra spectabilis, Agrostemma coronaria, Acanthus spinosa, Achillea tomentosa, Monarda fistulosa alba, Sedum spectabile, Aubrietias purpurea and Leichtlinii, Cheiranthus alpinus, Sweet Williams, Pansies, and Canterbury Bells. Amongst the annuals round them are Amaranthus candatus, Bartonia aurea, Calendrina officinalis, Callirhoe digitata, Centaurea, Cyanus, Clarkias, Coreopsis Drummondii, Larkspurs, Dianthus chinensis, D. Hedewigii, Eschscholtzias, Godetias, Balsams, Lavatera, Ipomæas, Limnanthes Douglasii, Linum grandiflorum rubrum, Nemesia strumosa, Phacelia campanuloides, Salpiglossis, Tagetes, Arctotis grandis, Malopes, and Shirley Poppies."

"You might also give me the names of the varieties in the border by the Rose garden."

"They include Delphiniums, Pyrethrum uliginosum, and Dahlias at the back; and Achillea ptarmica The Pearl, Anemone japonica alba, Amaryllis belladonna, Campanulas persicifolia and p. alba, Echinops ritro, Erigeron speciosus superbus, Geum coccineum fl. pl., Heucheras sanguinea and gracillima, Lychnis viscaria splendens plena, Michauxia campanuloides, Pentstemon pubescens, Scabiosa caucasica, Statice latifolia, Valerian rubra, Clematis coccinea, Lychnis Haageana, and Commelina cœlestis."

"With regard to fruit in the kitchen garden, have you any particular features?"

"Plums, including three Victoria trees, Magnum Bonum, The Czar, and Kirke's Gage, with a row of Black Currants underneath, do very well; and some Cherry trees look pretty in flower. But, unfortunately, we do not get the fruit, as we are so infested with birds from the coppice."

"How long is the coppice?"

"It is a continuous walk about a mile long, with a Rose arch at the commencement, and trees on each side. The ordinary Spruce and Austrian Pines predominate, and there are a few other Conifers dotted about. In the spring the wild Anemones, Bluebells, and Primroses make the coppice look very beautiful."

"I believe you have shown Apples."

"I got a first-class certificate for fifty varieties at Redhill in October, 1904. We grow them on cordons, two of a sort in pairs; the varieties include Alfriston, Manx Codlin, Mother Greening, King Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Lady Sudeley, Frogmore Prolific, Kentish Fillbasket, Atalanta, Cox's Orange Pippin, The Queen, Ecklinville Seedling, Warner's King, Stirling Castle, Lane's Prince Albert, Golden Noble, and Red Astrakan."

"What about Pears?"

"Apples do better with us than Pears, but we have a fair number of the latter, including Beurré Diel, Doyenné du Comice, Louise Bonne of Jersey, and Beurré Bachelier. On the bush we have Jargonelle, Pitmaston Duchess, Brockworth Park, Marie Benoist, Williams's Bon Chrétien, and Catillac."

"In the kitchen garden," proceeded Mr. Elsey, "there are three little plots of ground which belong to the three young ladies, the youngest of whom is only five years old. They have a succession of flowers, and look after the beds themselves. Close to these are some nursery beds, where we grow the yellow Foxglove and other plants, including Delphiniums and Canterbury Bells, which subsequently go into the herbaceous borders. We find Erysimum Golden Gem very useful. It is not only very much like a Wallflower, but is sown about the same time, and treated in the same manner."

"You seem to grow a large number of Strawberries."

"They include Dumbarton Castle, which, however, has not yet fruited. The other varieties are Elton Pine (a late variety), Givons' Late Prolific, Latest of All, Louis Gauthier, President, Royal Sovereign, Sir Joseph Paxton, Trafalgar, and the Viscountess. Gooseberries are also rather a feature with us, the chief varieties being Whitesmith, Brown Girl, Red Warrington, Whinham's Industry, and Early Sulphur. I am making another bed of Gooseberries for next season. The Currants are Red Dutch and White Dutch."

Before we went into the houses, Mr. Elsey said, "A great feature in the kitchen garden in the summer is the show of Golden Chamois Antirrhinums—a lovely variety. We have had it for three summers, and shall have it again next season. In the past we have had a back row of mixed Sweet Peas, but next season we shall have Hollyhocks (mixed singles) instead. By giving the latter a good depth of soil, which has been well trenched, and syringing the plants with Condy's fluid, I hope we shall be able to keep the disease down."

"What do you have in these rows during spring?"

"Wallflowers. The three back rows are dark coloured, and the front row yellow, all of them being edged with Violas."

"How many Chrysanthemums do you grow in pots?" I inquired, as we went into one of the houses.

"Two hundred. They are chiefly for large flowers, and include Bessie Godfrey, C. J. Salter, F. S. Vallis, Lord Ludlow, Mrs. G. Mileham, Madame E. Roger (the green variety), Miss Mildred Ware, Mrs. Barkley, and Nellie Pockett. For small flowers we grow H. H. Fewkes (a golden variety, exceedingly good for decoration), Ivory, Eldorado, Ryecroft Glory, and Mrs. James Carter and Mrs. Filkins (two feathery varieties); the singles include Eucharis, Earlswood Terra Cotta, Emily Wells, Ladysmith, Miss M. Anderson, Yellow Jane, and Poinsettia, and the early-flowering Albert Chausson, Crimson Pride, Horace Martin, Marie Masse, Nellie, White Quintus, Bronze Pride, and Flora."

"You have a remarkably fine Fuchsia in another house. What is the variety?"

"Virginalis. It flowers right across the house, and throws out two blooms at a joint. The centre is ivory-white, and the outer petals coral-pink. In the summer this house is devoted to Begonias, mixed seedlings, chiefly our own singles. The varieties of Coleus include Matterhorn, Vesuvius, Empress of India, and Beckwith's Gem."

"You have a collection of Orchids?"

"A few, including Dendrobiums densiflorum and nobile, Oncidiums specie and concolor, Cœlogyne cristata, and Cypripedium insigne; also a nice batch of Calanthes. This is an intermediate house, and I may mention, as rather unusual, the fact that in October, 1904, we had twenty-three spikes on one Burlingtonia fragrans, each spike averaging, in the first week, eleven flowers."

"You also grow a number of Impatiens?"

"Yes, the two varieties, Sultani and Salmon Queen. I find that striking from cuttings is the quicker way of growing them, or they may be raised from seed. Impatiens need plenty of heat. If the cuttings are taken off in the spring they root very freely, but they should always be kept in a moist atmosphere. I pot them off

into 'forty-eights' as soon as they are rooted. They start flowering directly they make growth. These have been in full flower for two months, and will last for some time longer."

"What are your favourite Zonal Pelargoniums?"

"Of single whites, Queen of Whites Improved; of double whites, White Abbey and La Cygne. Amongst the darker varieties I recommend Lord Rosebery, Mr. H. Cannell, Duke of Norfolk, Catherine Norton, Captain Holford, and Nicholas. The best pinks are Mrs. Simpson, Kate Farmer, Beauty of Kent, and Countess of Huntingdon. We also grow

ERICA HYEMALIS.
A pretty winter-blooming Heath.

Aurora Borealis, single and double. Cyclamens (a mixed strain) and Primula stellata are grown in quantity. As you will have perceived, we have no conservatory, but the drawing-room resembles one, and, in fact, the house always contains a large number of blooms."

"You have not mentioned Carnations."

"We grow a few winter-flowering varieties in pots, such as Germania (a handsome yellow), Ladas, Hayes' Scarlet, Isinglass, Mephisto, Miss Audrey Campbell, White Swan, and Uriah Pike. The Malmaisons are Old Blush, Old Pink, Princess May, and Prime Minister. In a small cold house there are some Lachenalias Nelsonii, and Orchids (Odontoglossums), which do well all through the summer, and outside, in the cold frames, Strawberries are forced and Border Carnations grown. There remains to be seen our new plantation for fruit and vegetables, which we only acquired in October, 1904."

"What is the extent?"

"Half an acre, and, as you see, a Holly hedge has been planted all round, to hide it from the road."

"How do you find it answer?"

"Celery, for instance, does remarkably well, the varieties being Major Clarke, Cole's Crystal White, Wright's Solid White, and Standard Bearer. We also had a good run of Peas, including Ringleader, William I., the Duke of Albany, Veitch's Perfection and Autocrat. Now we have a batch of Cauliflowers (Autumn Giant), from which some good heads have been cut between the frost, and a very nice breadth of Savoys."

"What about Potatoes?"

"I have had a fair crop of Potatoes and Brussels Sprouts, and good crops of white Jerusalem Artichokes, also of Parsnips, Carrots, and Broccoli. The soil is sandy, and suits these vegetables better than the other kitchen garden, which is on the clay."

"The fruit, I infer, is yet to come?"

"Yes, I am going to put in Raspberries (Superlative and Norwich Wonder), also Gooseberries and Currants. The Gooseberries will be Greengage, Langley Green, Warrington, Bright Venus, White Swan, and Golden Gem; the Red Currants will be American Wonder, Raby Castle, and Rivers' Late Red; the White, La Versaillaise and Gloire de Sablons. To finish with the fruit, I may say that we have an orchard, three-quarters of an acre in extent, containing some very old trees. Several of these bear very good fruit, notably Round Winter Nonsuch, Wellington, Sussex Forge, and Hoary Morning."

"Where did you begin your career?"

"I was born a gardener, my father being gardener for many years at Gatwick Manor, Horley. My first place away from him was at Church Hill, Hythe. I was there for eighteen months, and I then held several posts in succession, including that of assistant for two years at Cranleigh, where I helped to lay out Sir Henry Doulton's garden. In 1887 I went to Shirley Park, near Croydon, under Mr. Glascock, as second journeyman, and worked my way up to general foreman. Subsequently, I went from there to Messrs. Veitch's Nursery, to Chipstead Place, Sevenoaks, and to The Yews, Reigate Hill, under Mr. C. Ritchens, the great Chrysanthemum grower, and lecturer for the Sussex County Council. From The Yews I came here as head gardener in 1893."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 178.—WINTER-FLOWERING HEATHS AND CYPRIPEDIUMS.

DEAR KATE,—Do you know the two Heaths which blossom in winter? One is quite hardy (Erica carnea), and grows in the garden, and the other is that very pretty plant, the Winter Heath (Erica hyemalis), which is sold in our streets at this time in full blossom, and is so extremely tempting that we generally feel obliged to buy it. But, usually, its life is short, for Heaths are kittle-kattle plants to cultivate, and have a number of special fancies of their own, which we must not cross, or they will droop and die, without loss of time. The hot, dry air of a sitting-room does not suit them at all, and in such a place (especially if any gas is lit) they will soon look miserable, the tall sprays above the flowers giving way first, and hanging over in a sad way. But they are not hardy, and must not be exposed to frost, so that we are likely to be puzzled what to do with the plants, unless there is a greenhouse ready to receive them. Another touchy business is their water supply. Heaths always grow in a peaty soil, which takes a long time to absorb water, and the fine, hair-like roots of the plants must never become very dry, or sudden death occurs from this cause.

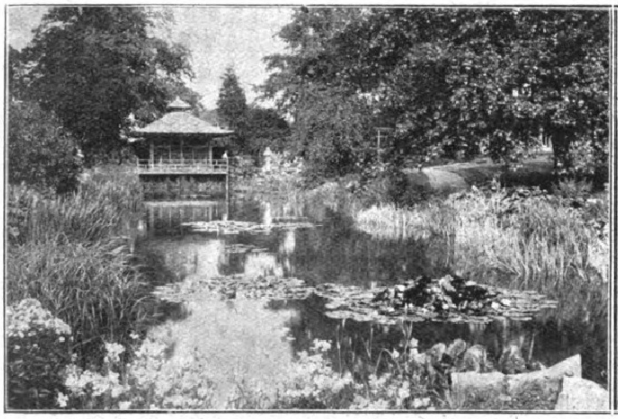
Yet, if we place the Heath in an ornamental bowl, and forget to turn out the surplus stagnant water from this, these fussy little roots will very soon become rotten, and then good-bye to our beautiful purchase, from this cause. The fact is that, to do well, Heaths must have moist, cool air, without frost, with plenty of tepid water for their roots, and excellent drainage at the same time, and if we treat them on these lines they will make themselves at home.

It is a good plan to put them to bed somewhere safely before the lights are lit during these long evenings, and if you have not a greenhouse, the bath-room makes a good substitute as a night refuge for delicate plants, especially if you turn on the hot-water tap for a few minutes, to warm and soften the atmosphere, before putting the plants away until morning. Heaths, Ferns, Orchids, and, indeed, most plants will rejoice in the moist air which they imbibe through the pores of their leaves, and look very happy the next morning, when—after the rooms are aired, and the necessary brushing and sweeping is over—they can again take their place in the sitting-room. Even without the use of the bath-room, we can still provide a safe refuge for a Heath by getting a common deal box from the grocer's (which must be deep enough to accommodate the full height of the plant), into which we can put a few inches of fine, sifted ashes, which are always to be kept damp, and then fit a cover for the box, of glass, which may be in two or three pieces, if convenient, as some little fresh air is necessary, as well as moisture. In such a place the Heath will sleep well, and you can put the box anywhere you like so long as it is in a frost-proof position, but I advise you to put a piece of linoleum under it, if you stand it on the carpet or a polished floor, as otherwise the damp ashes are apt to spoil these things. Directly the blossoms are over you should cut down your Heath to one-third (or less) of the length of its flowering stems, and then give it all the moist and rather warm air you can, for this is the only time in the life of an Erica when it really enjoys a little extra warmth, but it must not be dry heat. Very soon tiny sprouts will appear on the stems, and that is the time to shift the plant

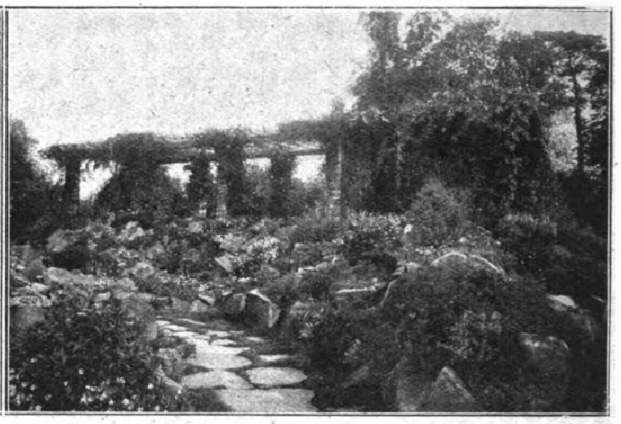
CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE SPICERIANUM.
An Orchid that is both beautiful and very easily grown.

into a slightly larger pot, which must be scrubbed very clean inside and out, and dried before using it. The ball of roots must not be much disturbed, only taking away the old drainage and half an inch of the top soil, which is

Mr Elworthy



THE JAPANESE GARDEN AT SPARROWS HERNE HALL.



THE ROCKERY AND PERGOLA AT SPARROWS HERNE HALL.

A Beautiful Garden on Bushey Heath.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. J. WALTER SMITH, AT SPARROWS HERNE HALL.

HERTFORDSHIRE is a county rich in lovely gardens, but there are few that rival in beauty the extensive and finely planned pleasure grounds at Sparrows Herne Hall, on Bushey Heath. The Hall in the curiously-named village stands on the summit of an extremely steep hill, with its pretty lodge and entrance gate adjacent to the handsome new parish church. My visit was paid on the afternoon of a pleasant day towards the close of October, but judging by the wealth of Rose blooms I saw inside and outside the house, their fragrance, and their richness, the time might well have been the middle of July. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith not only take the keenest interest in all portions of their gardens, but possess the practical knowledge, and the acquaintance with details, which are not easily acquired by amateurs unless they have natural gardening instincts. Mrs. Smith assumes entire responsibility for the Roses, and kindly offered to show them me herself. They are a glowing feature of the undulating lawns, which form a considerable portion of the ten acres covered by the gardens, and whether in growth, arrangement, or variety, suggest the judgment, the taste, and the handling of an expert. As we proceeded along the Brier Walk, with a fence of Penzance Briers on either side, I asked my hostess how far she contributed to the welfare of the Roses.

PRUNING SEVENTEEN HUNDRED ROSES.

"I prune every one. This year I have pruned over seventeen hundred. The Roses are my special care, and looking after them involves not only work, but hard work. They are grown mainly because we love the flowers. We show regularly at the National Rose Show, and have taken several prizes, including first for a collection of Teas. But we show nowhere else."

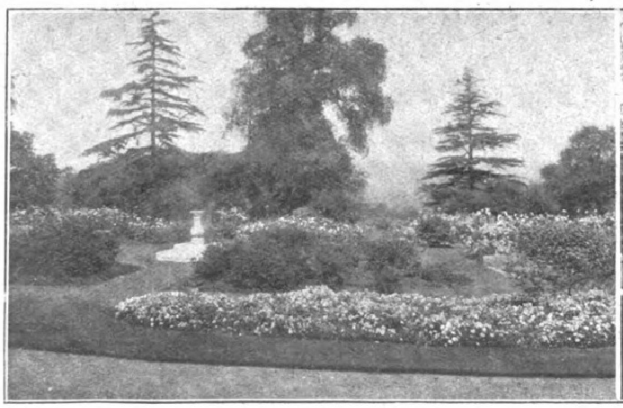
"Is the soil congenial?"

"Far from it. We have to struggle against a surfeit of stones, and use a quantity of manure. The ground is trenched two and a half feet deep, and plenty of cow manure, basic slag, and bonemeal—with a little leaf-soil at the time of planting—are needed to bring about the conditions of health which, I think, you will see are prevailing.

"You already know the number of Roses grown. They are distributed in about a hundred and fifty beds, of which eighty-one are occupied by Hybrid Perpetuals, Hybrid Teas, and Teas. There has been a gradual development of the Roses, rather than the foundation of a rosery. I hold fast to the principle of one variety in one bed."

"I should like to know the names of some of your favourites."

"In a sense they are all favourites, or I should not grow them. But some do specially well. Here is a clump of Marquis of Salisbury, which, though it gets mildew badly, won me a prize this year. Irish Elegance always does particularly well, and is greatly admired at the Rose shows. Irish Beauty is another of the best exhibition varieties, and the same may be said of Irish Glory, Madame Ravary, and Una. For tripod work—there are ten tripods in all—the gem is Minnehaha. Lady Ashtown is a lovely Rose, but it also suffers from mildew, perhaps because of the proximity of an open field.



ROSE BEDS AND THE SUNDIAL.

A WALK IN THE PLEASURE GROUNDS.

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"I see you peg down a good many."

"This is the first time we have tried pegging down to any considerable extent, though two years ago I pegged Lady Waterlow down. This season we have had thousands of blooms from these plants; they have made wonderful growth. Hugh Dickson and Frau Karl Druschki have been treated in the same way; and next year I propose to peg down Avoca. But pegging down cannot be successful except it is applied to beds."

When we had finished our inspection of the Roses, Mrs. Smith went with me through most of the different divisions of the pleasure grounds, but suggested that I might like to obtain fuller information than she could give, from the gardener, Mr. Elworthy. Under his auspices, I first of all asked for details respecting the remarkable collection of Rhododendrons near the entrance to the gardens.

RHODODENDRONS AND AZALEAS.

"They were planted in 1907 and 1908, in ground trenched two feet deep. During the trenching we added a heavy dressing of leaf-soil a year old. No peat is used, but after planting, a mulching of cow manure was employed. Every year after flowering the old seed pods are picked off. The varieties are planted six in a group, and for early use there are only four, August Van Geert, Broughtonii, Ellen Cook, and Prince Camille de Rohan. Of medium varieties there are, of course, a great many more. They are edged with Heaths in variety."

"How many plants are there in each of the Azalea beds?"

"Thirty, and in the autumn these give a glorious colour scheme. Anthony Koster is one of the best varieties. We have Rustica flore pleno in twelve varieties; five beds of mollis of distinct colours; and the Ghent section is also represented by varieties of five distinct colours. The soil throughout is very stony, and needs trenching and the addition of leaf-soil. We make a point of picking off the seed pods as soon as the flowers have faded.

"The Heath garden was planted in 1909, the different varieties forming groups. The cultivation is much the same as the Rhododendrons and Azaleas, except that we added a little peat. The varieties in large beds are Menziesia polifolia, Menziesia p. alba, Erica vulgaris, E. Alporti, and E. Hammondi."

THE JAPANESE ROCK GARDEN.

"It will be convenient for us to take the Japanese rock garden and water garden next, though this is the latest addition, and was not made until 1910, after Mr. and Mrs. Smith returned from Japan. The rock is built of Derbyshire sandstone and limestone in fairly large pieces, and is so arranged as to provide spacious pockets in order to mass the various plants. Each plant is treated separately as to soils and position, some requiring peat, leaf-soil, and loam, and others a gritty soil with limestone chippings or granite chippings. The entrance to the Japanese rock gardens is guarded by a Torri at each end. The rest house, twenty-four feet square, is thatched with Norfolk Reeds. The Japanese stone lanterns are of granite, one weighing fifteen hundredweight, and the other nineteen hundredweight. The stone slabs crossing the lake weigh a ton each. The collection of Water Lilies is quite up-to-date, and that of the aquatic plants is on a large scale, embracing all the best-known varieties. Special mention might be made of the Iris. The plants of I. Kæmpferi were brought from Japan by Mr. Smith. They bore the journey admirably, and are thriving. The most attractive of Japanese trees and shrubs are also represented in the garden.

"Then there is the Bamboo garden, which was planted in 1906. One of the most important points in cultivation is to keep the Bamboos well watered during the summer. They are pruned in April each year, and all the canes over two years old are cut out. They are also manured with cow manure in early spring. The only variety which we have found not hardy is Bambusa verticillata. They are all planted singly in beds varying in height, many of the taller growing being twelve, thirteen, fourteen, and fifteen feet high. Most of the Bamboos were brought from Hampstead, when Mr. Smith moved here seven years ago."

"They are all looking in the best of health, and as if they had been growing in the same place for a great number of years. Much the same may, I think, be said about your flowering and foliage shrubs, of which you appear to have an extraordinary number."

A SPLENDID COLLECTION OF SHRUBS.

"The collection of shrubs has taken twenty-one years to collect, and contains upwards of seven hundred varieties, which I am glad to say are all doing well. For colour effect, it is not easy to beat the Japanese Maples, but in summer and autumn Copper Nut and Silver Dogwood are scarcely less attractive. Both Mr. Smith and myself have aimed to get as much colour as possible out of the various shrubs that can now be obtained, and it is not thought worth while to plant either the common Laurel or the common Privet. A list of varieties would be far too long for you to use, but I may mention that one specially valued is Pernettya mucronatus, a beautiful shrub, the gift of the late Mr. Kingsmill.

"Herbaceous borders are another great feature. The longest is two hundred and forty feet by eighteen feet, and altogether the borders run to twelve hundred feet, from twelve feet to eighteen feet wide. The number of varieties is very large, and they are carefully chosen to give the maximum of flower."

"You have a very fine show of Dahlias."

"The Dahlia walk has been one of the features of the garden this autumn. The length of the border on each side is one hundred and forty yards, and it is six feet wide. The ground was trenched two feet six inches deep in the winter, with a heavy coating of manure, and the plants were put out in May in groups of three to six.

"Next we come to the principal rock garden, separated by design at a long distance from the Japanese garden. This was formed in 1909, and planted in the spring of 1910. The length is one hundred and forty yards, and the stone used is Derbyshire sandstone. Some of the boulders weigh more than ten hundredweight. As in the case of the Japanese rockery, space was allowed in building for large pockets to contain masses of the different Alpines. The soils most suitable for each plant were mixed at the time of planting. The rocky path is formed of scotgate sandstone, and altogether the weight of rockstone used exceeded two hundred tons."

"This rockery is remarkable for the pergola on the summit, approached by steps from either end."

"Yes, it is unusual, and was one of Mr. Smith's own ideas, so that he could look down on the Alpine plants. The pillars are fourteen inches, the principal beams eight inches by six, and the pergola itself fifty-six feet long. It is freely planted with Chinese ornamental-leaved Vines, as well as with Roses and Clematis. As to the Alpines and Heaths, I could give you the names of many hundreds of varieties, but it may suffice to say that the flowering season starts with Aubrietias, and that almost all the year round there are certain plants in flower, with an enormous number in May and June. Very great care has been taken with regard to the position of individual plants. Notwithstanding the vast quantity, every one has been put in the place which after much deliberation was thought to be the best; and the question of a succession of blooms is never lost sight of.

THE ORCHARD.

"The Orchard was planted in 1906, when we first came here. The fruit trees, like the Bamboos, were brought from Hampstead. After planting, the trees were mulched with manure, and they have yielded heavy crops every season since. There are about eighty varieties of Apples, forty of Pears, twenty-four of Plums and Damsons, and twelve of Cherries. Apricots and Nuts are also grown. As you see, the Apple crop this year, in contrast to failures elsewhere, has been exceedingly good, and some of the trees are literally laden with fruit of fine size and brilliant colour.

"Finally there is the Daffodil orchard, which is near to the rock garden, and was planted in 1907. This piece of ground originally consisted of old bushes, nettles and docks. When the ground had been grubbed up and levelled, we put in about ten thousand Daffodils. We threw the bulbs down, and planted where they fell, care being taken to avoid formal groups. When the ground had been sown with grass seed, it was planted with further varieties, so as to extend the flowering time."

"Where did you start your gardening career, Mr. Elworthy?"

"In the gardens of which my father had charge. They were on a large scale, and I was able to learn a great deal. After serving as journeyman and foreman, I have for the last twenty-nine years held the position of head gardener. For twenty-one of these I have been in the service of Mr. Smith, at Ivy House, North End, Hampstead, and since in these gardens. I have only exhibited at local shows and not for competition."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Next Week: The gardens of Major Bagge, D.S.O., at Gaywood Hall, King's Lynn, will be described.

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FLOWERING TREES AND SHRUBS.

A Selection that will not Succumb to a Smoke-laden Atmosphere.

The smoke-laden atmosphere of towns is against the success of many beautiful flowering trees and shrubs, but still there are some that seem to defy the adverse conditions, and give bright blossoms and cheerful foliage. This is especially the case with deciduous species, *i.e.*, those that shed their leaves in autumn, and so escape the period of the year when the air is particularly bad for plants.

In choosing flowering shrubs for towns, it is wise to give consideration to the colour of the flowers. White is very effective, no doubt, but a shower or two may bring a lot of blacks, and the white becomes dirty, and very far from "a thing of beauty."

SIX GOOD SUBJECTS.

The Laburnum needs no description. Its bright yellow blossoms hanging down in masses have gained it the name of Golden Chain. The foliage is also very effective, and the tree is one that does well anywhere. The Scottish Laburnum is more vigorous, but it is not so ornamental.

Another yellow-flowering shrub that will do well, especially against a wall, where it can be trained as a climber, is Forsythia suspensa, the Golden Bell. It blooms in early spring, and produces bell-shaped flowers all along its branches. The foliage comes after the flowers.

The pink flowers of the Almond (Amygdalus communis) are well-known, and admired by everyone. The dwarf form, purpurea, is especially valuable for our purpose. In mild winters it is sometimes in bloom at the very beginning of March, the rich-coloured blossoms showing up well against the bare branches.

Pyrus japonica, like the Forsythia, is best against a wall, because there it can have free play, and requires little or no cutting to keep it in shape. The darker colours, such as scarlet, pink, and crimson, are best and most vigorous. It is sometimes catalogued under the name of Cydonia.

Ribes sanguineum can be relied upon to give satisfaction in any locality. It has several varieties, all effective, the darker one especially.

The Mock Orange, Philadelphus coronarius, will also succeed, but the hybrid forms, such as Lemoinei, are to be preferred, as they are of dwarfer habit. The flowers are a soft white, but are so protected by the petals that they are not liable to be soiled by a sooty atmosphere.

PLANTS FOR SHADY ROCKERIES.

Some Dainty Gems that will flourish where they will get little Sun.

Why is it that the rockery is so often constructed in a corner of the garden, where it gets very little sun? There are innumerable plants, of course, that will thrive in that position, but it is generally the sun-loving plants that find a home there, and fail to give satisfaction as a consequence. Perhaps the following list of plants will be helpful to owners of shady rockeries, as embodying subjects that are likely to succeed.

CHARMING CAMPANULAS.

Campanula Portenschlagiana (syn. muralis), a gem only six inches high, will provide a wealth of pale blue flowers, while its foliage remains green all the year. C. pusilla (pumilla) is even dwarfer, but is very free with its bright blue flowers, and it and its white variety, C. p. alba, should by no means be omitted.

The Kenilworth Ivy, Linaria cymbalaria, is about three inches high, and of creeping habit. It can be planted in chinks in the rock, where its pale purple flowers will not fail to charm. There is a white variety, alba, and another, rosea, with rose-coloured flowers. L. pallida is very striking in its pale violet and white. It, too, is of creeping habit.

The Foam Flower, Tiarella cordifolia, bears 9-in. high spikes of white feathery flowers, and handsome, heart-shaped foliage. It is not cultivated so much as its merits deserve.

Everyone knows the Forget-me-not, and some varieties should certainly find a place. There are several species and varieties, one especially worth having being Myosotis alpestris, which forms dense tufts, and bears numerous blossoms, bright blue with yellow eye.

Some of the Polygonums are tall and rather coarse-growing, but P. affine (syn. brunonis) is only about six inches high and therefore eligible. The flowers open pale pink and deepen to rose, while the deep green foliage turns to a bronzy hue in winter.

London Pride (Saxifraga umbrosa) sends up fairly tall spikes of pink and white flowers, from a tuft of dark green foliage.

The Periwinkles, Vinca major and V. minor, are evergreen plants with blue or white flowers, and some varieties have variegated foliage.

A CARPET OF GREEN.

The Arenarias or Sandworts are an invaluable group. A. balearica is covered in summer with dainty little white flowers; A. purpurascens is rosy-purple; and other good sorts are A. montana and laricifolia; both white. All are of close-growing habit, and soon cover the surface of the rock.

The old-fashioned Hepaticas should need no word of praise, for they present a glowing sight in spring. They should have a deep root-run, and moderately light soil. There are single and double forms, alike of the blue, the red, and the white. Belonging to the same family is Anemone pulsatilla, the Pasque Flower, which bears lovely pale violet flowers, but should be cut back severely, or it will soon overrun the

The Creeping Jenny (Lysimachia nummularia) enjoys a moist staple, but otherwise is not particular as to soil. It bears bright yellow flowers, but should be cut back severely, or it will soon overun the rockery.

Other good subjects are the hardy Cyclamen, Polyanthuses, some of the Primulas (especially P. Sieboldii), Auriculas, Gentiana asclepiadea, and Corydalis lutea.

Although it is getting rather late, these could be planted now, or in March, and should bloom at their usual time next season.

PROTECTING PLANTS IN FRAMES.

A Few Simple Precautions may save many Plants that are not Hardy.

The owner of a greenhouse where there is a little heat on during the winter will probably house all the plants whose hardiness is not above suspicion; but there are many gardeners whose only hope of bringing their plants safely through the winter is by means of a cold frame. A structure such as this will serve admirably during the mild weather we have so far experienced this autumn; nevertheless, it is well to be prepared for anything that may happen. A few simple precautions will enhance the value of the frame considerably, and many things may be preserved which without them would certainly perish.

Matting, old carpets, and almost any other protective covering obtainable is pressed into service for covering the glass, but the wooden frame itself is often overlooked. This, however, is not capable of warding off more than a few degrees of frost. To complete the work, a few boards may be roughly nailed together, and fixed round the frame, so that it stands within a clear space of about a foot on each side. This space can be filled with leaves, bracken, or any material that can easily be got, and a little soil or ashes on top will prevent the wind blowing it about.

For the glass, as we have said, matting may be used. Archangel mats are sold for the purpose, and are as good as anything. To keep them in position a weight of some sort should be put on the ends. If frost becomes very severe, it may be necessary to increase the covering, and leaves, bracken, or litter may be spread thickly over the glass before the mats are put on. Better than this, however, is to use additional mats (or strips of old carpeting will do), because an effort should be made to take off the covering occasionally in the middle of the day to give the plants air. Do not keep the frame covered after danger is past.

EARLY TOMATOES.

The Present Treatment of Late-sown Seedlings.

Tomatoes raised from seed sown in September, and now in small pots, should receive careful attention, particularly as to watering. They must not be overwatered, but on the other hand, as the pots should be full of roots by now, they should not be allowed to want for water for any length of time. Tap the pots daily, to see if they ring hollow; if they do, give a good supply of water.

If the atmosphere is clear, and sunshine and light are abundant for this period of the year, the plants may receive a shift into 3½-in. or 4-in. pots. For a few days after repotting, the temperature had better be kept a little higher, to help them to recover. But if the conditions are unfavourable, do not repot them until the beginning of next month, when the days will begin to lengthen.

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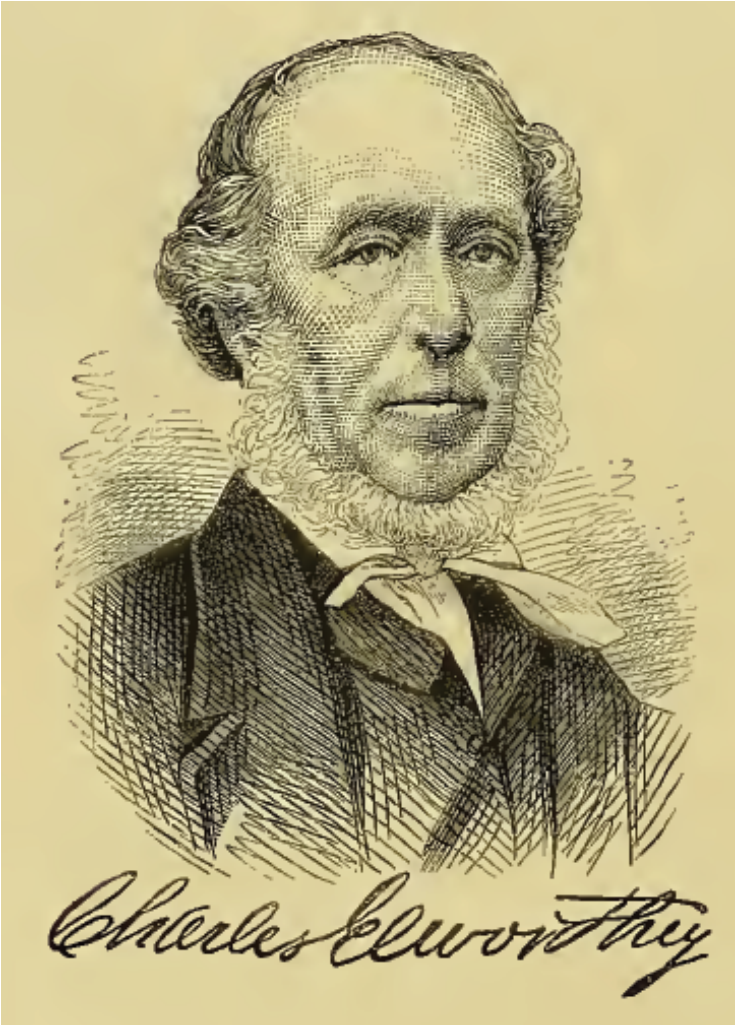


Charles Elworthy

Gardeners' Chronicle 1877, n.s. 8

Mr. C. Elworthy, whose portrait we publish today, was born at Bridgewater, Somerset, on April 29, in the year 1805. He commenced his career in the horticultural profession at the early age of twelve years, when he entered the gardens of — Sims, Esq., at Cannington, in the county of Somerset, and was placed under the tutelage of Mr. Rowe, the gardener. In this place he remained two years. At the age of fifteen he went to the gardens of R. Codrington, Esq., Bridgewater, under Mr. Eastlake, gardener. Mr. Codrington was the first gentleman who built a greenhouse and plant and Pine-stoves, also succession Pine and Melon pits, in that neighbourhood, heated in the old style—by flues, hot-water pipes having at that time not been thought of. He was very fond of his gardens and plants, of which he had a good assortment, of stove plants in particular, such as Strelitzia reginae, a rare plant in those days, which was well flowered; also Renealmia nutans [Alpinia nutans], which was flowered there, and at the time was said to be the first ever flowered in England. The gardens were at this time entirely under Mr. Elworthy's charge. Some Orchids, such as Cymbidium aloifolium, Limodorum Tankervillae [Bletia grandifolia], and some few others, were grown, but Orchids were scarce in those days. Many other rare plants were cultivated, amongst them such as Cinnamon, Allspice, Ginger, Coffee. The plants were all well managed, as were also the Pines, which produced excellent fruit.

At the age of twenty Mr. Elworthy went into Mr. H. Lake's nurseries at Bridgewater for two years, to gain a knowledge of training and cutting wall fruit and other trees, and to be sent out to remodel old gardens, and lay out new ones. He was then recommended by his old master, Mr. Codrington, as gardener to Jeffry Ellen, Esq., Recorder of Bridgewater, with whom he remained five years; after which he was recommended by Miss H. Trevelyan, eldest daughter of the late Archdeacon Trevelyan, and by Mr. Ellen, to the late Sir John Trevelyan, Bart., into whose service he entered at the end of March, 1832. At that time the greater part of the ground now occupied by the gardens at Nettlecombe was pasture land, but through the kind assistance rendered by the late Sir John, and the encouragement he has received from the present Baronet, Sir W. C. Trevelyan, the gardens have been brought to their present state, "which," he adds, "must be seen to be appreciated, as it would take up too much space in your valuable paper to enumerate the fine things that are growing here." Mr. Elworthy's name has long been associated with British Ferns, on which subject he remarks:—"It is well known, through Mr. T. Moore's *Nature-printed Ferns*, and Mr. E. J. Lowe's work on our *Native Ferns*, that I have added considerably to the many forms of British Ferns by the discovery of them in their natural state, and by raising new forms from spores."

Mr. Elworthy has been especially successful in raising new varieties of Athyrium, and of Scolopendrium, and very beautiful forms of both these genera bear his name.

it might be produced in the country, with advantage to all concerned.

June 10th.—Some time ago I quoted elsewhere from a little book, in which it is recommended that Mushrooms and Marrows should be grown in the same bed. I have never seen this done, but the idea seems a good and economical one. Probably, as the result of excessive brevity, however, the author appears to recommend that the bed should be spawned immediately after it is made. A firm of spawn manufacturers and

MR. W. EMERTON.

Mushroom growers have written to point out that this inevitably leads to disaster. "We quite agree," they say, "with the author of the book, that a good crop of Mushrooms might be grown on Marrow beds, well repaying the grower for any trouble and the little extra expense for the cost of the spawn. But to ensure anything like success a little trouble must be taken. Let him turn the manure over two or three times to get the violent heat out of it, and to sweeten it. Then make the bed as recommended—throw out the earth to the depth of about three inches, fill with manure up to a foot, and tread tightly down—and, when it has cooled down to about sixty-five or seventy degrees Fahr., break the bricks of spawn into six or eight pieces, and plant them just under the surface, about nine inches apart. Then cover with earth, and sow the Marrow seeds." The experiment should be worth trying. Indeed, the author of the book writes as if he had tried it, and had found it a success.

June 17th.—The corner of the old garden shown in the illustration is very picturesque. By means of a trellis, an arbour has been formed at one end of the conservatory, and up it has been trained a Tea-tree (Lycium barbarum), an excellent plant for the purpose, as it is very free flowering. It has been allowed to ramble over part of the roof, which, in many cases, would be objectionable, but here the shade is utilised for growing Ferns and other plants which do not like full exposure to the sunlight.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

THERE is still time to sow the seed of many hardy perennials, such as Delphiniums, Lupins, Pyrethrums, etc., and yet obtain nice flowering plants for next season.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 194.—MR. W. EMERTON, AT THE GARDENS, BELTON HOUSE, GRANTHAM.

TO appreciate fully the glories of the garden at Lord Brownlow's historic seat in Lincolnshire, they should be seen, as I saw them, in all the charm of their spring attire. As Mr. Emerton, the head gardener, explained to me on the occasion of my visit to Belton House, at the end of April, attention is more particularly concentrated on spring bedding, owing to the fact that Lord and Lady Brownlow are not in residence during the summer. This being the case, and the grounds at Belton extending over about sixty acres, I asked Mr. Emerton, while showing me as much as possible during the afternoon, to point out first of all the special features to which his energies are devoted.

Accordingly, passing the mansion, which looks all the more impressive because of the absence of climbers, we made our way to the Terrace, from which the Dutch Garden, in all its loveliness, may be seen to full advantage.

"You will notice," said Mr. Emerton, "that we only grow self-colours. It is a principle not to have flowers of mixed hues."

"But you have almost every possible combination of colour?"

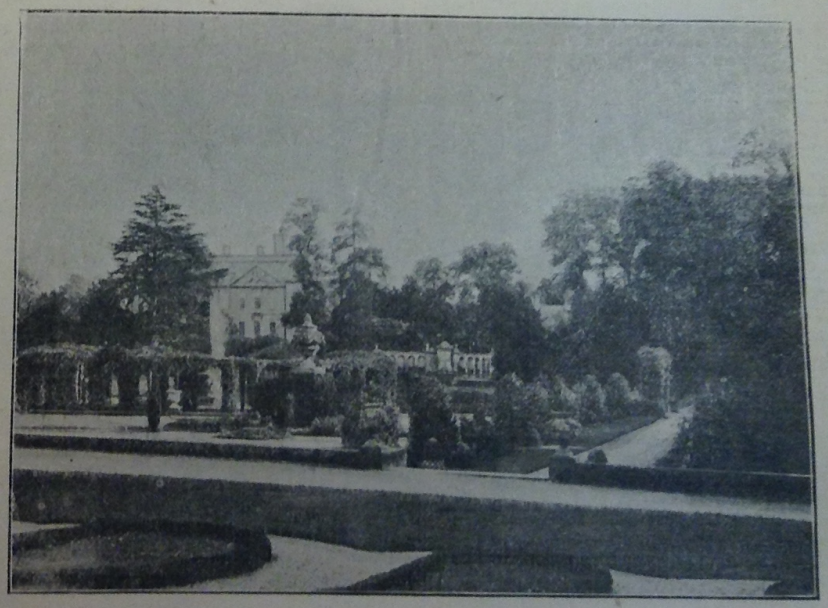
"Yes, we aim at that, and for that purpose we grow large quantities of the different varieties, which tend to give the Dutch garden a brilliant appearance."

"Was it made many years ago?"

"No, only about a quarter of a century since, in place of a slope. It is a copy of an old plan in the mansion."

"How many beds does it contain?"

"Eighty, forty on each side. Tulips, as you see, are a great feature. The early varieties now in flower are Montresor, Yellow Prince, Koh-i-noor, Duchess de Parma, Cottage Maid, Proserpine, Thomas Moore, Chrysolora, Couleur Cardinal C. Ponceau, La Reine, Van der Neer, and Cramoisie superbe. We shall also have a late crop: Bouton d'Or, Bridesmaid, Fulgens, Gesneriana, Isabella, Macrospila, Picotee, and Retroflexa."



THE ITALIAN GARDEN, BELTON.

"The beds on each side correspond, I notice."

"Yes, they are identical. The vase in the centre contains Wallflowers, Tulips, and yellow Violas. As to the contents of the beds, one long bed, as you see, is filled with purple Violas, mixed Wallflowers, mixed Tulips; another bed contains purple Aubrietias, double white Arabis, Grape Hyacinths, white Phlox, and deep pink Tulips; while a number of smaller beds are filled with Primroses, Auriculas and Violas. There is one bed entirely made up of Primroses, Miss Massey, a deep claret colour.

"Another long bed, with one corresponding," continued Mr. Emerton, "has a groundwork of Myosotis, rings of two shades of yellow Violas, clumps of yellow bush Primroses, and yellow and crimson Tulips."

"When do you begin to divide up for autumn?"

"Now. We divide the reserve stock in the kitchen garden, and start here on the 1st of September for the spring bedding."

"Yes, it seemed to me that such a fine show must involve a long and very careful preparation."

Noting the Golden and Irish Yews which alternate in the beds, one also being in the square, we paused a minute at two long beds near the fine old sundial at the end, containing Hyacinths, Tulips, Violas, Pansies, and Narcissi, and then entered a magnificent avenue of trees, chiefly Limes, leading to the flag tower. Here I was struck by the wealth of Daffodils of all the newest varieties, and Mr. Emerton mentioned, as we proceeded along the statuary walk, that twelve months ago last winter he planted out sixteen thousand of these.

"I suppose," he said, "that there are twenty-five varieties. We also plant out a great number of Forget-me-nots. All these, with Bluebells and Primroses, are so planted that they look as if they grew wild. Another feature are the flowers round the mounds of the trees, which we think relieve the expanse of greenness of the grass. All of them have to be replanted."

"You have a Lily pond, I notice."

"With a stone temple at the end. There are a few Marliac Lilies, but most of them are the common white."

"Are you rich in Conifers?"

"No, the soil does not suit choice Conifers.

We are on sand. Another of our drawbacks is that we get all the early and late frosts. Last year the frosts killed thousands of Wallflowers. As to timber, there are a good many excellent specimens of Beeches, Oaks, Elms, and Chestnuts."

Another striking feature at Belton is the Italian garden, which is faced by a noble conservatory. Here, at once, the long beds, which were a dazzling blaze of colour, attracted my attention.

"They are made up," observed Mr. Emerton, "of purple Wallflowers for the back row, a scroll of purple Violas, dots of white Violas, then a scroll of blue Aubrietias, and, finally, a front row of pink Aubrietias."

"Nothing could be more effective than the combination, and the bed under the wall is also a remarkable success."

"It contains yellow Wallflowers, Forget-me-nots, red Daisies, and purple Tulips coming out with the Forget-me-nots."

"You have a novelty here in the shape of espaliers of flowering shrubs?"

"At Lord Brownlow's suggestion, we started it about seven years ago. The various subjects include varieties of flowering Cherries, Laburnum, pink May, Viburnums, and flowering Currants. There are also Apples and Pears. To make the garden look as bright as possible, the Apples have red brick underneath them, and Box bushes between, with charcoal underneath. The Apples have been here a little longer than the flowering shrubs. There are all sorts of varieties, which were chosen for good bloom rather than for the fruit. The borders in the centre of the garden are planted with mixed spring flowers."

"The number of beds must be very considerable?"

"Three hundred large and small. In what we call the Fountain section, the beds are filled entirely with Violas of varying shades."

"For what period do you keep your vast quantity of spring flowers going?"

"They begin to flower in the middle of April, and last until the end of June. But we could keep them longer if we wanted them."

"I admire your arrangement of urns and boxes."

"The base of each urn is covered with Irish Yews; the groundwork of the boxes is of Wallflowers, edged with Primroses and quantities of Tulips and Daffodils. There are two baskets of pink Phlox and white Tulips, with two of similar size containing grey Phlox and pink Tulips. Two large oval baskets at one corner are filled with mixed Irises, and the two others with red Pæonies and a groundwork of Primroses."

"And the Prince of Wales' Feathers at each end of the conservatory?"

"One consists of purple Violas, and the other is a combination of purple Violas with dark Wallflowers."

Then we went into the tastefully-laid-out Rose garden, on the occasion of my visit gay, beyond description, with a multitude of Primroses of every conceivable hue.

"Filled in between the Roses for the spring," said Mr. Emerton, "are thousands of Daffodils and Primroses, and Forget-me-nots just coming on. I save the Primrose seed, and sow for planting out in the grass every year. Here the plants will stand for three or four years. The system is to fill the centre of the beds with Daffodils and Forget-me-nots, and the borders with Primroses. There are sixteen beds, and you may form an idea of the quantity of Primroses when I tell you that there are twenty-four yards round each bed. We have a fair collection of Roses, but do not go in specially for them."

Returning to the conservatory, I observed Ficus growing on the back wall, Cobæa scandens on the roof, several fine Palms and Tree Ferns, with a number of freely-flowering Camellias.

"You avoid mixed colours even in the case of Amaryllis?" I inquired.

"Yes, they are all red or scarlet varieties, of a good strain. The Cinerarias and the Cyclamen are self-colours only. In fact, we fill the vases in the house with flowers of one colour."

"Do you grow many Lilacs in pots?"

"About a thousand. They have been in flower since New Year's Day. Instead of planting Lilacs out, I bury the pot in the ground, and let them stand for a couple of years. Then I am able to use them again. The white and lilac colours are best for early growing."

"You also have Magnolias in pots?"

"A few of two varieties. I only had them last autumn. They are very ornamental."

In two plant houses at the back of the Rose garden were a batch of Arums, Azalea mollis, Fuchsias, Ferns, a few Orchids, and on the roof Begonia Corallina.

"That is always in flower," remarked Mr. Emerton.

"And here you have Carnations?"

"Yes, but this is not a Carnation house. We have about three hundred old plants of Malmaisons, including Princess of Wales, Lord Welby, Mr. Trelawney, Thora, and Mercia, some twenty-five varieties. They have been in the Vinery all the winter. In addition to Poinsettias and Azaleas, there are about three hundred Gloxinias in this house in pots, all scarlets and purples, and opposite a batch of Orchids, Cœlogynes, with Ferns below."

"You have some beautiful Caladiums in the stove?"

"They are very early. I have had them since the end of January. At the back are Gardenias in pots, which we find useful for table decorations. The Hexacentris, with its gold and brown flowers hanging from the roof, lasts in bloom for three months. It grows like Wistaria."

It is some distance from the pleasure grounds to the kitchen garden and the majority of the houses. "But," as Mr. Emerton said on our way thither, "the main feature is the cultivation of the hundred and sixty thousand bedding plants which we use for the spring."

"How many Vineries are there?"

"Four. There are also two Peach houses, a Fig house, and five other houses in which Melons, Cucumbers, and Beans are forced. Including the conservatory, we have twenty houses."

"Which are your best varieties of Grapes?"

"Alicante, Alnwick Seedling, Buckland Sweetwater, Gros Colman, Gros Maroc, Hamburgh, Lady Hutt, Madresfield Court, and Muscat. In the late Vinery there are two hundred Irises in pots—Susiana, silver, shaded with purple."

"When do you begin to gather Peaches?"

"In the middle of April, Amsden's June. The other varieties are Hale's Early and Royal George; the Nectarines are Rivers' Orange and Lord Napier. We also have Tomato Sutton's A 1. Tomatoes are also grown in the Fig house, with Strawberries on the shelves."

"Is Brown Turkey your only variety of Figs?"

"Yes. It does very well. We gather fruit in April."

"I noticed that you have some Cape Gooseberries in one of the Vineries."

"We have had them for a couple of years, two or three dozen. They are grown in order to make jam."

"How many plants are there in your Carnation house?"

"There are between three and four hundred of last year's layers. The plants of Princess of Wales are particularly good. One has eight flowers coming on it."

"The frames, I conclude, are used for general purposes?"

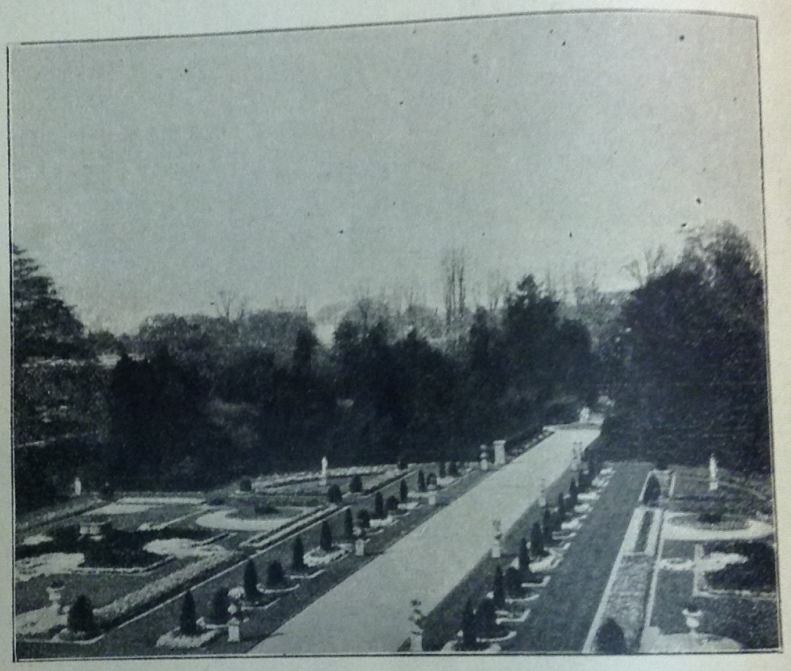
"There is a little of almost everything in them. I suppose that there are about eight hundred Chrysanthemums, chiefly Japanese varieties. We have just been lifting Potatoes, May Queen and Sharpe's Victor. We begin to get Potatoes the second week in April, and continue straight on. Marie Louise is the chief variety of Violet grown."

"You have Peas in flower?"

"Yes, Sutton's King of Dwarfs follow the early Violets in the frames. We also force Lettuces all through the winter, and cut them when quite small. Veitch's Golden Queen is a very good early variety."

"What do you grow in the Mushroom border besides Mushrooms?"

"Seakale and Rhubarb. We grow a quantity of Swedes for cooking purposes. They throw up stalks like Seakale, and are very useful before the latter come in. Here we keep sometimes as many as fifty pots of Lilacs."



The Dutch Garden, Belton.

"Before we discuss the outside features you might mention the names of your principal Melons and Cucumbers?"

"The Melons are Victoria, Sutton's A 1, Invicta, and Gunston's Scarlet. I find Improved Telegraph a very excellent Cucumber. It keeps well after it is cut."

"You have some fruit still left in your Apple room?"

"Chiefly Gloria Mundi, a very late variety, and very useful."

"Now, about the outside fruit?"

"Pears are grown on the walls. The principal varieties are Marie Louise, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Doyenné du Comice, Le Lectier,

ROSE—LADY PENZANCE.

Josephine de Malines, Glou Morceau, Pitmaston Duchess, and Marie Benoist."

"Which do you consider the best dessert Apples?"

"I should certainly include among them Cox's Orange Pippin, Beauty of Bath, King of Pippins, Ribston Pippin, and Worcester Pearmain. The best cooking Apples include Lane's Prince Albert—which I put first—Sandringham, Dumelow's Seedling, Blenheim Orange, and Gloria Mundi. There is one wall of dessert Plums, including Braby's Greengage, Coe's Golden Drop, Denniston's Superb, Jefferson, and Reine Claude de Bavay. They do well if we escape frost."

"Do you grow Royal Sovereign Strawberries outside?"

"Yes, and also Trafalgar, Climax, and James Veitch; the latter does very well here. I have picked fruit outside weighing two ounces. We have a large batch of Gooseberries and Currants, growing Warrington for preserving purposes. Raspberries, as well as Wineberries and Loganberries, are trained on wires. We get wonderful crops of Raspberries—Superlatives. All fruit is netted, an absolute necessity, as the birds are all preserved."

"You mentioned that you gathered Sutton's Harbinger on the 22nd of this month, but you have not named the Peas which you grow outside."

"Veitch's Seedling, and Maincrop; Autocrat, Stur y, and Chelsea Gem."

Before we quitted the kitchen garden, which is nine acres in extent, protected by high walls, and is arranged in the most convenient manner, I noticed a large patch of herbs, and a small nursery of flowering shrubs and Conifers. We had little time remaining to spend in the Wilderness, which is yet another charming feature of Belton. Here Box and Golden Yews flourish, and Dogwood grows on the banks of the Witham, which runs through the grounds; and here, too, in profusion are Saxifrages and wild and Turkey Rhubarb. Even more ornamental than the rustic bridges, or the summer-house, with its floor of knucklebones of fallow-deer, is the remarkable collection of Weeping Beeches. As we strolled through the Wilderness, I asked Mr. Emerton how long he had been in his present position.

"Sixteen years in July," he replied, "and as I was foreman at Ashridge for four years, I have been with Lord Brownlow nearly twenty years."

"Where did you start your gardening career?"

"At Mickleover Manor, Derbyshire. From there I went to Allerton Hall, in the same county, and next to Halstead Place, Sevenoaks, where specimen plants were a feature."

"Did you stay in Kent long?"

"I was in Kent twice. I left Halstead Place to go to Larkhill, Liverpool, and then I returned to Moat Park, Maidstone. My next post was in Veitch's nurseries. I was there for a year, and then I went to Ashridge."

"You do not show?"

"No, Lord Brownlow does not care about it, and I have no time for it. Although I have a staff of twenty, for whom two bothies are provided, there is a great deal to be done. We supply the family all the year round with fruit and vegetables; and with spring flowers from January 1st."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 150.—CLIMBING ROSES AND POT-POURRI.

DEAR KATE,—If you went to the Temple Flower Show last month you will agree with me that the "corner in Roses" was the most charming of all the exhibits. I think climbing Roses are the most beautiful of all, and the masses of blossoms on the Briers and Wichuriana Roses are wonderfully effective in the garden. Lady Gay is the name of the best of the newcomers in this class, with flowers which are rather larger and of a darker pink than those of Dorothy Perkins; Sweetheart and The Farquhar are both in blush-pink, changing to white, and I do not care for either of them, as their tint is too bluish as the flowers go off; but Edmund Prowst, in copper-yellow and carmine, Jersey Beauty, in cream and gold, and Dorothy Perkins, with exquisite little Roses in dainty shell-pink, are three of the very best of the Wichurianas still.

My favourites in Sweet Briers are Lady Penzance, with coral-pink single blooms of perfect form and great fragrance, and Lucy Bertram, a hybrid between General Jacqueminot and the original pink Sweet Brier. The colour of these flowers is most brilliant; the plant of it which grows on my pergola is a picture just now, as it throws its long sprays of rich crimson, semi-double blossoms far and wide; its only fault is that the foliage is not very fragrant, whilst that of Lady Penzance (a hybrid between the Copper Brier and the Sweet Brier) is extraordinarily sweet, so that it scents the garden after a shower of rain. Lucy Bertram has a white centre, which, with its golden stamens and brilliant colour, make it extremely pretty; then, the larger climbing Roses, Reve d'Or, and Allister Stella Gray, contrast well with these colours, for they are both creamy-yellow, and, as they produce an abundance of bloom, both are first-rate climbing Roses. William Allen Richardson, with lovely sprays of apricot and copper-coloured flowers, clusters round my window, so that the blossoms are most convenient to cut for buttonholes when dressing; this is, perhaps, the richest colour of all the yellow Roses, and as it blossoms from May till November here, on a south wall, reaching the upper part of the house and wreathing the balcony, it is one of the most valuable plants I possess.

Everyone should grow Roses on arches, on walls, and in the borders; even in a London garden the fine, old "Glory" (Gloire de Dijon) will live and blossom, if well planted in October (with plenty of good loam, but not fresh manure) and mulched yearly in spring. If your Roses have not yet been mulched this season, this should at once be attended to, but, as very few gardeners understand how to mulch a Rose, I advise you to superintend the operation. The roots of all Roses are very impatient of anything impure touching them, and hundreds of Roses are killed by kindness yearly, for "Old John" can't understand that anything can object to "mook" and "plenty of it," so he just heaps it up round the stem of the unfortunate plant, smothering that most tender part of the collar (where the stem meets the roots) and probably setting up canker there; whilst, all the time, the active tips of the roots (which are starving under the soil, perhaps a yard away from the stem) cannot obtain any nourishment, as they are in exhausted soil.

No! the way to mulch a Rose is this:—First mix a barrowful of rich stuff, decayed manure, fowl-run soil, leaf-mould, loam, soot, or any other nourishing material, *except* fresh manure, and add, if possible, some burnt vegetable refuse (sticks, etc.), and a sprinkling of lime to the whole. If your soil be heavy, old hotbed material (*i.e.*, stable manure and leaves) will be a good choice; if light, you should use the manure from the cow-yard, with the rest of the ingredients. Then remove the top soil to the depth of four inches, after loosening it with a Dutch hoe (don't let a spade ever come near the roots of your Roses), and after considering the probable width of space filled by them, which is always broad in proportion to the growth of the Rose. Lay down three inches of your top-dressing stuff over the roots (without touching them, or the collar of the Rose, however), and sift another inch or two of fine soil over the mulch, to make all sweet and tidy. Then your Roses will repay you with abundant growth and fine autumn flowers (which they cannot possibly manage if in

ROSE—ALISTER STELLA GRAY.

exhausted and poor soil), and the rich, fresh food will prevent them from suffering in a drought. Roses should be mulched in April, but the work may be done at any time, in summer, on the understanding of the proverb, "better late than never," but this saying does not hold good after September, as autumn mulching is a great mistake, for not only is good food

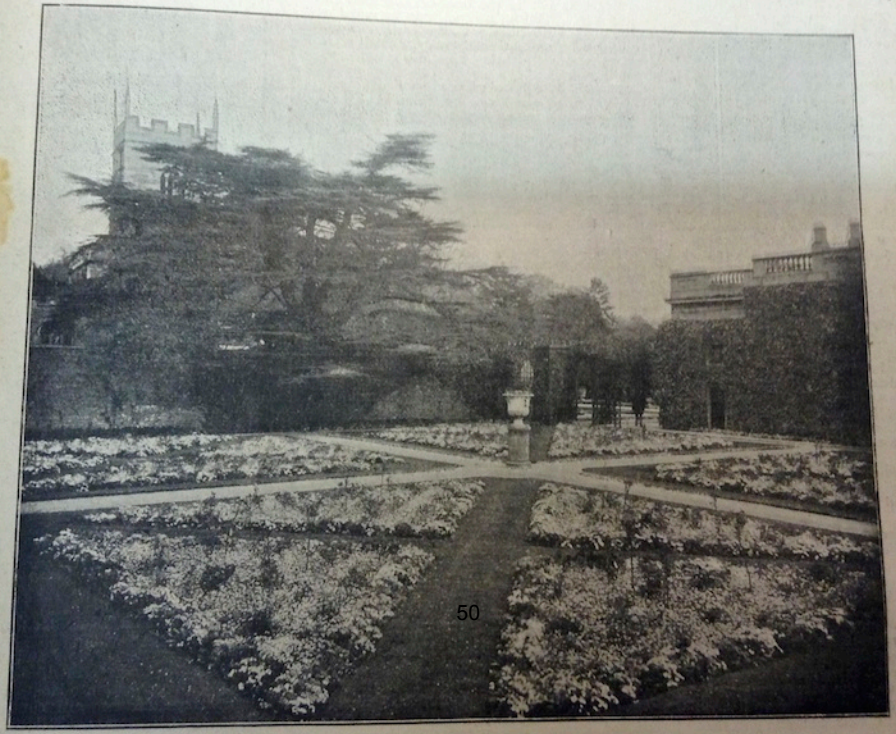
Next Week's Work in the Garden.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

THE cool and showery weather of the past week has been more favourable to growth than bloom, and, owing, doubtless, to the low temperatures, plants of at all a tender nature are looking anything but happy. We have had plenty of rain—in the South, at any rate—and the paths, if of gravel, adding a little fresh material on the top, and rolling the whole down well.

There is still time to plant out such things as the taller scarlet-flowered Lobelias, with others of this class, and the plants will bloom this season, if sufficiently strong. I think few people have any adequate idea of the beauty of these Curiously enough, these plants, though by no means hardy, succeed better in a damp position, with a rather heavy soil, than elsewhere. They are readily raised from seed, which, if sown in the early spring, in a gentle warmth, will produce flowering plants for the same season. In the autumn, after the flowers are over, the roots should be taken up and roughly planted in large pots or boxes, wintering them in a shed or cool house.

Well-established Hollyhocks are now pushing up their flower-spikes, and give promise of a fine display presently. It is always advisable



THE ROSE GARDEN, BELTON HOUSE

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Emes, William (1729/30–1803), *landscape designer and gardener*
by Keith Goodway, *rev.*
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Emes, William (1729/30–1803), landscape designer and gardener, whose early life is obscure, took up the post of head gardener to Sir Nathaniel Curzon at Kedleston, Derbyshire, on 8 September 1756. He remained there until 1760, perhaps leaving his post because the appointment of Robert Adam with 'the intire manadgement of his Grounds' left Emes with little scope. While at Kedleston he had already started altering the earlier, formal landscape and had made the upper lake. On 17 December 1758 Emes, then twenty-eight, married his servant Mary (*d.* 1789), the daughter of John Innocent, a tailor. They had five sons and three daughters. One son, John Emes (1762–1808), was an artist and engraver, but later became better known, with his wife, Rebecca, as a goldsmith.

Emes moved to Bowbridge Fields, Mackworth, a farmhouse about 2 miles from Kedleston. He developed an extensive practice as a landscape designer (ninety commissions are known), largely in the north midlands and Wales. His style is similar to that of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, although there is no evidence that he ever worked with Brown, and at Eaton Hall, Cheshire, in 1763, Lord Grosvenor called Emes in to replace Brown. The elegant plans, in Indian ink on vellum, which he presented to his clients showed his proposed alterations to the landscape—often with serpentine lakes whose ends were concealed in woodland, with single trees and clumps set in parkland and with tree belts around the boundary, often with a 'ride round the Improvements' winding through them. It was said that 'Mr Eame excells in the laying out Water' and he was called in to introduce it into landscapes where it was lacking, as at Hawkstone Park, Shropshire, where in 1786 he made the River Hawk into a lake 1½ miles long. He anticipated the work of Humphry Repton by creating flower gardens adjacent to the house, as at Sandon Hall, Staffordshire, in 1781, where he laid out a garden under the windows of the drawing-room, planted with flowers and flowering shrubs and with a central basin of water with goldfish. Some of his commissions continued for many years; at both Chirk Castle and Erddig, Denbighshire, he supervised the landscaping for twenty-four years.

Although Emes designed a few minor buildings, such as a lodge at Attingham Hall, Shropshire, and a greenhouse at Penrice Castle, Glamorgan, his role as an architect is not significant. At a number of places his landscaping was contemporaneous with work on the house by Samuel or James Wyatt, a professional association that may have started at Kedleston. After his wife died in 1789, Emes moved to Hampshire and took a lease of Elvetham Park from Sir Henry Gough-Calthorpe. A number of commissions in the south of England date from this period, some of which were carried out in partnership with John Webb (1754–1828), who had earlier been his foreman and continued the practice after Emes's death. Emes moved to London and died on 13 March 1803 at Vicarage House, St Giles Cripplegate, the home of his daughter Sarah, wife of the Revd William Holmes. He was buried at the church of St Giles Cripplegate.

KEITH GOODWAY, *rev.*

Sources Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire · Eaton Hall, Cheshire · Sandon Hall, Staffordshire · Hants. RO, Elvetham archives · bishop's transcripts, Mugginton, Derbyshire, Lichfield Joint RO · bishop's transcripts, Mackworth, Derbyshire, Lichfield Joint RO · marriage bond, Lichfield Joint RO · parish register, St Giles Cripplegate, GL [burial] · will, TNA: PRO, PROB 11/1398, fol. 767

Archives Eaton Hall, Cheshire · Kedleston Hall, Debyshire · Sandon Hall, Staffordshire | Hants. RO, archives

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William Emes (1729/30–1803): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/37398

Death of Mr. Robert Errington.—We have to record with regret the death, after a lingering illness, of this excellent gardener, which took place on the 27th ult., at Oulton Park, near Tarporley, the seat of Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton, Bart., M.P., whom he faithfully served for 32 years. To other good qualities Mr. Errington added that of a sensible and clever writer on most subjects connected with practical gardening; horticultural literature, therefore, not less than a wide circle of private friends, has sustained a severe loss by his death.

GC, 1860 p. 815.

1860

ERRINGTON Robert.

Effects under £200.

19 December. Letters of Administration (with the Will annexed) of the Personal estate and effects of Robert Errington the Elder late of Oulton Park Tarporley in the County of **Chester** Gardener deceased who died 27 August 1860 at Oulton aforesaid were

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other colloids, very slowly, and others, such as crystallisable salts, very rapidly. It is precisely the condition which we find in a plant. The tips of the roots are covered with a porous skin; inside is a more or less colloidal fluid;

MR. J. EVANS.

outside are phosphates, nitrates, potash, and other crystallisable salts held in solution by the moisture of the soil. In consequence, while the fluid contents of the cells pass out so slowly that there is practically no loss, the dissolved salts outside pass in very rapidly. They are converted into sap by the action of the leaves, and growth is the result. The rate of diffusion differs not only for different salts, but also for different degrees of solution for different diaphragms (which is here equivalent to different species of plants), and for different temperatures. It may seem a very small matter whether a particular plant has a little more water or a little less; a little more of some artificial fertiliser or a little less; a little higher temperature or a little lower, yet it will be seen that these small matters may make all the difference between its being properly fed or not. It is also by a kind of diffusion that oxygen enters the leaves and carbonic acid escapes. Here, again, the presence of moisture is essential—witness the poor growth of plants kept in the dry air of a living-room—and the general conditions of the atmosphere (its freedom from impurities, for example) must affect the result.

A Matter of Standpoint.

March 4th.—It is surprising how many different views one may get, even in a small garden. They are sometimes so fresh that it is like paying a visit to a neighbour's grounds. I often walk round, stopping under an old Yew or Apple to survey the scene, and every change in position makes a wonderful difference in the landscape. Tocqueville's phrase has frequently been quoted—"Les opinions ne sont que des points de vue." Our outlook on life is mainly a matter of our standpoint. And if our standpoint is always the same, we can know but little of what lies around us. So, to all who own gardens, I recommend that they should make occasional pilgrimages around them, with the idea of seeing them at different seasons, from different points of view. I am sure they will be astonished at the amount of novelty which they will discover.

Misnomers.

March 5th.—I wonder who is responsible for the misleading popular names which many plants bear. For instance, the so-called Chinese Artichoke is not an Artichoke at all; its proper name is Stachys tuberifera, and it belongs to quite a different genus—to the Hedge Nettles, of which we have several native species, Wood Betony among the number. Nor is the Jerusalem Artichoke an Artichoke. It is one of the Sunflowers, and its name is Helianthus tuberosus. We thus come to the Globe Artichoke (Cynara scolymus) as the only real Artichoke, though another vegetable, the Cardoon, belongs to the same genus. It is, however, more like Celery, both in the method of cultivating it and in its appearance when cooked. There is much to be said in favour of S. tuberifera as a vegetable, but I doubt if it will ever become popular on English tables—it needs so much preparation, so much peeling and scraping, and this involves a great deal of waste.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Snaprails, Sandhurst.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. J. EVANS.

BY the courtesy of Mr. Napier Church, I had the opportunity of inspecting in January some remarkable gardens in a charming situation not far from Sandhurst College. They are remarkable as showing how much can be done by taste and skill with moderate expenditure, in a short period. When Mr. Church bought the land on which his handsome modern residence stands, six years ago, there was practically no garden. It will be seen that he has succeeded, with the assistance of his gardener, Mr. Evans, in originating and developing many features of interest. Himself an enthusiast on horticultural matters, Mr. Church accompanied me round the gardens, while Mr. Evans answered the questions I asked as we proceeded.

Starting on one side of the lawn, my attention was first attracted by a number of half-standard Roses.

"These," said Mr. Evans, "came direct from France, and it may be worthy of note that they do just as well here on sandy soil as they do in heavy soil at Pau, though, of course, we put a quantity of manure on the ground. They were none the worse on arrival, but they took three weeks to get here."

"I suppose the varieties are known to be vigorous growers?"

"Yes, one of them is La Tosca, which thrives especially in sandy soil. Another is Madame N. Levavasseur, which is a dwarf form of Crimson Rambler. Others are Caroline Testout, Frau Karl Druschki, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, Lady Moyra Beauclerc, La France, and Gruss an Teplitz. I may add that Dorothy Perkins is planted as a standard on the lawn."

"What use do you make of the border behind the standard Roses?"

"It is chiefly filled with herbaceous plants, backed by a row of Montbretias, with two rows of annuals in front, principally Asters and Stocks. Here, too, of necessity, we use manure

SNAPRAILS, SANDHURST.

freely. Six loads of cow manure have been put on this border."

"You have some spring bedding also?"

"Largely Chrysolora Tulips and double Daffodils. We prefer self colours. In summer one of these beds is filled with Fuchsias (Display), and the other with standard Heliotropes (Madame de Busse), and Violas."

"When were the shrubs planted?"

"Only three years ago. The specimen of Abies pinsapo had such a large ball that it needed seven men to lift it. As you see, it is going ahead well. Also, Abies nobilis glauca and A. Nordmanniana. Cedrus deodara is likewise making excellent progress. No doubt the situation is favourable, as this part of the gardens is due south."

A Rosery Taken From a Field.

Strolling a little further, we came to one of the most interesting features of the gardens. This is a Rosery which was literally taken out of a field.

"Did you not even treat the grass in order to obtain this velvet walk?" I enquired.

"We never touched it. It only indicates the excellence of the turf in the field."

"When was the portion of the field converted into a Rosery?"

"In the summer of 1906. The principal section represented is the Hybrid Tea. There are a hundred and thirty yards of Ramblers at the back, on one side, the varieties embracing Hiawatha (the best of all, with a growth of eleven to twelve feet), Dorothy Perkins, Euphrosyne, Carmine Pillar, Leuchstern, Mrs. F. W. Flight, and Tausendschon (new this year)."

"I notice that Ramblers run along part of the other side. Perhaps you will tell me the names of the pick of the Hybrid Teas?"

"They include Queen of Spain, Joseph Lowe, Earl of Warwick, La Tosca, Mrs. John Laing, Souvenir de Pierre Notting, Hugh Dickson, Warrior, Mrs Peter Blair (a good decorative Rose), Lady Helen Vincent, Lady Roberts, Clara Watson, Dean Hole, Madame Abel Chatenay, Bessie Brown, Florence Pemberton, Etoile de France (which does better in a warm corner), Konigen Carola, Avoca (the new crimson), Mildred Grant, Harry Kirk, J. B. Clark, Gloire Lyonnaise, Joseph Hill (the new American variety), Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Dorothy Page Roberts, Mrs. Isabella Milner, Madame Jean Dupuy, William Shean, Richmond, Viscountess Folkestone, and Lady Battersea."

"You have some of the Teas?"

"Yes, Homere, Marie van Houtte, Nellie Johnson, Triomphe de Pernet Pere, Maman Cochet, white Maman Cochet, and Gruss an Teplitz, do well."

"Have you used much manure on this ground?"

"A hundred and twenty-six loads since we started. That is one of the secrets of success."

Pæony-flowered Dahlias.

"We do not," continued Mr. Evans, "quite limit the Rosery to Roses. On one side there is an edging of Antirrhinums, Sutton's Golden Prince, and on the other Dactylis glomerata. Then, there are a few Japanese Pæonies at the end, and we started a row of Pæony-flowered Dahlias last year."

"Were you satisfied with them?"

"They did so well that I think they are likely to oust the Cactus. The stalks are long, and, when they are cut, they last in flower for ten days."

"Is there anything special in cultivation?"

"They may be either raised from seed or from cuttings. As in the case of other Dahlias, I dig a good hole, about two feet deep, and eighteen inches square, when planting out. I put a considerable thickness of manure in, tread it firmly, and cover in with the soil. By the time the roots get down to the manure, the plants are coming into bloom. That is when they want it. I plant three feet apart, and stake the plants early. They are fine growers, and very handsome. Reverting again to Roses, we put up the archway last year, just before the trees started to grow. The varieties are Madame Alfred Carriere, Leuchstern, Crimson Rambler, and Psyche."

"How many Rose trees are there in the Rosery?"

"About nine hundred. We began with fifty yards. The Rosery, which is backed by deciduous trees, faces south, and before we leave it, I may say that since we took away a black fence which formed a boundary, they have done much better. Roses want all the air they can get."

WATER SCENE AT SNAPRAILS, SANDHURST.

The Shrubbery Beds.

A little distance from the Rosery are the shrubbery beds, which though only planted twelve months ago are making strong growth.

"The Rhododendrons," said Mr. Evans, "include Kate Waterer, Pink Pearl, The Maroon, and Michael Waterer. There is peat in the soil in certain places only. Like Azalea mollis and Spiræas, the Rhododendrons and the China Roses also grow well in this locality."

"You appear to grow many things on the banks of the lake."

"The ground is thickly planted with different varieties of Narcissus, while the banks are adorned with Tree Pæonies, scarlet Thorns, Buddleia variabilis and globosa, Salisburias, Cedrus atlantica glauca, Weigelas, scarlet Oaks, Siberian Cornus, Staphylea colchica, Spiræa Lindleyana, and other varieties, and two Roses of the new variety, Paradise."

"What is the depth of the lake?"

"About seven feet in the centre. On one island are Eulalia japonica, Pampas Grass, and Japanese Irises; the other, which is larger, has seats under the trees. There are Water Lilies in the lake. Now we approach a new part which we call the wild garden."

Features of the Wild Garden.

"What are to be the features?"

"Largely, flowering trees and shrubs. But there are others, such as a big bed of Lilies, which was dug two feet deep, peat and leaf-soil being added. The aspect is west, and there are gravel paths all round. One, a winding path, has Roses on either side, for cutting purposes, with clumps of Sweet Peas between each pillar of Roses."

"One variety of Sweet Peas in each?"

"Yes. We grow about fifty varieties, but the principal are Dorothy Eckford, Mrs. H. Sykes, Queen Alexandra, Paradise, Black Knight, John Ingman, Helen Lewis, Frank Dolby, and Mrs. Collier. On the other side is a long herbaceous border, which we filled up with fresh soil when it was made. This has been done in the case of all the herbaceous borders. With regard to varieties, which are grown in masses, I may mention Asters, Michaelmas Daisies (Beauty of Colwall), Phloxes, Delphiniums, Spiræa Davidii, Bocconia cordata, and Pentstemons in variety."

"Do you grow Sweet Peas for exhibition?"

"Yes. We raise them in pots about the end of January, and, in planting out, we use cow manure for the trenching, digging thirty inches deep. When I plant them out in April I use superphosphate of bone. Now, we come to the kitchen garden, which was made entirely out of common ground."

Pears on Palings.

"I notice that it has no walls."

"No, we have only wood palings, but last year we got plenty of Pears and Plums off them. They are trained on wires, and get the air behind. The varieties of Pears are Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise, Jargonelle, Pitmaston Duchess, Doyenne du Comice; and, of Plums, Rivers' Early, Victoria, and Pond's Seedling. Then there are Apples in the garden, such as Cox's Orange Pippin, King of Pippins, Lady Sudeley, Lord Grosvenor, Charles Ross, Allington Pippin, Bramley's Seedling, and Lord Derby."

"What about Strawberries and Raspberries?"

"We grow most of Royal Sovereign Strawberries, but there are four rows of Noble, and several rows of Bedford Champion and Givon's Late Prolific. There is one bed of Raspberries (Superlative), from which we get a good crop. But all this garden was only made four years ago. As to vegetables, Asparagus, well manured, thrives, and outside the palings is a big piece of ground devoted to Potatoes, where we grow Up-to-Date and Windsor Castle. We begin planting Peas the third week in January, using eleven quarts. Last year we picked until the end of October. For early work we use Harbinger, and then, in succession, Early Giant, Centenary, Duchess of York, and Autocrat. We devote a special space to Onions. The ground is trenched two feet deep, six loads of manure being put on it. The only variety is Ailsa Craig, and we do not sow at all in autumn. In order to escape the Onion-fly, we have to sow under glass, and prick out."

"Then you have a Pear arch just outside the kitchen garden?"

"That was only planted last year, the varie-

ties being specially chosen for the arches, there being one arch of each. The varieties are Beurre d'Amanlis, Beurre Clairgeau, Winter Nelis, Beurre Diel, Jargonelle, Williams's Bon Chretien, Easter Beurre, Clapp's Favourite, Marie Louise, Gansel's Bergamot, Doyenne du Comice, and Beurre Superfin. Behind the arches are varieties of Pears on bushes, with herbaceous plants beneath, and in the frames close to the houses are Violets—Princess of Wales, Marie Louise, and Swanley White."

Pelargoniums and Orchids.

"You have a nice range of houses."

"We go in considerably for specimen plants and Ferns, but, before dealing with these, we might take the Zonal Pelargoniums, which are grown for cut bloom. The varieties are Mrs. C. C. Tudway, Paul Crampel, Ian McLaren, Adam Goret, Rev. Dr. Morris, Hecla, Mrs. Sandars, and Coleridge. Pelargoniums are grown all the year round, so that we always have flowers. Then we grow about fifteen varieties of winter-flowering Carnations, notably Sky Rocket, Mrs. H. Burnett, Britannia, Robert Craig, White Queen, Harlowarden, Ethel Ward, Mrs. T. W. Lawson, and Aristocrat."

"I notice that your Orchid-house contains Cypripediums, Dendrobiums, and a good number of Cattleyas and Lælia Cattleyas. How many houses do you devote to bedding plants?"

"Two. In one we grow Calceolarias, Snaprails variety, for indoor decoration. It is of very graceful habit, and bright yellow in colour. We get great branches of bloom from May onwards. In the Melon house we grow a quantity of Begonias, Crotons, and Dracænas."

Specimen Plants in the Cool House.

"Have you a conservatory?"

"No; the large and lofty cool house which we are now entering takes its place. Here you see we have a batch of Schizanthus (Sutton's hybrids), only one plant in each of the twenty-four pots. There is also a batch of Arum Lilies, which started blooming at Christmas, and a quantity of Cyclamen (Sutton's Giant), and Primula obconica. In a pot at the back, covering the framework, is Asparagus Sprengeri, six feet high and ten feet across."

"You might mention some of the specimen plants for which, I know, you have obtained a reputation."

"Cissus discolor is a grand plant for a specimen to run up a framework of hoops, and hang over from the top, say, six feet high. There are two very fine plants here. They want drying off for a time, and then cutting back and repotting. One of our best plants is Alpina Sanderæ. It is most distinct, of upright growth, with variegated foliage (green and white). It remains in good condition all the year round, and is one of the most satisfactory to grow as a specimen. Then, there is Spathyphyllum hybridum, with its elegant leaves and beautiful white flowers. It is a good doer, if potted firmly in stiffish loam."

"I observe too, that you grow specimen plants of Tree Begonias."

"Yes, that is Begonia Lucerne, sent out by Messrs. Sanders. It has a tremendous head of blossom, quite the finest I know, a plant with three good stems and three bunches of flowers, easily reaching a foot across, is a grand sight. Then I make a beautiful specimen plant of Dracæna Victoria, which will hold its own in any company, but it is rather expensive to grow."

Treatment of Pandanus and Marantas.

"Do you recommend the Pandanus?"

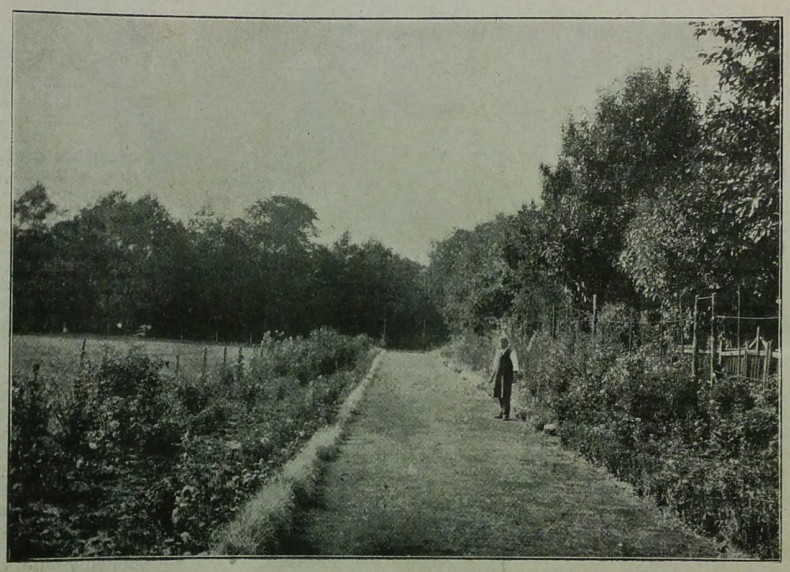
"Decidedly. Pandanus Veitchii makes a fairly large specimen, and is very easy to grow. Too large a pot should not be used, and a good deal of light is needed to colour it up well. I think the new yellow-striped variety Sanderæ is also good, but this is my first year of trying it. Marantas make fine specimen plants, especially Veitchii. There are several varieties of this, and they are always admired."

"How do you grow them?"

"Always in peat, and they must be repotted at the beginning of each year. Plenty of water must be used when they are growing well. Another stove plant of which fine specimens can be produced is Alocasia spectabile. It is dried off in the winter, and repotted in fibrous peat in the spring."

"Of course, you have no Caladiums growing now, but do you go in for them considerably?"

"They are quite one of our features, and we grow some fine plants, quite a yard across, in 11-in. pots. Caladiums require a good, open soil, very rough, so that the roots can get about it. It should consist of loam, peat, charcoal, and broken bricks, with bonemeal. Caladiums require shading, but not too heavily."



The Rosery Walk, Snaprails, Sandhurst.

Crotons and Anthuriums.

"You have some fine specimens of Crotons?"

"They are a class we grow fairly well, some large plants, others smaller. Crotons want firm potting, but must have perfect drainage, otherwise the leaves are ruined. They must be kept clean by sponging, for if red-spider and thrip are not kept in check, they will spoil the plants. As to varieties, Reidii is the very finest of the broad-leaved. Mrs. Iceton is also good, Warrenii is one of the best of the curly section, and Prince of Wales is a good grower. We have both the red and white Anthuriums. The red is Scherzerianum, and it is a good form, but the flower spathes vary considerably. Carmen is the name of the white variety; it is a very strong grower, but not nearly so handsome, I consider, as the red. Anthuriums require a mixture of peat and dried cow manure, and when they are established, they want a large quantity of water."

"Your yellow Arums appear to be doing well."

"The variety is Elliottiana. We thoroughly dry them off in the summer, and lay them on their sides out of doors in the sun."

Notable Ferns.

"Ferns are a big feature with you in the stove?"

"The specimen of Adiantum seedling in this house is the finest I have ever seen. It stands five feet six inches from the ground, although when it came here from Bedford, four and a half years ago, it was only a little piece. Adiantum cardiochlæna is a grand plant, with fronds two to three feet in length, and other fine varieties include Veitchii (with fronds almost red, if you get the true variety), Farleyensis (queen of Maidenhairs), tenerum (from Jamaica), and trapeziforme (one of the big-fronded varieties, which make up into very fine plants). These specimen Ferns require a compost as rough as possible."

"What are the principal Ferns in the intermediate house?"

"Adiantums cuneatum (two plants, five feet across), gracillimum formosum (another with big fronds), and the latest introductions of Nephrolepis. I think that for small growers, Amerpohli will beat all the others, as it is more compact and more easily grown. Gleichenia Mendeli makes a fine plant in a 2-ft. pan. There are several others, but these will, no doubt, suffice."

It was difficult to fittingly express the admiration excited by the many other handsome Ferns which were here under Mr. Evans' care, all eloquently testifying to the high ability of their cultivator. But time was pressing, and I had yet to learn of the successes gained by Mr. Evans in competition with his confreres.

A Successful Exhibitor.

"Have you done much showing at Snaprails?" I enquired.

"We have won about thirty-six prizes in four years and a half. For three years in succession we won for group and specimen plants at Crowthorne and Sandhurst. Also, for the last two years at Camberley. I won a silver cup three years ago for six specimen plants, and have been awarded the challenge cup for the best exhibit in the show twice in succession at Wellington. Other prizes have been won for Sweet Peas, Roses, Tomatoes, a collection of vegetables, Fuchsias, and Begonias. I have been here four years and a half. I started at Crescent Rise, Luton, and went in succession to gardens near St. Albans; Dunnington, Bedford; The Plantation, Bedford; and Elmston Lodge, Bedford."

Alfred Wilcox.

Soil for Roses may be enriched by the use of the manures of horses, cows, pigs, or fowls, and such things as burnt chalk, charred refuse, clay, charcoal, builders' rubbish, bones, wood ashes, road-sweepings, and spent Hops are all of much value.

The stoning period is usually extremely trying to Vines, for the Grapes do not then make any very visible progress, and the inexperienced cultivator is, in consequence, often unduly alarmed at the fact. Instead, however, of rushing on the fire heat, a steady, even temperature should be maintained, with a constant supply of warm air by night, as well as by day.

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MR. G. EYLES.—Of late years this gentleman, whose death on the 8th inst. we regret to have to announce, had not been much seen in the horticultural circles. At one time, however, he was well known as an energetic and capable practitioner, and a clever landscape gardener. He was in the employment of Sir JOSEPH PAXTON, at Chatsworth, and afterwards took a large share in the formation of the gardens at the Crystal Palace. When the Royal Horticultural Society entered upon the possession of the ill-fated gardens at South Kensiugton, Mr. EYLES carried out the elaborate plans of Mr. NESFIELD, now all swept away and almost forgotten, and for some years acted as Superintendent of the Society at South Kensington. Though for several years unconnected with the Society, it is a strange coincidence that he should have died just at the time when the Society has determined to put an end to its disastrous connection with South Kensington.

The Garden, 1887

Death of Mr. George Eyles.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. George Eyles, which occurred at Kew on Thursday, December 8. He was seventy-two years of age, and well known in the horticultural circle for his association with Sir Joseph Paxton at Chatsworth, and his connection with the Crystal Palace and also the Royal Horticultural Society. At one time he had the superintendence of both the Chiswick and South Kensington Gardens, and it was under his direction that the latter were laid out. When Mr. A. F. Barron was appointed superintendent of the Chiswick Garden, Mr. Eyles retained his position at South Kensington, and resigned in 1875.

Canterbury to John Thomas Sercombe of the Old Abbey Topsham - road Exeter in the County of Devon Gentleman the Father and Next of Kin.

EYES Ellen.

Personal Estate £125 1s.

20 June. The Will of Ellen Eyes formerly of Hulme near the City of Manchester but late of 19 Hyde - street Chorlton-road Manchester both in the County of **Lancaster** Widow who died 6 June 1888 at 19 Hyde - street was proved at **Manchester** by John Walker of 7 Circular-road Withington near Manchester in the said County Solicitor's Clerk the sole Executor.

EYES Thomas.

Personal Estate £375 10s. 5d.

10 February. The Will of Thomas Eyes late of Stretton near Warrington in the County of **Chester** Shoemaker who died 14 August 1887 at Stretton was proved at **Chester** by John Darbyshire of Stretton Surveyor the sole Executor.

EYET Josiah.

Personal Estate £273 15s.

22 September. The Will of Josiah Eyet late of Bourn in the County of **Lincoln** Brewer who died 11 September 1888 at Bourn was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Henry Eyet of Leigh in the County of Lancaster Builder the Son the sole Executor.

EYLES George Esq.

Personal Estate £6,490 12s. 10d.

4 February. The Will of George Eyles late of Lesham Villa Mortlake-road Kew in the County of **Surrey** Esquire who died 8 December 1887 at Lesham Villa was proved at the **Principal Registry** by George Lancelot Eyles of 2 Delahay - street Westminster in the County of Middlesex Civil Engineer the Son and William Matthew Woodland of Clarendon House Dorking in the County of Surrey Esquire the Nephew the Executors.

EYLES George.

Personal Estate £86 12s. 3d.

15 May. Administration of the Personal Estate of George Eyles late of the Parish of Wellow in the County of **Somerset** Farm Labourer who died 10 January 1888 at Wellow was granted at **Bristol** to Harriett Eyles of Wellow Widow the Relict.

EYLES Henry.

Personal Estate £868 11s. 10d.

10 November. Administration of the Personal Estate of Henry Eyles late of 80 Newgate-street in the City of **London** Bachelor who died 20 August 1888 at the Holloway Sanatorium Egham in the County of Surrey was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Alfred Eyles of 11 Strand in the County of Middlesex Jeweller's Assistant the Brother.

EYLES William.

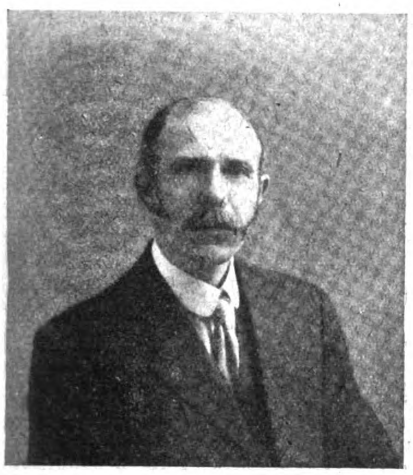
Personal Estate £10.

27 September. Administration of the Personal Estate of William Eyles late of 97 Kingsdown-parade in the City and County of **Bristol** Miller who died 5 April 1876 at 97 Kingsdown-parade was granted at **Bristol** to Catherine Eyles of 3 Montrose-avenue Ravenswood-road in the City and County of Bristol Widow the Relict.

oil of citronella, rubbed on the face or hands, are said to give immunity from their attacks. An American recipe is: Spirits of camphor one ounce, oil of citronella one ounce, and oil of cedar half an ounce.

A SAFE REMEDY FOR GOOSEBERRY SAWFLY.

May 6th.—Last year my Gooseberry bushes were badly infested with caterpillars, the larvæ of the Gooseberry sawfly, and before they were noticed some of the shoots were



MR. C. H. FAIRS.

completely denuded of their leaves. Most books on the subject recommend hand-picking, and nothing else; but this is a laborious operation, difficult, if not impossible, to manage where there are many bushes. In the leaflet published by the Ministry of Agriculture, spraying with hellebore wash, and also with Paris green, are mentioned, but as both are poisonous they are not safe to use at any time, and should certainly not be used within six or seven weeks from the gathering of the fruit. So I determined to try the effect of soapy water with a dash of paraffin, and found that it made the insects fall to the ground. When inspected about an hour later they were nearly all dead. A few were seen on the bushes on the following day, and were killed in the same way. That effected a clearance for a time. Fresh broods appeared once or twice during the summer, and they also were destroyed by spraying. So far as I could see, no harm was done by the liquid to the bushes.

NEMESIAS FOR LONG-FLOWERING.

May 7th.—For duration of flowering season Nemesias must be placed first among annuals, Antirrhinums, really perennials, but usually treated as annuals, being a good second. The latter have an advantage over the former in being larger, for it takes far fewer of them to fill a bed. Nemesias, being half hardy, are generally raised in boxes in the greenhouse and planted out in May, and if many of them are required they occupy much space, and give a good deal of trouble. By sowing them about the present time in the open ground, where they are to flower, it is possible to avoid these drawbacks. Of course, they will be late, but they will come into flower at a time when the want of colour is beginning to be felt, and they will continue until they are stopped by frost; or before that the best of them can be potted and taken indoors. They are excellent for filling gaps in the borders, but it should not be forgotten that the soil is liable to get very dry during the next few months, and under such conditions delicate annuals, especially those in the small seedling stage, cannot thrive. They must, therefore, be abundantly supplied with water.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous British Gardens.

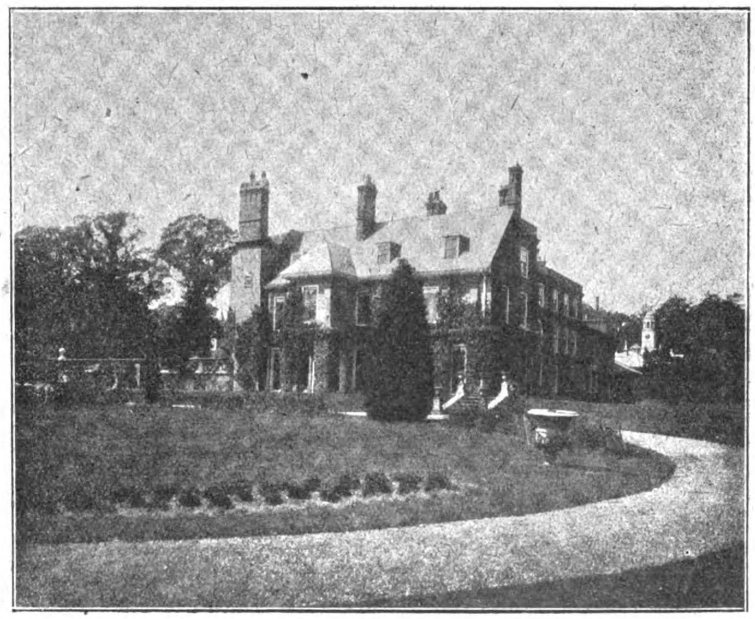
SANDERSTEAD COURT, SURREY.

Interview with Mr. C. H. Fairs.

SANDERSTEAD, three miles to the south of Croydon, has seen many changes in recent years. Building operations have transformed it from a quiet village to almost a suburb of its bigger neighbour, though most of the houses are to be found within easy reach of the railway station. But it still retains much of its rural charm, and when we reach the heights on which Sanderstead Court is situated we are removed from "the busy hum of men," and look out on practically unbroken views of hill and dale.

Sanderstead Court itself was once of considerable extent, but most of the land has come on the market for building purposes. It now comprises about a hundred acres, and is in the occupation of Mr. E. D. Morton, by whose courtesy I was enabled to visit the gardens in mid-April, being shown round by Mr. C. H. Fairs, who has been head gardener here for just over three years.

Entering from the main road by a long, winding drive through the park, we passed Mr. Fairs' house, which used to be the old manor house, and came first to the walled-in kitchen garden of two acres. Glancing around, the first thing to strike the eye was the bright show of colour. Most of the beds are surrounded by espalier and cordon fruit trees—Apples and Pears. The Pears were over, but the Apples were a most pleasing sight. Then, in front of these trees, there are borders about three feet wide, and these were resplendent with Wallflowers, Polyanthuses, and other spring flowers. The Wallflowers were especially good, being planted in large breadths of one colour—gold, or red, or yellow, or salmon.



SANDERSTEAD COURT, SURREY.

WALLFLOWERS NOT TRANSPLANTED.

"The varieties," said Mr. Fairs, "are Fire King, Harbinger, Carter's Salmon Pink, Golden King, Blood Red, and Primrose. They are grown in quantities, both for spring bedding and for cutting for the house. As soon as they have finished flowering we shall pull them up, and sow again."

"Do you sow them direct in these borders?"

"Yes; we sow them thinly in rows, and prick out the surplus into other beds and borders."

"Then these have not been moved since they were sown?"

"No; these have not been transplanted at all, and as you see, they are nice, dwarf, bushy plants. The soil is, of course, made firm. Sowing them direct in the borders saves a lot of trouble."

The main path in the kitchen garden forms a pretty walk, with the borders broader on each side. At the back of the borders is wire trellis, on which Wichuraianas and other Roses of rambling habit are trained. In front of these are herbaceous perennials, and some of these were, even in mid-April, showing buds, so early has been the season. I am not referring to the Arabis, Aubrietias, Violas, Alyssum saxatile, Polyanthuses, and other spring flowers, which were making a brave display, but to others which do not ordinarily commence till much later.

"What are the principal subjects?" I asked.

"There is a good representative collection; but among our best are Delphiniums, of which we have many choice varieties, late-flowering Phloxes, perennial Asters or Michaelmas Daisies, Helianthus, Liliums, Spiræas, both herbaceous and shrubby, Anchusas, Inulas, Chrysanthemum maximum King Edward VII., Trollius, Pæonies, Echinops, and Thalictrums."

"You have a lot of plants already in bloom or coming on."

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EARLY FLOWERS.

"The herbaceous Lupins, as you see, are showing colour, and Oriental Poppies will not be long. The Crown Imperials are over. Doronicums are flowering nicely; and here is a plant we greatly admire, the old-fashioned Spiderwort, Tradescantia virginiana. The flowers do not last long, but they are very pretty; while in early spring, before it come into bloom, its beautiful red tint makes a lovely bit of colour in the border. The perennial Gypsophila does very well here, and so does Statice. Then we have many old-fashioned plants, among them Jerusalem Sage, Phlomis fruticosa, which makes a pretty shrub with yellow flowers. It is well worth growing."

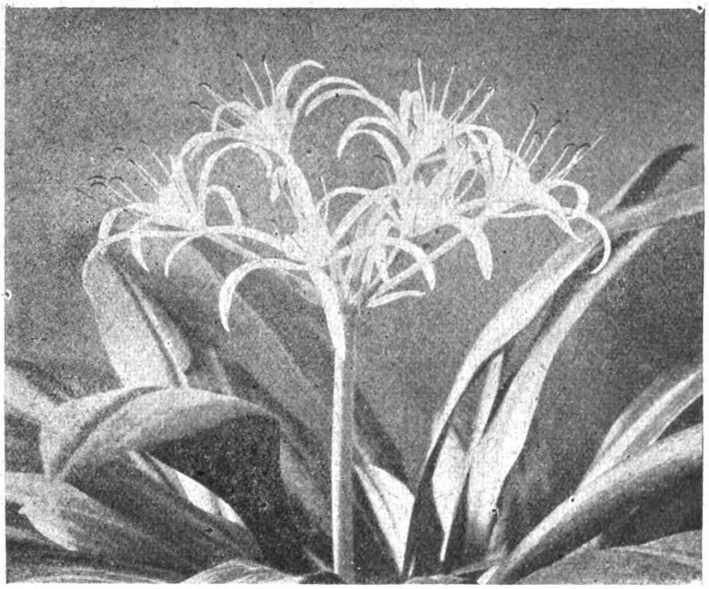
"Do you grow many flowers for cutting?"

"Yes, a lot, both annuals and perennials. They are in great request for decoration. We have some on the borders in this garden, growing especially for the purpose."

"You have a nice bed of Asparagus here, I notice."

"It is very forward, and we have been cutting since the third week in March. Our early Peas are coming on nicely in this border."

"What are the favourite varieties?"



A FRAGRANT AUTUMN-FLOWERING PLANT FOR THE STOVE, HYMENOCALLIS OVATA (SYN. PANCRATIUM FRAGRANS).

"Chelsea Gem is the earliest—this is a splendid thing. Gradus follows, then Duke of Albany, and later we have Alderman and Autocrat. Our earliest Potatoes are Sharpe's Express, Duke of York, and May Queen; and for maincrop Majestic and Kerr's Pink. In the field we grow three acres of Scottish Farmer and Arran Chief."

Passing other beds where Broccoli were coming on well, and Parsnips The Student and Maltese were also showing nicely (Mr. Fairs is trying Maltese for the first time), we went outside the walls for a moment to see the bush fruit, for which a large space is caged in. The principal Gooseberry is Warrington, but there are a dozen other varieties, giving a long season.

Then, returning through the kitchen garden, we made our way to the Palm house. Anthurium scherzerianum, with its vivid scarlet spathe, gave a warm touch of colour, and another hybrid of this colour was also very noticeable. The beautifully marbled leaves of Begonia Rex decorated the stages, and there were nice batches of Orchids, principally Dendrobium fimbriatum and Cœlogyne cristata, Charlesworth's variety.

A USEFUL STOVE PLANT.

"Here is a plant which we find very useful in autumn," said Mr. Fairs. "Pancratium fragrans is its name, and it is also called Hymenocallis ovata. The flowers are white, and very sweet-scented. Asparagus plumosus is grown to give trails for decoration."

In the early vinery, which we next visited, were several pots of Osborn's Early Forcing Dwarf Bean, with pods well set. The Vines are chiefly Black Hamburgh, with one Madresfield Court. On the staging Maidenhair Ferns were standing, with a number of Hippeastrums, and a large pot had a balloon-trained Bougainvillea glabra. The adjoining house is the late Vinery, and has Gros Maroc, Muscat of Alexandria, Alicante, Mrs. Pince, Mauresfield Court, and Gros Colmar, all looking in splendid condition. Strong plants of Clivias were resting here after flowering, and Hydrangeas were being brought on.

A WELL-ORDERED CONSERVATORY.

Leaving the Vinery, we now entered the flowering house, or conservatory, a long, rather narrow structure where the plants are brought when in bloom. A wealth of colour and fragrance was here presented. Half way down, Climbing Niphetos Rose was still flowering profusely after many weeks; and the Lyon Rose was splendid, both in colour and shape—indeed, as fine as this lovely variety can be at its best. Camellias in large pots were full of bloom; Deutzia gracilis was a mass of starry white flowers; and the charming, old-fashioned Diplacus glutinosus, with its orange-coloured flowers, was very attractive. Nor was this all: Zonal Geraniums were brilliant; Acacia armata, with its soft, pale yellow blooms, gave a quieter tone; an Orange was carrying its golden fruits; and a good batch of Cinerarias, in their many colours, afforded further variety. On the back wall Ficus repens made a close green covering, and a Bougainvillea ran along the front.

"The Primulas are now getting over," said Mr. Fairs, "but they have been very good. They are principally the stellata type of Primula sinensis, but we also find P. malacoides very useful. Cyclamens are done with for the season, and so are the Azaleas; but we still have a few Arums. All these plants are used for decorating the tables. In this little house at the end we have a fine batch of Hippeastrums or Amaryllis coming on, and we find room for a lot of Ferns, as there is always a big demand for these for the house. In fact, we are never without flowers, and keep up a succession all through the year."

Outside this conservatory we came to the frame yard, admirably equipped. Here plenty of young plants were coming on, to be used later for bedding; other frames had batches of Gloxinias, or half-hardy annuals, or early Carrots, salad plants, etc.

GOOD MALMAISON CARNATIONS.

Perpetual-flowering and Malmaison Carnations occupied another house, and concerning them Mr. Fairs remarked:

"Our collection of Perpetuals is small. It includes Carola, Snowstorm, R. F. Felton, Mrs. H. Burnett, Britannia, and White House. The Malmaisons are all the best varieties, and we make a nice show with them. Nell Gwynne is a good one, and so is Mrs. Martin Smith, but it has the fault of growing too tall. Others of merit are H. J. Jones, Prime Minister, Charles Fremantle, Mercia, R. H. Measures, and Baldwin. The pots of Clarkias you see here are for house and conservatory decoration; and the large tubs of Agapanthus will be moved outside shortly for the summer."

The Orchid house, which we next visited, is of good size, and well built. Cypripediums of the insigne type do well, as do C. barbatum, C. villosum, C. Spicerianum, and C. Boxalli. Miltonia vexillaria is a strong plant; and there are good specimens of Dendrobium nobile, densiflorum, thyrsiflorum, chrysanthum, and Wardianum; Lycaste aromatica, Odontoglossum maculatum, Vanda kimballiana, and a few Cattleyas, principally of the Mossiæ and Trianæ types.

In the Melon house, where the varieties are Blenheim and Hero of Lockinge, there were some superbly coloured Coleuses; and the next house had early Tomatoes.

A USEFUL TOMATO.

"The Tomato is Winter Beauty, which we find very useful for early work. As you see, it has set well, and is of good habit. Later on we shall have Melons here, and Cucumbers."

"What Cucumber do you prefer?

"Rochford Market is our best. It is not big, but it is a continuous cropper. In the other house, where most of our Tomatoes are grown, we have, in addition to Winter Beauty, Sutton's Best of All, Ailsa Craig, and, for a later batch, Bide's Recruit."

In this house, too, were pots with Vegetable Marrows, Stocks and Begonias for bedding, and a batch of Japanese Chrysanthemums of the leading sorts, just moved into 6-in. pots.

Outside these houses were more frames, all filled—some with Brussels Sprouts and others of the Cabbage tribe; some with Violets waiting to be planted out; some with saladings and some with annuals of all sorts.

"The annuals," said Mr. Fairs, "are sown in frames over gentle hotbeds to give them a start, and when they are large enough to handle they are pricked off into other frames. This saves time, and we do not cumber the greenhouses."

Leaving now the houses, we came out of the kitchen garden to the Rose garden, with its thirteen beds cut in the grass. Pillar Roses take off any suggestion of flatness, and the beds are planted in masses of one colour, the varieties being all the best of the modern types.

CHOICE SHRUBS.

Beyond this is a shrubbery, backed by a wall, and here are many choice shrubs and climbers, which Mr. Fairs pointed out as we went along.

"Euonymus latifolius," he said, "is always effective because of its evergreen foliage. Garrya elliptica has curious green, drooping flowers in spring. Clematis montana will bloom a little later, and is then very pretty. Vitis muralis is one of the ornamental Vines,

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with richly coloured foliage in autumn. Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles flowers well; but Chimonanthus fragrans, the Winter-sweet, does not like the cold aspect, and for the same reason Magnolia conspicua is not a success, as the wood does not ripen, and so it does not flower as it should. Jasmine is very satisfactory, however, and so is Mahonia aquifolium. In the border in front we have Roses, which are grown to give cut flowers."

We were now approaching the terrace lawns on the south-east front of the house, and so got a good view of the spring bedding. One bed had Wallflowers, edged with double Arabis; another was composed of Aubrietias and Polyanthuses; the third and fourth had Wallflowers, edged respectively with Forget-me-nots and Polyanthuses. The Arabis was also most effectively employed on an old tree stump on the further side of the lawn, covering it as though with a white sheet.

"How will you fill these beds for summer?" I asked.

"They will have Geranium Paul Crampel, Salvia Pride of Zurich, Heliotrope Lord Roberts, Ivy-leaved Geraniums Madame Crousse and Charles Turner, Antirrhinums, and annuals. In fact, we make a great show with annuals of all sorts, filling some of the borders with them as well. They give bright colours, and come in handy for cutting. We also grow many Dahlias."

Across this lawn, and forming a background to it, is a bed of flowering shrubs, which, from spring to autumn, is bright either with blooms or berries. Lilacs in several varieties, Cistuses, Viburnums, Cotoneasters, Deutzia crenata, Laurustinus, Berberis stenophylla and Darwinii, and Buddleia globosa are among the subjects planted and growing vigorously.

The terrace lawn is only one of several at Sanderstead Court—indeed, lawns may be said to be a feature here, and to keep them in order is a big operation. During the war they had to go, and they are not yet back to their previous state. At one time a wall divided the main lawn from the park, but this has been removed, and a ha-ha, or sunk wall, substituted, opening up the view from the house.

The trees on the lawns are very fine, among them being a Cedar well over two hundred years old, and three lovely Copper Beeches. Beyond the terrace lawn is a clump of evergreen Oaks of fine appearance; and the Elms also are very striking. Under many of the trees, and close up to their trunks, are colonies of Forget-me-nots, and in the grass are Daffodils and other bulbs innumerable.

The main front of the house is covered with Ivy of several varieties, the only other plant being Magnolia grandiflora, in a rather sheltered corner, where it flowers magnificently.

Pointing to a large clump of Rhododendrons near by, Mr. Fair remarked:

"That is Rhododendron ponticum, and it is the only species that can be said to do well here. The ground gets too dry in summer, and the Rhododendrons suffer."

A brief chat on the fruit prospects brought my visit to a conclusion.

GOOD FRUIT TREES.

"Apples, Plums, and Pears all promise well," said Mr. Fairs, "and so do the Cherries on the walls. We have most of the leading varieties of Apples, and among those I find do especially well here are Tower of Glamis, Warner's King, Alfriston, Lane's Prince Albert, Newton Wonder, Hormead Pearmain, Cox's Orange Pippin, Blenheim Orange as a standard (it does not do well as a cordon on the walls), Wealthy (which has a very good colour), Sturmer Pippin, and Rosemary Russet."

"Does the fruit keep well?"

"We still have some for use; but I cannot say that we have a good fruit room, for a hot-water pipe passes under the floor to connect up the glasshouses. It is well covered with sand, but the air gets very dry, and we have to damp the floor during the season. However, we manage to keep the fruit firm."

"Do you have much trouble with pests?"

"When I came here the Apples were badly infested with caterpillars, but by the use of arsenate of lead we got the better of them. In winter we use a caustic wash to keep down insects and clean the trees, and the result is very noticeable. I think fruit crops throughout the country would be greatly improved if more time was given to spraying, both in winter and summer.

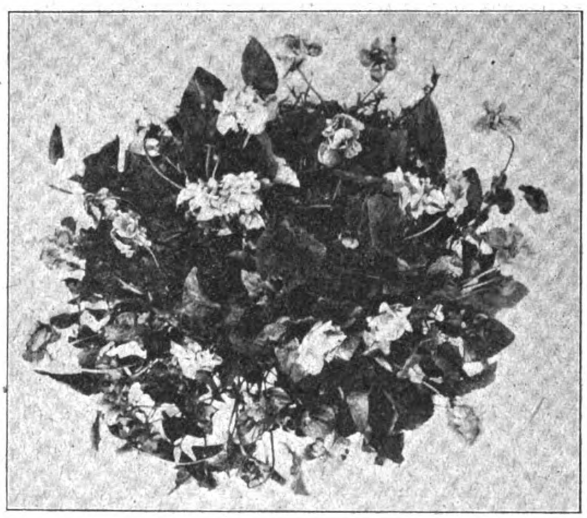
Mr. Fairs, as I have already mentioned, has been at Sanderstead Court for three years. He was for nearly thirteen years at Hillfield, Reigate, and previously was at Stonehurst, Ardingly, for five years—this was his first place as head gardener—also at Horley and Reigate. W. J. CHITTENDEN.

INCREASING VIOLETS.

There are two methods used for increasing Violets, and two periods in which to do it. Increase may be by division of the old plants, and by suckers, either in spring time or in the autumn. The plan most generally adopted is to take suckers, in preference to dividing the plants, as much finer flowers are produced, and the time for doing it is the present month, after the flowering period.

Choose a partially shaded position on a medium soil, to which some leaf-mould may be added, and if heavier a dressing of burnt earth or road sweepings. Plant the runners one foot apart each way. Water them well in, and keep them moist through the summer, with an occasional watering through a rose or syringe in the evening, to check red spider. Hoe frequently, to keep down weeds and admit air, and remove any runners that form.

Whether for outdoor beds, or for frames or pots, this is an excellent method to adopt, as good flowering plants will be produced. Those for outdoor blooming should be shifted to a sunny position in September, at the same time removing those that are to be flowered on a prepared bed in frames. Spare frames placed over any left standing will repay the trouble taken. Single varieties are most suitable for open-air work, the doubles requiring cover. The best single perhaps is Princess of Wales, and the double, Marie Louise. A. WHEELER.



A FLORIFEROUS VIOLET.

WHITE FRITILLARIAS.

The white varieties of the Snake's Head Lilies, Fritillaria meleagris, look well at present in the border, but much more delightful in the rock garden, where they are springing up among the dwarf carpeters. I have several groups here, differing slightly in purity, shape, or size of flower, and also in height, but one group is particularly charming with its setting greenery, formed by spreading bushes of Helianthemums or Sun Roses. The White Fritillarias will be over before the Sun Roses shine resplendent in the brilliance of their colouring, but at present the foliage of the latter is all that is required to accentuate the beauty of their drooping white bells.

Although other varieties, some very attractive in their quaint way, are offered in autumn, the white ones, which may be purchased separately, are so lovely that they ought to be planted in quantity.

Theoretically these Fritillarias should have plenty of moisture, but it is wonderful how well they thrive in a dry soil, and how freely they bloom in sandy loam. They should be taken a note of for ordering in early autumn, and planting three inches deep as soon as possible after they have been received. S. ARNOTT.

BUDDLEIAS.

Those who are familiar with the Orange Ball Tree (Buddleia globosa) of our nursery days, will hardly recognise it at the present time, when fiery orange replaces the somewhat duller tints of former years.

But not all are acquainted with the glories of Buddleia amplissima, the Purple Buddle Bush, a most rapid-growing shrub, with flower-spikes two to three feet in length. The colour is absolutely magnificent, brilliant claret-purple, changing into violet and ruby tints, like to a veritable sunset over an amethyst sea. I saw one at its best on a south-west wall, topped by a Cratægus Pyracantha Lelandi, whose summer flowers made a lily-white shower mingling with the deep, rich tones of B. amplissima. But in autumn the last lingering blossoms of the Buddleia made a still more striking display, set off by the orange-scarlet berries of the Fiery Thorn. R. D. P.

Bare ground beneath deciduous trees may be planted with Rose of Sharon (Hypericum calycinum), which will spread by means of underground stems, and cover the soil. It is nearly evergreen, lasting well through the winter. Beautiful variegated evergreens for such situations are Euonymus radicans variegata and E. r. Silver Gem.

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GARDEN LIFE

(ILLUSTRATED)

A Practical Journal for Amateur Gardeners.

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NEXT WEEK'S WORK IN THE GARDEN.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

THE flowers of summer are now fast giving place to those of autumn; already the days are rapidly decreasing in length, and the nights increasing correspondingly, and almost before we know it the autumnal equinox will be here. There is still time for a few weeks of fine and fairly mild weather, but the summer, such as it was, is practically over, and the time has arrived when it becomes necessary to begin making preparations for the winter.

The propagation of tender and half-hardy bedding plants of many kinds must now be pushed forward as rapidly as possible, and should, indeed, be completed as soon as a sufficient number of cuttings can be obtained and got in. Where large beds, or spaces, have to be filled, the autumn-struck plants, of "Geraniums" in particular, will be found greatly superior to those got in in the spring, as not only making larger plants, but possessing more "bottom," and being consequently more floriferous, as well as commencing to flower earlier. Cuttings of these plants will root more or less well if inserted at any time this month (September), and I have even struck them successfully in October, or later; but the earlier cuttings not only form roots more freely and quickly, but they require less care, as well as less artificial heat, and make better plants before the cold weather comes, so that there are fewer losses. Where large numbers are required, boxes of moderate size are quite as useful as pots, and much less troublesome; they should be three or four inches deep, and of any convenient size. Do not crowd the cuttings unduly, but allow a space of two to two and a-half inches between them, provide free drainage, and make the soil firm.

Where Lobelias are propagated by means of cuttings—and this is necessary if absolute uniformity is required—no time must be lost in securing a stock to stand the winter and provide cuttings in the spring. As good a plan as any is to cut over a few old or flowering plants in the open ground, so as to remove all the flowering shoots—this is best done a little earlier, in August, but there is still time. They will soon break up from the base again, and should then be lifted, pulled into moderate-sized pieces, and these be placed in pots, three and a-half to five inches in diameter, placing three to five in each, according to size. Keep them in a cool pit or frame for a time, and remove to a light shelf in the greenhouse before the cold weather sets in. If large clumps are potted up without division, damp frequently settles in the centre, and then it is almost impossible to save them.

Choice Antirrhinums may be increased by means of cuttings inserted now, in a frame, or under a handlight. Small sideshoots, about two inches long, and each with a "heel," make the best cuttings, and root freely in sandy soil, but these pretty plants come so well and true from

THE GARDENER'S HOUSE AT BIFRONS.

than they do if kept until spring, when the integument, hardened by exposure to the air, offers more resistance to the development of the germ inside, and the plants get an earlier start, and consequently grow more strongly, whether they are annuals or perennials. The rule applies to plants of all kinds, but unless those which come from warmer climates can be grown here under the same conditions as they are accustomed to, it is necessary to defer sowing the seeds until the cold months have passed, and

MR. D. FAIRWEATHER AND THE PRIZE CUP.

there lies before them a period of genial weather. Obviously, this does not alter the general principle, upon which, one would think, there should be no need to insist, yet I find many people habitually wait until spring to sow hardy perennials and hardy annuals. I would suggest to them, as an object-lesson, to sow part of a packet of the newly-gathered seeds of Mikado Poppies at once, and the remainder in the spring. They will find that the plants from the former, besides being more numerous, will be a race of giants compared with those from the latter.

August 28th.—I notice a curious thing about my Hollyhocks. There are a good many in the garden, mostly over now, a tall row against a Privet hedge having been especially effective; though, from the cultural standpoint, the position is undoubtedly a bad one, for Hollyhocks like strong food and plenty of it, and this they cannot get so close to the roots of the Privet. Still, they have done remarkably well. Yet, early in the year, I more than once thought of digging up and destroying every Hollyhock in the garden. I never saw plants in a worse state. Stems, as well as leaves, were covered with the brown spots of the fungus Puccinia malvacearum; the leaves withered and fell off; only a few were left on top. But when vigorous growth commenced the position changed entirely. The new leaves that were formed remained green and unspotted, and now, with the exception of some black scars on the lower parts of the stems, there is scarcely a trace of disease to be seen. What has caused the change? The wet weather is the only reason I can think of. It is true that moisture is necessary to the germination of the spores; but, on the other hand, for the fertilisation of most plants, a fairly dry atmosphere is required, and that may apply to fungi. Of course, the fact that the heavy rains helped the Hollyhocks to grow with unusual vigour, and so increased their power of resistance to disease, must also be borne in mind.

August 29th.—To the ordinary person—no, this is not the man in the street, who is a purely political person, a sort of Mrs. Harris in trousers, whose opinions on questions of the day are regarded with awe by newspaper editors—there is but one Spiræa, and, curiously enough, though popularly known by that name, it is not a Spiræa at all, but an Astilbe—Astilbe japonica. However, as the differences between the two genera are comparatively slight, it will probably continue to be called a Spiræa. It is forced in enormous quantities for market. This, no doubt, is the reason why the existence of the others is ignored. Yet there are over fifty species of Spiræa and seven of Astilbe, besides a large number of varieties, and most of them are worth growing. Some of the new hybrids are much superior to the type, Blondin, Queen of Holland, and W. E. Gladstone being especially beautiful. Filipendula plena, a charming plant, with double white flowers, used to be grown in many old-fashioned gardens, and now that the herbaceous border has superseded the set bed is sure to find a place in it again. Another of the best dwarf kinds is palmata, with crimson flowers from June to August. Of the taller species, lobata, sometimes called the Queen of the Prairies, has peach-coloured flowers, and grows eight feet high—[This is usually known as S. venusta, and has flowers of a rich rosy-crimson, rather than peach-colour.—ED.]—while gigantea, with white flowers, often attains a height of ten feet. To these must be added the handsome Davidii, newly introduced, and still rather expensive. All may be grown either outside or under glass, their chief requirements being plenty of water.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

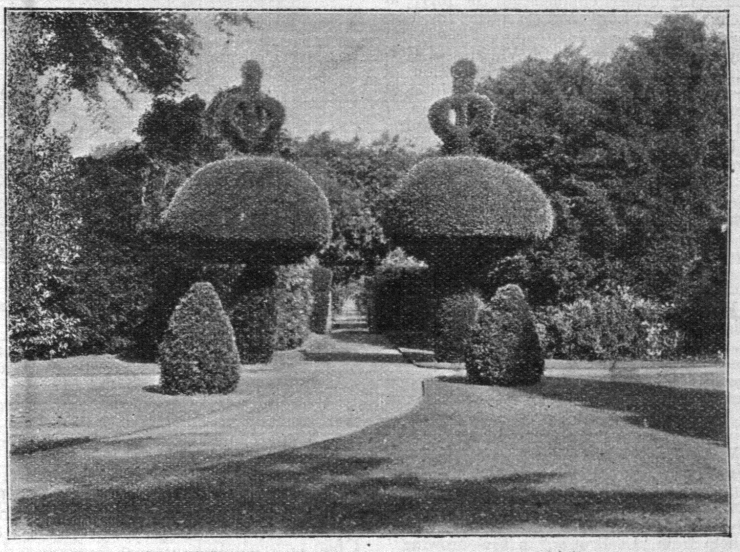
FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 100.—MR. DAVID FAIRWEATHER, AT THE GARDENS, BIFRONS, CANTERBURY.

ONE of the best-known gardeners in the neighbourhood of Canterbury, and, in fact, in the county of Kent, is Mr. David Fairweather, who last year won the challenge cup at the Canterbury Show, in November, for the finest group of Chrysanthemums. Mr. Fairweather is head gardener at Bifrons, a delightful place at Bridge, situated a few miles from the Cathedral city, and belonging to the Marquis of Conyngham, a minor, but at present in the occupation of Mr. F. Penn, brother of the Member for Lewisham. The park and gardens extend over upwards of two hundred acres, and the latter, as I found on the occasion of my visit to Bifrons, possess many features of interest. They are about ten acres in extent, and there are eight houses, consisting of two conservatories, two Vineries, Carnation houses, a stove, and a Peach house. One of the conservatories is used as a Chrysanthemum show-house, and Chrysanthemums being the flower which has always been a special subject of attention on the part of Mr. Fairweather, I started my inquiries in that house by asking the number of Chrysanthemums grown this year.

"About nine hundred," replied Mr. Fairweather, "including nearly all the latest novelties. My particular favourites amongst the older varieties are Madame Gustave Henry, W. R. Church, and Mrs. George Mildmay."

"What about Incurved varieties?"



ORNAMENTAL TREES AT BIFRONS.

"I have done away with them altogether, and though I admire the flowers, I think that they will soon be out of date, because they are a little too formal for house decoration. At any rate, the ladies here do not care about them."

"Then you only grow the Japanese?"

"Indoors. I should add to the list of favourites I have already named, the Viviand Morel, Charles Davis, and Harmen. The seven varieties are all good in colour, and dwarf growers. In addition to the Chrysanthemums indoors, I grow a number outside."

"What do you consider most essential in respect to cultivation?"

"First of all, Chrysanthemums should be kept hardy from the beginning. A good open position should be given them in summer. Also, every plant should stand clear of its neighbour."

"As I saw them, trained to wires along each side of the path in the kitchen garden?"

"Yes. Then, the first week in August—just now, in fact—we earth the plants up with a little bonemeal and fertiliser. A week later we take the buds off. Florence Molyneux, which is very difficult to cultivate, but repays one for the work, General Hutton, General Buller, Frances Connor, and Edward VII. are showing buds. When the buds are about the size of Peas, I give them something extra, twice a week."

"As your plants look so well, I should like to know what?"

"I feed with Wovel's liquid manure powder. I have tried everything else, but last year I used this, and it was one of my most successful seasons."

"How many prizes did you take last season?"

"Seventeen, including first in the open for twenty-four cut flowers, and the cup for the group. This was at the Canterbury Show, and I hope to take them in November again. All the prizes were gained at the Canterbury Show. In fact, I had a prize for every entry."

"Have you been showing for a long time?"

"More than twenty years altogether. All the Chrysanthemums then grown are now out of cultivation. Of course, I commenced at the bottom, and made my way by degrees until I took the first place. It cannot be done by any other process. The Canterbury Society had only been started two years when I joined. It is the mother of all the societies in East Kent."

"But you have not been at Bifrons twenty years?"

"No. My first post as head gardener, in East Kent, was at Fordwick House, Canterbury. But my gardening career commenced, in 1871, at Cortachy Castle, Lord Airlie's place, in Forfarshire, where I served an apprenticeship for three years. There were large Vineries at Cortachy, and I went in for the cultivation of Grapes from the outset. In my next position, at Buchanan Castle, Loch Lomond, where I stayed for over a year, Grapes were a feature. Then I was foreman at Burn Hall, Durham, for two years, Grapes being also a feature there. When I came to East Kent it was in the capacity of estate foreman, at the time the gardens at Westgate-on-Sea were being laid out, at the cost of the late Mr. Edmund F. Davis. I had thirty men under me."

"How long did you remain there?"

"Twelve months, after which I went to Fordwick House, and there I began paying special attention to Chrysanthemums. I was there six years, and then I became head gardener at Hutton House, Westgate. I was one of the originators of the Margate Show, and exhibited frequently during the six years I was at Westgate. The gardens at Hutton House, about five acres in extent, were entirely laid out by me, and there Vineries and a few Orchids were the principal features. The second year after the Vines were planted, I exhibited at the Margate and St. Peter's shows, and took first prize at both. I derived there, and have derived here also, great help from 'Le Frutier' in Vine-growing."

"Have you shown much in the way of Grapes since you have been here?"

"In the four years I have been at Bifrons, I have taken five first prizes at Dover for Grapes alone (at one show)."

"And the Grapes you grow here?"

"Black Hambro', Madresfield Court, and Muscat of Alexandria are the three that do best. I grow a few Alicantes, but they do not thrive as they did at Westgate."

"Can you explain why?"

"The only reason is, I think, that the Alicante Vine is fond of chalk, and here there is none. The subsoil is clay. On the other hand, at Westgate the Muscats did not flourish so much. By the way, we had all plate glass in the Vineries at Westgate. At first I had a prejudice against it, but the architect said, 'Try it,' and I found that it answered remarkably well."

"You do not, I gather, go in for Orchids?"

"We did when I first came, but the collection has since been sold, and the houses used for Tomatoes."

"Then you grow Tomatoes largely?"

"Considerably; and we have done very well with them. The varieties are Perfection, Duke of York, and Challenger. I find Challenger is the best cropper, but it is not quite so solid and heavy as the other two varieties."

"Which do you consider the best early Nectarines?"

"Lord Napier and Pineapple. We have also Early Rivers and the Waterloo Peach. The best late Peach is Sea Eagle. We grow an extensive quantity of Peaches outside, including Noblesse, Early Rivers, and Diamond. The last is one of the very best. Lately I have grown a few Pears indoors, in 12-in. pots."

"They seem to be doing extremely well?"

"The varieties are Pitmaston Duchess, Conference, and Fertility. So far, I have not changed the trees, and some of the fruit last year weighed over a pound. I think it will exceed that this year."

"What number of Malmaisons do you grow in the Carnation house?"

"About six hundred. The six favourites are Princess of Wales (pink), Cecilia (yellow), Mrs. F. Sander (pink), Mrs. Towns (pink), H. J. Jones (the best dark crimson), and Lady Grimston (the striped flower) When I first came, I could not grow Carnations successfully, because I had no separate house, but as soon as I had the separate houses, which are really a necessity, they began to thrive. Rust used to smother the plants in the mixed house. Now it simply tries to come, but it is manageable, and we can pick it off. I syringe the plants once a week with an insecticide."

"Do you care to give any hints as to the general treatment?"

"Carnations want a little fire heat, plenty of ventilation at all seasons, very little water in the winter, and plenty of water and syringing in the summer. When the flower-buds show we give them a weak liquid manure with the watering-can. The spider is the most formidable enemy of Carnations, and can only be resisted by constant syringing. We pot the plants up in small 'sixties,' and transfer them to the blooming-pots about November or December—the sooner the better, as the pots should be fairly filled with roots before the winter sets in."

Then, having looked at the fine collection of Kentias in the Palm house, and at the Crotons and Dracænas, with the Maidenhair Ferns, in the stove, we went outside. The beautifully kept lawns, and the cricket ground—Mr. Penn is a devotee of the great summer game—and the trees dotted about them, including some excellent specimens of Wellingtonias, Pinus in variety, and Abies nobilis, having been noted, I asked about the bedding in front.

"This is our only formal bedding," said Mr. Fairweather, "and just now, as you see, the beds are filled with Pentstemons Newbury Gem (about a hundred and fifty plants), and tri-coloured Geraniums. At the side there are Prince of Wales's Feather, Iresine, Geraniums, Flower of the Day, and Ageratums."

"Your Yew hedges are very striking?"

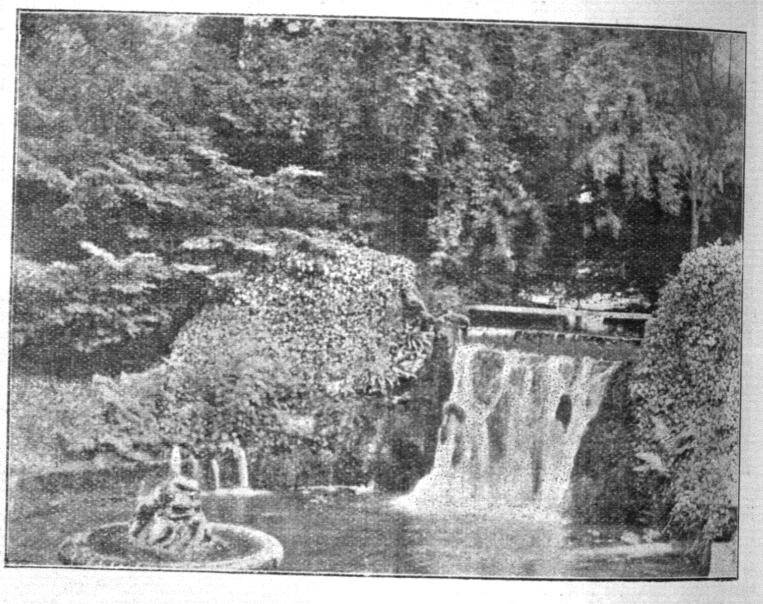
"Yes; and they go round the whole of the walls. The shrubberies by the waterfall and Cascade Cottage are always much admired. There are some good flowering shrubs in the collection, such as Spiræas, Syringas, and Deutzias, with a foreground of Ferns and rock-work, and the usual varieties of evergreens."

Proceeding past the charming little church for the parishioners of Patrixbourne, which stands in the grounds, we crossed the lawn again, and arrived at the centre path of the kitchen garden. Here are archways of exceeding beauty, planted with Crimson Rambler Roses and fruit, which give the kitchen garden the appearance of a flower garden, the vegetables being quite concealed from view."

"When were the arches made?" I asked.

"Eight or nine years ago, when the Crimson Rambler was sent out. The border is about seven feet wide each side, and the arches are about twelve feet apart. They do not obstruct the light in the least. The original idea was to have arches of Roses, Clematis, and Apples, alternately, and it is still practically carried out. The Roses are principally Crimson Ramblers."

"The effect is certainly very pretty, and is heightened by the show of Sweet Peas on either side."



THE WATERFALL AT BIFRONS.

"We also grow on each side some nice Border Carnations. The herbaceous plants include Gypsophila paniculata, Bocconia cordata, Michaelmas Daisies, Delphiniums, and the Everlasting Pea, red, white, and pink and red."

"What varieties of Apples do you grow on the arches?"

"Bismarck, Cox's Pippin, and King of the Pippins, chiefly. These, I find, do very well trained on the cordon system. The collection of Apples is good, but we have no fruit this year. The same applies to Pears and Plums, except that we have a few of the former (Pitmaston Duchess) on the walls."

"Do you go in for any particular kind of vegetable?"

"Yes; Onions are a feature. I found the seed in the garden, and I have always saved it from year to year. Though I have tried Ailsa Craig, and other popular varieties, I have always found my own, which has the local name of the Bifrons Onion, turn out best. Last year I had fourteen barrow-loads off a patch of ground seven yards wide and thirty yards long. This year the Onions are a little smaller, but still very good. The failing in size is general, owing to blight, I have observed it in judging, both as to Onions and Potatoes."

"Are you in the habit of judging much?"

"I judge the allotments and cottage gardens in three parishes, and the blight is very noticeable."

"Do you know the origin of the Bifrons Onion?"

"It is a cross between the Portugal and the White Spanish. The head gardener who was here before me for half a century grew the Onion for thirty years. I have shown specimens in a collection of vegetables, and they have been praised."

"You grow the Loganberry?"

"Yes; I have had it three years. It bears well, and the fruit is fine and large. The Japanese Wineberry is even more useful and decorative. Only it is essential to keep it covered up, otherwise the birds take all the fruit. The Loganberry is more for cooking purposes, and the Wineberry for dessert."

"How long has the Rosery been in existence?"

"Some years. We have the Roses which are most useful for cutting. Of these, I think that the two best are Mrs. John Laing and La France. We are rather fond of Tea Roses, especially Anna Olivier, Catherine Mermet, Mrs. W. J. Grant, and L'Ideal."

Passing up Church Walk, which is of considerable length, and has on one side a Yew hedge, and on the other tall shrubs and herbaceous plants, we came back to the house, in close proximity to which I observed a flourishing specimen of that popular, flowering wall-plant, Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, and was not surprised to hear that at the Bridge Flower Show, which is held in Bifrons Park, Miss Annie Fairweather won the first prize for the most prettily decorated bicycle, the feature of the decorations being the blue flower of the Ceanothus. When we had finished our rounds, I was surprised to learn that all the work of the gardens and houses is done by a staff of six men and a boy, though when Orchids were grown the number was thirteen. Finally, I congratulated Mr. Fairweather upon the very pretty garden which faces his picturesque house, where, round the trimly-kept lawn, grow Climbing Roses on pillars, white and pink Carnations, Ampelopsis Veitchii, Spanish Broom, Arabis, Aubrietia, Everlasting Peas, and many other varieties attractive to the eye.

ALFRED WILCOX.

BLACK CURRANTS are making exceptionally high prices this summer, as much as twenty-four shillings per bushel having been paid for this fruit in the wholesale markets. This is partly due to the ravages of the Black Currant mite (Phytoptus), and partly to the scarcity of other fruits.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 57.—SHRUBS AND CLIMBERS FOR AN EIGHT-FOOT WALL.

DEAR KATE,—So you want to know what to plant on that bare wall opposite, but not near, your drawing-room windows? It faces the late afternoon sun, you say, so the aspect must be west, with a point to the north; and this is a very good position for many beautiful shrubs which will not stand the east winds of our treacherous springs. Don't, whatever you do, put in a lot of evergreens without flowers, such as Laurels, Ivy, Euonymus (my pet horror!), Box, etc., for what we want in our gardens is colour, not greenery alone; and flowering shrubs are so lovely (giving such a quantity of valuable decorative material for our homes, too) that it is really a great mistake to plant nothing but these flowerless things, which exhaust the soil enormously also, so that the flowers in the border in front of your wall would be quite starved. Ivy is not so bad as Laurels

BERBERIS DARWINI.

in this way, but, then, its woody stems, and thick, leathery, shining leaves afford such a splendid winter refuge for snails, woodlice, earwigs, and all manner of insects, that these would issue forth like an army in the spring, and devour most of your border plants.

There are various berried shrubs of rather low growth which you might put in, and these look very cheerful in winter; Cotoneaster microphylla is one of these, which is covered in summer with tiny, white, starlike flowers, and in winter with masses of coral-red berries. Then there is the Fire-thorn, Cratægus pyracantha, with brilliant carmine berries in large bunches, and several of the Barberries, two of the best being Berberis Thunbergi, with crimson berries, and B. aquifolia, with shining leaves splashed with red, purple berries, and pale yellow flowers in the earlier spring. B. Darwini is a beautiful thing, too, for (though its berries are not very conspicuous, being dark purple) it is covered in March with brilliant orange-red blossoms, which make the shrub look almost as though it were on fire. The Buddleia globosa, the Honeyball of Japan, though it suffers much from the late frosts and cold winds of spring, does well in a position sheltered from these. I have a magnificent specimen of this very handsome shrub, growing against a west wall; it is now over fifteen feet high, and quite as thick through, and when it is covered with its golden balls, in May, it is quite a sight. Another plant of Buddleia globosa, in a more exposed part of the grounds, looks miserable by comparison, for the cold makes it drop its leaves in winter. These plants seldom grow above ten feet in height, out of Japan, but it is all a matter of sheltering them from the winds of spring, I think. Weigela rosea (and its varieties in white, crimson, etc.) are very pretty shrubs, producing flowers in Apple-blossom pink, in May. They look very well in company with Philadelphus coronaria (often called Syringa, though this is really the title of Lilac), and the bright pink flowers of Ribes sanguinea are delightful in spring, too. Deutzias, in pink and white, and Spiræas, too (of which bumalda var. Antony Waterer is the best), in variety, will do well, if your border is rather moist. In a very dry spot, Cistus ladaniferus will flourish; I have a fine plant of this on a dry, gravelly bank, which is a mass of bloom for weeks every summer, and the white, crumpled-silk flowers, each petal blotched with a sort of peacock's eye, are remarkably beautiful, and there are other varieties nearly as good. The soft blue flowers of Ceanothus azureus are very effective amongst the more common pink tints, and the bright yellow flowers of Kerria japonica are very effective in February and March. The lovely flowering Quinces of Japan (Pyrus japonica), in carmine and pale blush-pink, as well as Choisya ternata, the Mexican Orange, must not be omitted; and these are only a few of the flowering shrubs which you might put in during October, having had the soil deeply dug and well manured at least six weeks beforehand; so that there is no time to lose now, for much of the welfare of these plants depends upon the preparation of the soil. Ampelopsis Veitchii and the more ordinary Virginian Creeper, will make a rare show of colour on your wall in autumn, too; and you might plant the Japanese Honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) for its delicious fragrance in summer—it makes the garden smell just as though it were sprayed with jockey-club scent.

Then there are the climbing Roses, Crimson Rambler, and its varieties in yellow, white, and pink, and the lovely Sweet Brier, hybridised by Lord Penzance (of which Lady Penzance, Lucy Bertram, and Lord Penzance are some of the best). The newer Wichuriana hybrids (especially Dorothy Perkins, in salmon-pink) are very effective, with masses of single or semi-double blossoms; and it is a good plan to put in a shrub at intervals of about twelve feet, with a climbing Rose or Ampelopsis (or any other creeper) between each shrub. In this way nice little alcoves can be formed in the long border in front of the wall, in which bright flowers can be grown; of course, you can, if you prefer it, train and prune the shrubs close to the wall, but in this way you do not get quite so much luxuriant growth to cut for the house.

In planting these things, care should be taken that the roots are not dry; they should be soaked in tepid water for an hour or so if they have come from a distance, and then spread out in their natural form in a bed of fine soil, about six or more inches below the surface, and trodden in quite firmly, after covering them with more soil. You can always tell the depth to which the roots of a plant should go by the mark of the soil on its "collar" (*i.e.*, the point at which roots and stem join). It is very important that the "collar" should not be placed too low in the ground, nor yet exposed above the soil; it should be covered by an inch or two only of soil when the planting is finished. Another wrinkle in planting shrubs is to stake them, or nail them, to the wall at once. If this is not done at the time, the storms of autumn will loosen the roots, and the plants will not flourish; I have even seen a regular hole, the shape of a wine-

Robert Farquhar

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1875 n.s. 4

The subject of the portrait we publish to-day, Mr. Robert Farquhar, of Fyvie Castle Gardens, was born in Aberdeen on January 4, 182 1. When he was but a few weeks old an accident which happened to his father, who had just left the situation of farm overseer to Colonel Leith of Whitehaugh, and which occasioned his death, led to the removal of the family from Aberdeen to Monymusk, where the son was brought up amongst his relatives, and attended the parish school till about the age of fourteen years. He was then sent as an apprentice to the gardens at Cluny Castle, which then, as now, had the largest extent of glass of any garden in the county — this being chiefly devoted to Grapes, Peaches, and Melons; stove and greenhouse plants not having then taken great hold so far north. After serving the usual time he went to Mr. Roy's nursery in Aberdeen, which was then an open receptacle for all young gardeners out of a situation; and here he remained for six months, when he went as journeyman to Thainston, Kintore. Mr. Wm. Taylor, now deceased, had just previously left the situation, after being nineteen years head gardener; and he being a man of considerable taste, and with a botanical turn, the gardens contained, writes Mr. Farquhar, "the choicest and best arranged collections of shrubs and herbaceous plants I have yet seen at any private residence, and which very much influenced my taste to hold on to gardening as a profession.

After two years' stay at Thainston I went as journeyman to Woodhill, which then belonged to Geo, Hogarth, Esq., who took a very warm interest in gardening matters, and his views were promptly met by Mr. Aitcheson, who had just come from Dalkeith to take the management. On leaving this I was engaged to go to America, but my mother, who still survived, being against this course, I gave it up and went to London, when I was engaged as journey- man at Caen Wood, the seat of the Earl of Mansfield, at Highgate, under Mr. Cockburn. Here everything was upon a very extensive scale, but the grounds and flower gardens were the chief features of the place then, and few places around London had the same extent of bedding-out. While here I also had the advantage of seeing several of the leading horticultural exhibitions, the Botanic, Royal, and other gardens of interest, and of taking notes of what the memory could not retain, amongst which I have found much which has proved useful. A staff of twelve workmen was kept in these gardens, and some of my associates have proved men of talent, while a few have achieved distinction in the profession.

In the autumn of 1841 I again returned to Aberdeen, as gardener to Charles Runcy, Esq., Millbank, who was then noted for his interest in Grape growing; so in order to keep pace with my employer I was even then a reader of the Gardeners' Chronicle, and carefully read and pondered over every article that had any connection with Vine growing, which enabled me to serve him with satisfaction during my stay of four years. Here I was a regular competitor at the shows of the Aberdeenshire Horticultural Society, mostly with Grapes and plants; and for two years in succession (1844 and 1845) carried off the awards of the greatest merit in the exhibitions.

My next change was to Aden, Old Deer, the seat of Colonel Russel, where I only remained one year, at the end of which time I returned to Millbank, and had not been there long when I heard of contemplated changes at Fyvie Castle, through the death of the proprietor. I at once became a candidate, and being privileged to be selected out of twenty-eight applicants, I entered here on May 26, 1847— twenty-eight years ago— as gardener to Colonel W. Cosmo Gordon, from whom and his lady I have always received much kindness and indulgence; and I feel confident in stating that it has fallen to the lot of but few gardeners, in making the various changes that have been carried out, to have been allowed the same freedom of action which has been accorded to me. The gardens, which are 8 acres in extent, were in 1847 almost in a state of Nature: the fruit trees and hedges were overgrown, and the soil was so hard that it seemed more suitable for making bricks than growing vegetables, while one solitary greenhouse was the sum total

of glass erections. The first improvement entered upon was the levelling of the kitchen-garden; walls were then built, and house after house has been added, till now they number nine, all substantial, and heated on the best principles, by means of three boilers; while for early vegetables and bedding-out plants there are brick pits and frames to the extent of 150 feet run. One of the last improvements has been the introduction of water; a liberal supply is not only maintained in every house, but it is so laid on that it can be used in any part of the kitchen or flower garden.

While I have a wish to see everything under my care prosper, the stiff, adhesive nature of the soil, and the requirements of the cook, compel the largest share of my attention to be given to vegetables; and if, amongst these, any one thing more than another receives especial favour, I must plead guilty to my love for the "noble tuber," to which I have paid due devotion for the past thirty years, during which time scarcely any Potato announced as meritorious has been offered to the public but I have given it a trial. In 1873, when Potatos were one of the articles for trial in the Royal Horticultural Society's garden, and nearly 150 varieties were reported upon, Mr. Barron very kindly sent me this report, and, on looking it over, I found that I had several sorts not described, which I forwarded last spring for trial; and of the five First-class Certificates awarded to Potatos in 1874 I hold two. Besides these I hold several trophies of my success in vegetable and Potato culture from the Aberdeenshire Horticultural Society, of which I am now the oldest competing member.

This year, besides seedlings, I have planted sixty- five varieties of Potatos— too many, I admit— but, while I have every season discovered some to discard, still every year adds its quota of new sorts, and who, when so many temptations are ahead, could do without Alpha, Eureka, and Snowflake? The Americans are giving us shape and quantity, and I hope we shall have quality next; at all events I have learned so much from them of late years that I think our entire system of culture in gardens will to a great extent be revolutionised.

I may further mention with satisfaction that most of the young men I have had with me have turned out well; many of them now hold excellent situations in various parts of the world. Some of them having gone to the New England States of America, there has, in consequence, for the past sue or seven years, been a pretty regular demand for young men from this quarter; and, as a proof that the change has been satisfactory to all concerned, I shall conclude by adding a quotation from the Banffshire Journal of November 10, 1874: —

"It is our pleasant duty to record a case of grateful remembrance which has just come under our notice, Mr. R. Farquhar, gardener at Fyvie Castle, who has for many years taken a lively interest in procuring suitable situations for young men who have been apprentices or otherwise employed by him, has very unexpectedly met with a' recognition of his services, which we think deserves to be recorded, as it is alike creditable to Mr. Farquhar and the parties concerned. It happens that a number of his late *employés* and others have, through him, got located in some of the New England States of America, where it was known they were highly prosperous and perfectly satisfied with their condition in the land of their adoption. Letters have frequently come from them recording their success and happiness, but on this occasion they have made a more tangible expression of their gratitude by sending along with one of their number, now on a visit to his native country, a splendid silver table pitcher. Some idea of its value may be formed when it is stated that it stands 2 feet 7 inches in height, and has a bracket on each side with a silver cup on each. The internal capacity is one gallon, and it bears the following inscription:— "Presented to Robert Farquhar by a few of his friends in America, as a token of respect and esteem. October, 1874," Mrs. Farquhar was presented with an elegant silver tea service, with a suitable inscription."

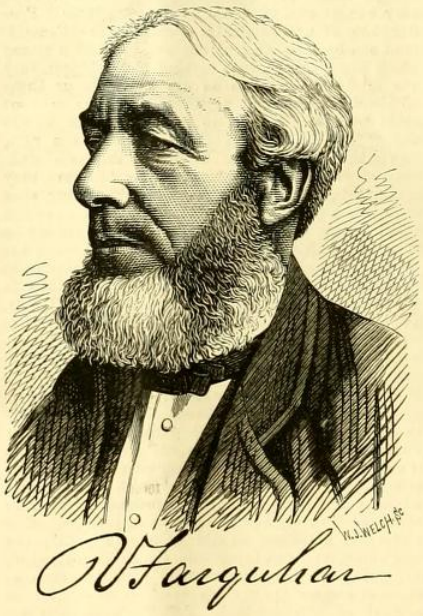
the grounds of my sister's house, Wansfell Holme, Windermere. Her gardener, Mr. Rothery, forwarded the cone to me, and informed me that it was one of a pair, and he seems to think that this is the first instance of the Araucaria producing female cones in the district. Both cones have been carefully examined for fertile seeds, but none could be found. No doubt this infertility has arisen from the fact that no male catkins were visible on the tree. The tree which bore the cones is a peculiarly distinct-looking variety, as it has extremely broad foliage, and is a very handsome specimen, being about thirty-five years old, and upwards of 65 feet in height. *O. O. Wrigley.* [The production of such cones is not very uncommon in the south. Fine specimens were figured at p. 593, November 22, 1890, vol. viii., and Supplement for same date. Ed.]

HORTICULTURAL BUILDINGS.

The erection of vast areas of glass-houses for horticultural purposes, especially market-garden pursuits, which has taken place during the last few years in many parts of the country, and in the London district particularly, must have caused a large extension in the horticultural timber trade, beside creating an increased demand for glass. We were reminded of this recently by an inspection of the establishment of Mr. W. Duncan Tucker, in the Lawrence Road, Tottenham. A development has apparently taken place in this business almost or quite equal to that which has occurred in that of the market growers, and to which we have frequently called attention. In December, 1894, there appeared a small paragraph in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* to the effect that the business works had suffered from a fire, which practically destroyed them. The business was afterwards carried on upon temporary premises, and no time was allowed to pass before energetic measures were taken to erect new works upon the site of the old ones. These have been completed during the present winter, and in such an efficient manner, than an outsider might be disposed to think a destructive fire was not without its compensations. The following brief notice of the principal details may be interesting. The main building is 150 feet long by 100 feet wide, and along both sides are galleries upon which the doors, &c., are put together, and various light work carried out. By means of a platform at one end, a tour may be made round these galleries, which are lighted from glass doors which run along the extent of the building. The whole area is covered by a capital iron roof which is said to have involved the use of nearly 100 tons of iron. It is splendidly lighted, and as fire-proof as such a place can be made, and the boiler-house has been advisedly kept apart from the building. To drive the machinery, there are two engines of 25 h. p., and these are fed by two Cornish boilers capable of working at 90 lb. pressure. All the shafting is underground, and at one side where the chips of wood fall from the machines, an ingenious arrangement ensures their prompt removal to the point nearest to the boiler-house. There are three distinct entrances to the saw mill, and at the main inlet the transfer of logs to the table is facilitated by an overhead traveller. The newest machines have been obtained, and every possible device for labour-saving adopted. There are immense facilities for storage, and no excuse, therefore, for using unseasoned wood. The visitor may see operations going on in the various stages of the manufacture of doors and window-frames for greenhouses, sash-bars, end and division rafters, end and side plates, pitlights, bottom and top rails, ridges, stiles and seats, and various other "parts," according to the work of the moment. These are chiefly made from pitch Pine, a wood which Mr. Tucker thinks the most suitable for the purpose. The extension of the business has been mainly in the working and supplying of timber for horticultural purposes, and in the erection of glasshouses and conservatories, but a trade is also done with general builders and contractors. Some large nurserymen, such as Mr. Thos. Rochford and others, who have always to keep a certain number of skilled hands upon the place, prefer to erect their houses themselves, and are thus customers for "parts" only. The supply of these to the different firms of Rochford for some years past has been almost a business in itself. Others, and, of course, the majority, purchase the houses completed, and in these cases they are first erected at the works, and then sent in parts to their destination. We were informed that it is intended to yet further develop the branch dealing with the erection of ornamental hot-houses in private gardens, now that the works have been rendered so efficient. The growth of the work may be calculated when it is known that Mr. Tucker, who in 1881 took to the business originated by his grandfather, at first employed but little labour, and that since that time he has frequently had as many as 250 pairs of hands in his service. In estimating the importance of horticulture, its beneficial effects upon allied trades should never be overlooked.

Obituary.

Robert Farquhar.—Many of our readers will regret to learn of the death, at Aberbeen, which took place on the 12th inst., at the age of seventy-five



years, of Mr. Robert Farquhar, late head gardener at Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire. Mr. Farquhar was a well-known and highly respected man. A native of Aberdeen, he served his apprenticeship as a gardener at Cluny Castle, Aberdeenshire. After serving the usual three years he came back to Aberdeen, and entered Messrs. Roy's nurseries. From this he went to Thainston. His next place was at Woodhill, Aberdeen. He then engaged as chief gardener to Mr. George Forbes of Springhill, whence he went as journeyman to Caenwood in Middlesex, the seat of the Earl of Mansfield. After staying there for some time, Mr. Farquhar returned to Aberdeen, and acted as head gardener to the late Mr. Charles Runcy, Millbank, where he remained five years. His next situation was at Aden, Old Deer, the residence of the late Mr. James Russell. On leaving Aden he went for a second time to Millbank. Subsequently Mr. Farquhar was appointed head gardener at Fyvie Castle, then the property of Mr. William Cosmo Gordon, where he remained continuously for forty-three and a half years, serving under five different proprietors. During that time the number of greenhouses increased from one to twenty. In all matters relating to horticulture he took a keen interest, and as an exhibitor at shows his name was well and favourably known over a wide district. On account of failing health, he retired from his post at Fyvie Castle, in 1890. Mr. Farquhar had a high opinion of America as a field for young gardeners, and it was his wont to render every assistance in his power to young men desirous of emigrating thither. Three of Mr. Farquhar's sons are now the owners of one of the largest seed businesses in Boston, U.S. An autobiographical notice of Mr. Farquhar appeared in these pages on July 31, 1875, to which we would refer those of our readers who may be interested in the career of a very excellent gardener and estimable man. Our portrait of the deceased depicts him as he appeared at that time.

Joseph Cheal passed away on the 18th inst., in his ninety-sixth year. In October last, when we had occasion to visit the nurseries of Messrs. J. Cheal & Sons, near Crawley (of which the deceased gentleman was founder), we had the pleasure of a few words with this patriarch among nurserymen, who could talk of men and customs in connection with farming and horticulture comparatively unknown to the present generation except as related history. His genial presence had a peculiar fascination, and his manner was intelligent and pleasant. It surprised us greatly to observe that although he had been unable to get about much latterly, many of his senses were still unimpaired, that of hearing being particularly good. Mr. Cheal was a wonderful man at such an age, and during the greater part of a very long life he was an energetic and upright business man, of temperate and industrious habits. The business has long since been controlled by the deceased's two sons.

SOCIETY.

EDINBURGH BOTANICAL.

February 13.—A large number of members of this society met at 5, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, on the evening of Thursday, the 13th inst., the chair being taken by Dr. W. Craig.

Mr. R. Stewart Macdougall, B.Sc., exhibited larvæ of Sirex juvencus (the Pine-wood wasp), also imago and larvæ of Rhagium bifasciatum, with specimens of timber damaged by them. Mr. Macdougall gave a very interesting account of the life histories of these pests, and the large amount of damage they were capable of doing. An account of Australian and other foreign trees and shrubs, cultivated in Arran in the open air without protection was read by the Rev. David Landsborough. This gentleman, who has from time to time communicated notes upon this subject for many years, mentioned a large number of plants of temperate regions capable of being grown in Arran, pointing out those that had been injured by the severe frosts of 1894 to 1895. In this communication it was stated that the temperature at Lamlash during the above years showed on comparison of February 9, a difference of 22° F. from that of Glasgow; while in summer, the temperature in Glasgow rose 3° higher than that at Lamlash. Chamærops (Trachycarpus) excelsa, Dicksonia antarctica, Cyathea dealbata, Rhododendron arboreum, and many others were uninjured by the severe frosts of last winter. Dicksonia squarrosa, Edwardsia grandiflora, and others were killed, some others losing their leaves, or being more or less injured.

Mr. Lindsay (Curator) gave his report on vegetation in the garden, referring to the remarkably mild weather experienced during January. The meteorological observations carried out at the Royal Botanic Garden by Mr. A. D. Richardson contained the following items:—Barometer at 32°. Highest, 30·986 inches, at 9 A.M. on the 9th; lowest on the 15th, being 28·818 inches; mean, 30·137 inches, or 0·398 inch above the average for January for five preceding years. Thermometer (protected):—Highest, 54·1°, on the 27th; lowest, 22·8°, on the 23rd; mean of the month, 41·3°, being 5·7° above the average for January for five preceding years. Frost occurred on six days.

The highest point registered by the radiation thermometers in the sun was 87·7° on the 28th; lowest on grass, 10·8° on the 23rd. Frost occurred on the grass on thirteen days. Total amount of sunshine recorded for the month was thirty-five hours twenty minutes. Not any was recorded on fourteen days. Rainfall: rain fell on seventeen days. Total rainfall, 0·790 inch, which is 0·497 inch below the average for January for five preceding years. The greatest fall, 0·170 inch, was on the 26th.

Mr. R. L. Harrow read the usual notes on plants of interest that flowered during January, and exhibited Masdevallia Hincksiana, M. leontoglossa, Saccolabium bellinum, Brassavola grandiflora, Tecoma Smithii, and other plants from the greenhouses of the Royal Botanic Garden.

own, are indisputable facts. But, just as in the case of an ocean liner, after a certain speed has been reached, it requires more and more coal to increase the speed by a fraction of a knot per hour, until at last the cost becomes prohibitive, so in the case of land there must be a limit beyond which no amount of expenditure or labour can add to the profits. The

Mr T. B. Field.

question, therefore, is one not of increasing the gross returns, but of increasing the net returns. For this reason we want more figures than are available at present.

An Old Belief Discounted.

April 30th.—We have had a most unfortunate Easter, the coldest I ever remember. A good deal of my Plum blossom was out ten days ago, but there was not a bee about. I noticed several crawling on the ground, too numbed to be able to fly. As the trees are not very large, artificial pollination might have been possible, but its success would have been very doubtful, for, like the germination of seeds, it requires a certain temperature; below that point the pollen merely withers. The evidence of this spring is strongly against the old belief that a hot, dry autumn is necessary to the formation of fruit-buds. I do not think I have ever seen more blossom on Plums and Pears, and the Apples, also, look exceedingly well

Landscape Gardening.

May 1st.—Most of us have to be content with flat ground for our gardens, their level monotony being broken up by means of trees and shrubs, and herbaceous plants of different heights. I always envy the possessor of a hilly or undulating garden; he can obtain delightful effects, with so much less effort, and in so many different ways. Terraces, when well planned, are always charming, though often more formal than they ought to be, while even if the level is not disturbed, but the ground just planted as it is, it may be made very picturesque. Frequently, however, the opportunity is wasted, the work left to an ordinary gardener, who, though quite capable of doing his usual work, is utterly ignorant of landscape gardening. It does not seem to be understood that this is a distinct profession, and one demanding not only horticultural knowledge of a peculiar kind, but also artistic capacity of a high order. The combination is far from common. One of the most successful landscape gardeners in this country, not caring to trust entirely to his own powers, has, as his partner, a well-known artist, and this explains the admirable results which they produce. Of course, it is not everybody who can afford to engage an expert, but no one should attempt the laying out of a garden without much careful consideration.

H. C. Davidson.

The Gardens of the Baroness Berners.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. T. B. FIELD, AT ASHWELLTHORPE HALL, NORWICH.

TOWARDS the close of March I was afforded the opportunity, by the courtesy of the Baroness Berners, of visiting the gardens at Ashwellthorpe Hall. The pretty village of Ashwellthorpe, though not many miles from Norwich, is not easily accessible by rail, the station being on a branch line. Though the hall is not far away from the station, its situation is extremely secluded, and the surrounding scenery is charming. Mr. Field, one of the best-known gardeners in East Anglia, a high authority on horticulture, and a frequent contributor to the horticultural press, met me at the entrance to the gardens of which he has charge, and pointed out their many interesting features. The drive, with its avenue of Horse Chestnuts, and carpet of spring flowers on the right and left, is picturesque; and on the right is a singularly attractive Rose garden.

Roses on their Own Roots.

"Here," said Mr. Field, "numerous Roses are on their own roots. Although surrounded by trees, many of them have held their own for years. Late in the summer they are attacked by red rust. They look as if they would fail, but my experience is that they overcome the rust and are as good as ever the next season. We mulch them every year, and encourage all the growth possible, never pruning them very hard."

"When do you put cuttings in?"

"During October, and always then with a heel. That the system answers well is proved by the fact that ninety per cent. of the cuttings we put in live. Some persons say that to grow Roses from cuttings tends to spoil the trade of the nurseryman. I think the contrary, and that the more you can interest people in Rose cultivation, the greater will be the demand at the nurseries. Why should not boys be taught to grow Roses from cuttings? I am convinced that it would be a very good thing to do so, and I am glad to hear that there is a prospect of this instruction being given in the elementary schools. It must give a great impetus to amateur gardening, and increase the interest in Rose culture."

"Which varieties do you find do best on their own roots?"

"There is nothing equal to General Jacqueminot. We have tried many others, but we grow, by preference, a large quantity of this variety. The Penzance Briers, the Rugosa Roses in variety—which in the autumn are covered with scarlet or yellow hips—and the Moss Roses do well here. Both the old Roses, macrophylla rubra plena and m. Simplex, are grown in quantity on their own roots, and thrive."

"Do you go in for Hybrid Teas and Hybrid Perpetuals?"

"Yes, we have a fine collection, of which we chiefly use Souvenir de la Malmaison, Madame Gabriel Luizet, John Hopper, Madame Bérard, Mons. Etienne Levet, Bessie Brown, Mrs. John Laing, Madame Isaac Periere, Her Majesty, Dupuy Jamain, Perle des Jardins, Niphetos, Mrs. Edward Mawley, Mrs. B. R. Cant, Frau Karl Druschki, Lord Salisbury, Gruss an Teplitz, and Paul Néron. All the autumn Roses are grown, the copper, the yellow, and the double. In fact, we have Roses in all places, and grow them nearly all the year round. A great many are sent away in the season, and a large number are used for decoration."

A Notable Specimen.

"You have an orchard close to your Rose garden. Is it entirely planted with Apples?"

"Practically, and two varieties which yield prodigious crops are Norfolk Beefing and the Striped Beefing. The latter was raised in Norwich. Underneath the fruit trees in the orchard are thousands of Daffodils. You will find that there is no particular order about the gardens here, and that you cannot take

Ashwellthorpe Hall.

things in sequence. Near my office in the frame-ground is a Peach-house, newly planted with Grosse Mignonne, Royal George, and Noblesse. The border in front of the house is planted with Dianthus Indian Pink, Iris in variety, etc., and another border with Tea Roses."

The Gardener's Cottage.

"On the wall behind the Tea Roses you have a fine plant."

"That is Fortune's Yellow, and it has a history. I found it in a pot thirty-six years ago, when I first took charge of these gardens. I took it into Shropshire when we went to Stanley Hall, Bridgnorth, and there for twenty years it was grown with remarkable success. When the Baroness Berners came back to Norfolk, I brought it with me, and replanted it here. Although at first it was on the Manetti stock, it is now on its own roots. Other Roses on this wall include a fine plant of Alister Stella Gray, another of Dawn, and vigorous plants of the Maiden's Blush. Crimson Ramblers and other Roses are grown on the walls of the bush fruit garden, and Daffodils in the beds. But there is nothing extraordinary here. Now, we might take the walled-in garden where, you see, we have most of the glass."

The Night-blooming Cactus.

"What about Grapes?"

"Muscats are the principal. We force in this house Strawberries Royal Sovereign and Viscountess. Even if the latter is done badly, you cannot stop it from fruiting. Perhaps the most noteworthy feature of the Vineries is the fine old plant of the Night-blooming Cactus (Cactus grandiflora). We have had as many as seventeen blooms out in one night."

"What hour does the flower open?"

"About 6.30 p.m., and it begins to close just after midnight. We cut the flowers at once, but they die in water. When the flowers are open, the house is filled with the fragrant perfume, resembling somewhat that of a Banana. The plant came from Hopwood's Nursery in Cheltenham, where I served my apprenticeship."

"I see that you have a collection of Orchids."

"Especially of Cypripedium insigne, because the blooms are so lasting and they come in when there is a dearth of flowers. Cœlogyne cristata are also grown. You may like to mention that we grow Iris japonica inside. With cool greenhouse treatment it grows as readily as a weed.

"In the house where we grow Melons in the summer," continued Mr. Field, "we have the American Hawthorn. For tanks in cool houses it is very useful. By adapting it to indoor culture, we get blooms all through the winter. The scent of the flowers is beautiful. We grow a considerable number of Imantophyllums, which are quite easy for amateurs to cultivate."

"Do you grow any Orchids outside?"

"Yes, Cypripedium spectabile and C. parviflorum. I had twenty-seven spikes of bloom last year on one little plant of the former. As to treatment, the one indispensable condition is to deluge the plants with water when they are making growth. Orchis foliosa, which flowers in May and June, is also grown outside. Just here is a plant of the Rose gigantea, which has never flowered in England. But it is still alive, and I hope it may yet flower."

Plants for North Borders.

"You have Christmas Roses still in flower?"

"They are lingering on. Their season to flower is from the middle of December to the end of January. We only put an ordinary light over them. Next to them are the Lent-Roses, which flower from February to April. The mistake in either case is to plant where the sun reaches them."

"What other plants do you grow in north borders?"

"Anemones, Auriculas, Schizostylis coccinea, single and double Primroses, and Sweet Williams. I also find Pansies come a better colour on a north border, and last longer than they do in a more open spot."

"What about Roses?"

"I believe that they can be grown in all aspects. I find Gloire de Dijon, planted with a northern aspect, on a wall or otherwise, gives better results than when planted elsewhere; the colour is richer, and there is more substance in the flower. I am quite convinced that north borders are not utilised as they might be, and that people are prejudiced against them because they are cold."

"Do you grow Sweet Peas in this garden?"

"The earliest are grown in pots and planted out. I plant in clumps of one variety, the great object being to get plenty of blooms, because, as like the Roses, we send away a great many to the hospitals. Here and elsewhere the winter-flowering Heliotrope is largely grown. The white variety is exceptionally dwarf, and flowers without any foliage. As to treatment, it likes to be planted and left alone."

"Lilium giganteum flourishes on this soil?"

"So do the Dog's-tooth Violet and hardy Cyclamen; the soil is marl, full of lime, and, therefore, I need hardly add, Rhododendrons do not flourish. But you must now see the Beech fence, though at this season of the year you cannot see it in all its glory."

Rose Psyche at Ashwellthorpe Hall.

"You have Gentianas in a north border?"

"By planting Gentianas in a north border, a finer colour can be obtained; also blooms can be secured for a longer period."

"It appears to almost entirely enclose the garden we are entering."

"It surrounds three sides, and we call it the Beech fence garden. The fence is a hundred and thirty-four yards long, seven feet high, and four yards across. The change of the colours constitutes its great beauty. One of the most effective decorations for the dinner-table or rooms is obtained by a combination of Roses (Fortune's Yellow) and the Beech fence foliage. In June, when both are at their best. The wall on one side of the garden is covered with various climbing Roses and ornamental Vines. We are very fond of mixtures."

"Then, I conclude, you grow annuals mixed?"

"Yes, I dislike the one-colour system. Just now, of course, the borders up the centre and along the cross-walks are chiefly full of Crocuses and Snowdrops; then will come the Liliums in variety, including the Madonna, tigrinum, and chalcedonica, and afterwards the annuals and herbaceous varieties. As to mixtures, one of my favourite combinations is Mignonette, with Physelias and blue Campanulas; another Gypsophila with Lilium tigrinum. Dwarf Asters I grow in clumps by themselves (white, pink and red), and Pentstemons anywhere, for they are never out of harmony with any plants. Speaking of clumps, we have several of German Iris; and Spiræa aruncus is planted in clumps in close proximity to the Beech fence."

The Shrubberies and Lawns.

We next proceeded to the shrubberies, where are many winding walks, on either side being planted Polyanthus, Tulips, Aconites, and Hyacinths, while in large beds are groups of Foxgloves, Berberis, Lilies, Pampas Grass, and Iris. The most notable of the shrubs are Pyrus japonica, Guelder Roses, Staphyleas, the double and single Thorns, and shrubby Spiræas. Close to the hall on the lawns are two noble specimens of Cedrus deodara, and a Wellingtonia gigantea, while on the wall over the dining-room window is a splendid Magnolia of the Exmouth variety, which blooms all the year round. From this point could be got a glimpse of two other little gardens, one with beds full of Geraniums and annuals, and the other with Border Carnations of the very best varieties, including Yellow Queen, Raby Castle, and Old Clove. Here, too, the old walls are covered with Climbing Roses.

I remarked on the number of Wallflowers in one of these gardens, and Mr. Field rejoined, "We grow Wallflowers all the year round. One of the varieties—Daniels' Early Queen (golden-yellow), with a dwarf habit—is grown in pots in the winter, with just a little warmth. Most of the others, however, are grown in the open. Blood-red and Belvoir Castle, with Early Queen, are the best varieties. With respect to cultivation, I sow the seed in boxes, prick them out, and plant in beds in the autumn, except, as I have already told you, a number of the Early Queen."

"You have two greenhouses on the lawns. Do they contain any special plants?"

"There are some thriving Araucarias in one, and a Fortune's Yellow Rose on the roof. The back wall of the other is covered with Fuchsias and Abutilons, and the roof with Maréchal Niel, white Banksian, and L'Ideal Roses. Then there are large plants of Phormium tenax, and also of the Japanese Medlar, with a collection of Tree and Malmaison Carnations. With regard to the white Banksian Rose, a square of glass was broken, and a shoot from the plant found its way into the house. This was encouraged, and now that plant covers a third of the roof, and flowers most profusely. We get a crop of Roses inside about three weeks before the tree outside flowers. In the border outside is a choice collection of herbaceous Pæonies, of which the Baroness thinks a good deal."

"You make the sides of the moat as beautiful as you can?"

"We cover an old wall with Vines, and in front, overhanging, are fine specimens of Berberis stenophyla. As you will have found out by this time, the place is altogether wild, rabbits and birds are allowed free access, and as freely avail themselves of it. We get what fruit we want, but they get most of it. Vegetables of all kinds are grown, but there is nothing remarkable in cultivation."

"The point that strikes me most is that there are 'Roses, Roses, everywhere.'".

"That is one of the primary objects aimed at in these gardens, a Banksian Rose clothing the right side of the Hall, and another variety covering my cottage."

Mr. Field's Career.

"You have already mentioned that you came here thirty-six years ago, Mr. Field, and that you were apprenticed at Hopwood's Nurseries in Cheltenham. What other experience have you enjoyed?"

"I had two years' experience in landscape gardening after my apprenticeship, and after filling one or two subordinate positions became foreman at Spye Park, Wiltshire, where I remained for three and a half years. In 1872 I came here as head gardener, remaining only for two years, when I went with the family to Stanley Hall, Shropshire. There I did a good deal of showing, chiefly stove and greenhouse plants and Ferns. I was on the first committee of the Shrewsbury Show, and attended it regularly for twenty years in succession, acting as judge on several occasions. On the death in 1893 of Sir Henry Tyrwhitt, we came back to Ashwellthorpe, the seat of his widow. I am greatly interested in local societies here, and am the acting vice-president of the East Anglian Horticultural Club, the largest but one in England. I am also on the committee of the Norwich Museum Association, which is doing a great work from the Economic Biology point of view. I gave a lecture for the association in February on Roses—in fact, I frequently give lectures. I also take a great interest in the Norwich schools' gardens, Norwich being the first city in which school gardens were started. I teach the children how to grow bulbs, and myself derive considerable pleasure from work which is purely voluntary; but, of course, the gardens here occupy most of my time and attention."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 300.—THE CONSERVATORY IN SPRING.

DEAR KATE,—The wintry weather near the end of April has made many gardening operations late this year, but it may be hoped that we have now seen the last of snow for this season. As soon as the weather is really mild, the spring-cleaning of the conservatories will take place. Vineries, too, should be cleansed as far as possible, but their principal yearly turn-out takes place in the autumn, when the Grapes are all cut, and the Vines can be partially pruned and taken down.

All the pot plants will now be cleared out of the conservatory (placing the more tender specimens in the house or the warm Vinery for a night or two), the interior will be repainted, or else scrubbed with hot soap and water, with a little paraffin (first beaten up in twice as much hot milk, when it mixes perfectly with water) added to it, the glass cleaned, inside and out, and the walls, also, where it is possible. Then the upper soil of the borders is removed, to the depth of two or three inches, and a rich top-dressing substituted for it, for the Roses, Asparagus plumosus, and the Streptosolen, which grow there, with Heliotrope, Passion-flowers, Winter Jasmine, etc., all need plenty of food to keep up their luxuriant growth.

A CONSERVATORY DEVOTED TO PALMS AND TREE FERNS.

William Finlay.—The death of Mr. William Finlay, of Primula Nursery, Pretoria Road, Romford, occurred on the 11th inst., after a brief illness. Mr. Finlay was 79 years of age. He commenced his gardening career in Scotland, and was gardener to the late Sir Charles Tennant, but it was at Wroxton Abbey that he achieved most of his successes, winning many prizes for Grapes. He also won two silver cups in 1876 and 1877 for Potatos. Whilst at Wroxton he raised the celebrated Wroxton Onion and Wroxton Brussels Sprout, the Wroxton Onion meeting with success at the recent trials held by the National Vegetable Society. From Wroxton he went to Lees Court, Faversham, and whilst there he raised another variety of Onion, which he named Royal Jubilee, but the best stock of this variety was unfortunately lost. On leaving Lees Court he entered into business on his own account at Earlswood, Surrey. The land occupied by this nursery was required by the railway, and he removed to Romford, where the business will still be carried on by his only surviving son.

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FINCHER Cassandra Stewart of 37 Canterbury-road Croydon **Surrey** (wife of Edward Fincher) died 14 October 1904 Administration **London** 7 June to the said Edward Fincher retired civil servant. Effects £110.

FINCHER Thomas of Woodsend Ashperton **Herefordshire** died 17 February 1911 Probate **Hereford** 5 April to James Morgan schoolmaster and Ernest Fincher farmer. Effects £1445 14s.

FINCKEN Charles Edward of 32 Talma-road Brixton **Surrey** died 30 August 1911 at St. Thomas Hospital Surrey Probate **London** 26 October to Annie Elizabeth Fincken widow. Effects £176 19s. 11d.

FINDING Samuel of 31 Prebend-street **Bedford** and of Ampthill **Bedfordshire** died 19 August 1911 at 31 Prebend-street Probate **Northampton** 1 November to Emma Abbis widow. Effects £548 9s. 9d.

FINDLATER Adam Seton of 30 Upper Sackville-street **Dublin** and St. Albans Monkstown **Dublin** J.P. died 18 January 1911 at Lower Leeson-street Dublin Probate **Dublin** to James Alexander Denning solicitor James Alexander Kinnear accountant and Alexander Findlater M.D. Sealed **London** 22 May. Effects £412 2s. 6d. in England.

FINDLAY Alexander of Sawtrees Farm Thundridge **Hertfordshire** died 29 June 1911 Probate **London** 16 August to Jessie Spittal Findlay widow. Effects £9255 4s. 10d.

FINDLAY Andrew of 19 Brighton Grove **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** licensed victualler died 8 November 1911 Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 18 December to Andrew James Findlay salesman and George McConachie licensed victualler. Effects £691 11s. 11d.

FINDLAY or **FERGUSON** Elspeth (Mrs.) widow of 36 Nethergate **Dundee** died 28 October 1910 Confirmation of Alexander Wilson retired calender manager. Sealed **London** 2 January.

FINDLAY James of 14 Beaumont-road **Plymouth** chemist and druggist died 8 June 1911 Probate **Exeter** 19 October to Fanny Ann Findlay widow. Effects £7249 17s. 9d. Resworn £7000 17s. 9d.

FINDLAY James Frew of 22 Altenburg avenue West Ealing **Middlesex** died 28 April 1911 Administration (with Will) **London** 30 May to Rosa Jane Findlay widow. Effects £249.

FINDLAY John George of 22 Marloes-road Kensington **Middlesex** died 6 September 1911 Administration **London** 23 October to Marion Morrison Tate (wife of James Charles Tate) and Elizabeth Jane Quadling widow. Effects £1028 17s. 6d.

FINDLAY William Henry of 47 Stowell-street West Gorton **Manchester** journeyman plumber died 29 August 1911 Probate **Manchester** 13 September to John Brown printer's labourer. Effects £384 16s. 5d.

FINDON William of 64 Gorsedale-road Wavertree **Liverpool** gentleman died 18 March 1911 Probate **Liverpool** 12 April to Richard Leigh commercial traveller. Effects £1537 16s. 2d.

FINISTER George Frederic of Glendair Hyde Park-road **Harrogate** bedstead manufacturer died 20 May 1911 Probate **Wakefield** 20 June to Emily Mary Alice Finister widow. Effects £5771 7s. 1d.

FINK Anna Elizabeth of 23 Byrne-road Balham **Surrey** widow died 21 March 1911 Probate **London** 20 April to William Hubert Smith solicitor. Effects £414 18s. 0d.

FINK Christiane Dorothea Emilie of 23 Byrne-road Balham **Surrey** spinster died 9 September 1909 at 3 Eton-road Hampstead Middlesex Administration **London** 30 May to William Hubert Smith solicitor. Effects £356 10s. 4d. Former Grant P.R. December 1909.

FINKILL Charlotte Eliza of 41 Cooper-street **Middlesbrough** widow died 31 December 1910 at the Union Workhouse Infirmary Middlesbrough Administration **York** 25 January to Ann Elizabeth Briston (wife of Joseph Briston). Effects £48 4s.

FINLAY Edward of 9 Railway-street Percy Main **Northumberland** retired engine driver died 30 December 1910 Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 20 January to Joseph Finlay engine driver and Edward Finlay foreman boilersmith. Effects £71 3s. 3d.

FINLAY the venerable Archdeacon George of Hughenden Glenageary county **Dublin** D.D. died 9 February 1905 Probate **Dublin** to Helen Finlay widow. Effects £3823 9s. 6d. in England. Sealed **London** 27 October.

FINLAY Grace Annie of Carlsruhe 40 Lindfield-gardens Hampstead **Middlesex** widow died 14 May 1911 Probate **London** 10 November to Charles Albert Copland solicitor and the reverend Cecil Copland clerk. Effects £6259 5s. 4d.

FINLAY dame Mary of 31 Phillimore-gardens Kensington **Middlesex** (wife of the right honourable sir Robert Bannatyne Finlay) died 11 June 1911 at Newton Nairn N.B. Administration **London** 2 December to the said right honourable sir Robert Bannatyne Finlay G.C.M.G. K.C. M.P. Effects £805 9s. 2d.

FINLAY Maurice Trent of 36 Hans-place Chelsea **Middlesex** died 25 October 1911 at Hyde Park Middlesex Probate **London** 18 November to Clarissa Rose Finlay widow. Effects £29889 19s. 8d.

FINLAY Rhoda of Abbey House Enniscorthy county **Wexford** widow died 5 November 1909 Administration **Waterford** to Elsie May Jackson (wife of John William Edge Jackson). Effects £6 8s. in England. Sealed **London** 3 May.

FINLAY Robert of Manaos in the **Argentine Republic** died 8 August 1910 at Candelario Hospital Manaos Administration (with Will limited) **London** 24 March to Joseph Hawdon Anderson engraver. Effects £373 1s. 11d.

FINLAY William of Primula Nursery Pretoria-road Romford **Essex** died 11 April 1911 Probate **London** 6 June to Andrew Finlay nurseyman and John Smith schoolmaster. Effects £863 6s. 4d. Resworn £1038 6s. 4d.

FINLAYSON Alice Ashburnham of 80 Lawrence-road Southsea **Hampshire** widow died 12 February 1911 Probate **Winchester** 5 July to James Louis Hill German fleet paymaster. Effects £31.

FINLAYSON Elizabeth Darling of Balderstone Lorne-road Oxton **Cheshire** spinster died 31 May 1911 Probate **Chester** 17 June to John Satterfield Hassal bank manager. Effects £494 3s.

FINLAYSON Farquhar of Alvie Lovat-road **Inverness** died 20 February 1911. Confirmation of Jessie MacBain or Finlayson widow. Sealed **London** 19 May.

FINLAYSON John of 51 High-street **Inverness** died 29 May 1911 at Nairn. Confirmation of Mary Finlayson spinster. Sealed **London** 28 July.

FINLEY Charles Edwin of 30 Malvern-street Stapenhill **Derbyshire** died 20 October 1911 Administration **London** 27 December to Florence Gertrude Finley widow. Effects £65 14s. 2d.

FINN Annorah of Pentrefelin Wrexham **Denbighshire** widow died 16 February 1911 Administration **St. Asaph** 4 April to William Finn hotel servant. Effects £6 2s. 2d.

FINN Margaret of 394 Dickenson-road Longsight **Manchester** widow died 25 February 1911 Probate **London** 13 April to Ezekial Trafford silk weaver and John Finn stoker. Effects £756 3s. 8d.

David T. Fish, Head Gardener at Hardwicke

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Head Gardener's House at Hardwicke

Mr. D. T. Fish was born in the year 1822, at Old Scone, Perthshire, and was educated in the parochial school of New Scone, where sound instruction was imparted, including mensuration, land surveying, mathematics, and the ability to read Latin. His first school of horticulture, he tells us, was the garden of the Earl of Mansfield, Scone Palace, Perthshire, then under the able management of Mr. James Dodds, who, during the three years of his apprenticeship, was assisted by three most efficient foremen — Mr. W. Purday, who succeeded to the curatorship of the Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, and died some years ago; Mr. Alex Blackie, of Revesby Abbey; and Mr. John Lamont, of Dickson & Company, Edinburgh—a trio of worthy men who did much by their own enthusiasm in botany, floriculture, and kitchen gardening, to evoke similar qualities in the young men under their charge. Mr. Dodds was also able and energetic, seldom giving direct instructions, but rather teaching by example, and now and then by a pregnant saying, such as was addressed to him one Saturday, when working hard to clean the long range of houses, "That's right, Davy; cleanliness is the parent of health"— a sentiment that was soon made the common property of all the lads and men on the place.

No doubt, as Mr. Smith has observed. Scone was a good school for the learning of the art of gardening as a handicraft. Work was not only plentiful, but had to be well done. It mattered not whether it was mowing from 5 to 9 in the morning, hoeing, digging, raking, nailing, no "scamping" was ever allowed. Those marvellous Morello Cherries adverted to by Messrs. Smith and Ward were looked up to with a sort of veneration, and the honour of being allowed to nail them was coveted as much as a senior wranglership at a university. The curriculum for apprentices was also a useful and an unvarying one. One year (the first), fires and houses; the second, serve the kitchen; and the third, work in the flower garden. Custom generally gave a fourth as a journeyman, to establish more perfectly "prentice hands" by practice in all departments before changing to another place, or going into an Edinburgh nursery.

"Fortunately," observes Mr. Fish, "a better opening than either of these was made for me by my brother, Robert Fish, for many years gardener at Putteridgebury, Luton, Beds. I arrived there in the middle of November, 1842, and remained at Putteridge as second and first foreman till the spring of 1845. These years were among the busiest and happiest of my life. They were distinguished by hard work, harder study, warm brotherly and sisterly sympathy—for my sister, Mrs. Erskine, then kept my brother Robert's house at Putteridge—and wise help. In the garden Robert was a strict impartial master—no favour to any one; his Spartan rule was to get the most work in the shortest time, of the highest quality, from every man and boy in the place. Out of the garden no man could have had a more affectionate brother, nor a truer friend. At Putteridge the far-reaching issues of gardening as a science began to unfold themselves, and assumed new and higher aspects. Chosen at first from a mere youthful love of flowers, and a romantic desire to tread in the footsteps of my two brothers, Robert and John, and the distinguished botanical collector David Douglas—all of whom graduated in Scone gardens under Mr. Beattie—gardening now revealed itself as a fine art, on a level as a means of culture and in ennobling influence with poetry, music, or painting. The flower-garden at Putteridge first suggested the idea of a beautiful poem without words. From the moment these high ideals took possession of the mind, gardening was pursued with the ardour of a passion; no labour was accounted too severe, no study too hard, no application too unwearied, to master its principles or carry out its details. The one thought and purpose was, not how to make gardening of use to me, but how best to qualify myself for serving it. Thought and work were the more obvious modes of service; and in these easy-going times, when so many young men seem to have made up their minds to glide on to success and win fame on the lazy steeds of indolence or indifference, it may be useful to cut out the plan of an evening's study from my note-book of those times.

First reading, then writing, composition, and finally drawing. The reason for this order was that reading, being less of a mental effort than writing, sooner led to drowsiness. As soon as that came on the book was exchanged for the pen, copying first in a book extracts, then direct composition, which acted as a powerful stimulant, and drove away sleep. The final remedy was found in drawing, which was done standing, and not till sleep mastered me with compasses in hand were the studies relinquished. This course may be looked at as an example in two ways—to be avoided as well as imitated. But such was the sort of voluntary forcing to which I subjected myself at Putteridge, and doubtless it had its influence in calling out the encomium from my first mistress—"an old head on young shoulders."

From Putteridge to Knight & Perry's nursery was indeed a change. The spring of 1845 was so severe that we had to take turn about up all night with the fires; and to fortify (so it was thought) us youngsters, the man on night duty went in at 11 P. M. to Mr. Perry to report temperature, and drink up or carry forth with him an enormous glassful of brandy and water—a sure recipe for stupidity or the sleep of insensibility to duty to those who drank it off. Mr. Knight's manner with young men was a useful model. He never let an opportunity escape of giving them a word of reproof, instruction, or correction, if need be. He gave me my first lesson in the application of closet sewage to pot plants at an old pump behind the orangery, and, seeing how distasteful it was, supplemented it by a useful lecture on the uses made of such materials in the culture of Orange trees and Camellias on the Continent. "Old Joe," as we all called him, gave me many a sly smile as he passed the pits of young Camellias that were duly liquored by me twice a week from that date, stopping to point out one day how much darker green the foliage was since the rich food had been given them in their liquor.

This incident led to the study of the sewage question and to the conclusion, though rather a novel one at that time, that the only possible solution of it was the conversion of dead matter into living, and to change poison into food, through the ministry of plants and the cleansing agency of the earth. The sanitary powers of plants and the ability of the earth to deal with the residuum of life, labour, combustion, decomposition, have now been practised, tested, and proved sufficient for nearly a quarter of a century. The nursery is a most useful school for young men, and all ought to pass through it. A fuller knowledge of men, business, and plants can be gleaned in nurseries than in private gardens. The mental culture and intellectual advancement of the men in the nursery were also stimulated and cared for at that time, and in the prizes of books for drawings of hothouses (Price on the Picturesque was won by Mr. Manders while I was in the nursery), the establishment of the study, &c., we had the germs of those more perfect arrangements that have been made by the Messrs. Veitch and others for the intellectual culture and physical comfort of the men in their employment.

The West London Gardeners' Association was then in full vigour, under the able presidency of Mr. John Caie, then of Bedford Hill, and now for many years lost to horticultural literature in the far north gardens of Inverary Castle, Argyllshire. Mr. Caie welcomed me for my brother's sake, and at that time Messrs. Keen, Gray, Mitchell, Peel, Doran, and many others gave life, animation, and great usefulness to the meetings held at Parson's Green, Fulham.

Amid all these engagements time sped swiftly, and with the middle of the summer came the offer of a head place. This offer proved my first great professional trial. From the summit of my ideal I was brought suddenly down to the lowest level of everyday life by the offer of a situation at £30 per year, with board, and the half of a footman's room for lodging. Hardly had these terms escaped "Joe's" lips, when my indignation blazed forth, much to the good man's amazement. "Why," I asked, "couple the knowledge and culture of professional men with the rewards of a livery servant?" Joe, with all his knowledge and tact, could not answer that question; and it may be added that notwithstanding all

that has been said and done since it still needs an answer. Rewards should bear a closer relation to qualification, service, and character, than they yet do in horticulture.

In this first struggle, which was partly successful, was laid the germ of those efforts which I have never ceased to put forth for the bettering of the condition of gardeners.

About July I, 1845, I entered the service of Sir Philip Broke, Bart., of Broke Hall, Nacton, Ipswich, a near relative of Sir Wm. and Lady Middleton, of Shrubland Park, Ipswich. At that time Mr. Beaton was in his prime, and it must be recorded to the honour of his memory, that from the time of my entry into Suffolk until his death he treated me as a father and delighted to pour his rich stores of knowledge and fertilising streams of practice into the young man who was all ear to listen and afterwards to learn. If James Dodds and his staff of assistants had some hand in hammering the school-boy into a shapely workman, Robert Fish and Donald Beaton finished the horticultural man for his best work. The discipline of Broke Hall was also useful—new houses had just been built, and the first business was to plant them with Vines and Peaches. No sooner was this done than advice gratis poured in upon Sir Philip from all quarters, and being a novice in gardening he not only wished to take it all, but actually asked for more from every possessor of a garden in the neighbourhood. There were, in addition, the usual contests between Sir Philip and Miss Broke, his sister, who was fond of plants and looked upon the new houses as a means of wealth to her greenhouse and drawing-room, &c. Sir Philip, a post-captain in the navy, also wished to control temperature on the same principles as he ordered the steering of his wooden walls, and to this end furnished the houses with indexed thermometers, and carried the key or magnet for setting them in his pocket; this, with a programme of temperature framed by myself, he held, and used the whip-handle without mercy. Within about six months I had talked and grown myself out of all these and other difficulties. The critics were silenced by results, the magnet was lost, the confidence of employer won and kept till the last. Difficulty only sharpened diligence and strengthened the determination to succeed; never were Vines, trees, or plants nurtured as these were. No hand touched them but my own. Air, water, food, heat, were all dealt out as if life and death hung upon the issue. Baskets of sweet decomposing manure were held in reserve throughout the evening, to be changed and turned in the vineries to charge the atmosphere anew with ammonia at every visit. Whole hours were passed in study under the Vines, that the respired carbonic acid might add to their strength. And the reward was won when, not only Sir Philip and his friends, but the late Sir Wm. and Lady Middleton, and, better than all, Donald Beaton, came over—saw—praised, and were satisfied.

Broke Hall, though a good start, hardly afforded elbow-room enough; and Glevering Hall—then one of the finest places in East Suffolk—becoming vacant, I (one of sixty applicants, so it was said) obtained that situation. Broke Hall was left with much regret, after writing to London for a successor; and as illustrative of the terms on which I left, and the kindness of heart of my first master, who has now been dead many years, it may be stated that, on his first visit to Glevering after my arrival, he left his carriage at the front door and walked straight into the garden to seek and find his young Scotchman, and to wish me success and happiness in my new- place, where he hoped I would find sufficient scope for my abilities. Sir Philip's visit was more expressive than words.

The chief characteristics of Glevering were its large kitchen garden and shrubberies, lawns and flower gardens, extensive ranges of vineries, plant stoves, large conservatory, and choice collection of Pears on walls, and a nice lot of Orchids. Unfortunately about six months after my removal to Glevering the late Mr. Arcedeckne's father died, and the place was let, and likely to continue so, and this led to my leaving it. About this time, too, an offer was made to me by Mr. Nesfield to lay out his plans at Bylaugh in Norfolk, and had not certain delays occurred in regard to the prosecution of this work, I should possibly have devoted the remainder of my days to work of this kind, which is, perhaps,

my favourite branch of gardening. But, weary of waiting, I accepted a situation, previously offered by Mr. Weeks, of Chelsea, to go to Kirkleatham Hall, near Redcar, the seat of Mrs. Newcomen. This was the easiest situation I ever filled. Having lived about ten years in housekeeper's rooms, I left on account of some difficulty in the way of getting a home of my own. Living in the house, if one is perfectly sober—a total abstainer—is not without its advantages. One learns the wants and ways of households, and young men lose the rawness of garden life, and take on a little polish from the men and maidens with whom they are brought in contact. And though gentle manners will neither make men nor gardeners, they add grace and smoothness to everyday life, and render gardeners more agreeable to their employers—a point which even such a great statesman as Lord Palmerston was keenly alive to, for we find him in his biography complaining that his new gardener was a much less pleasant companion than his old one.

Arrived in London one of my first calls was upon Dr. Lindley, at 21, Regent Street, then the headquarters of the Horticultural Society of London. His eye looked me through and through as he was informed who I was, and what I wanted. In an instant he called me a fool point blank for staking a comfortable situation on a matrimonial venture, but relented instantly, and added that were I only one-tenth as clever as my brother Robert I was fit to fill the best place in England. Nothing, however, came of the formal registration in the books, and again my attention was turned to landscape gardening, and while engaged in such work a letter was received from Lady Cullum, offering me my present situation. It seems that kind friends in East Suffolk had not forgotten their old neighbour, and, hearing of a vacancy, had recommended me to Sir Thomas and Lady Cullum while I was yet ignorant of the place being vacant. The novelty of the offer, coupled with the presentiment, which had grown into a firm conviction from the time of first seeing Hardwicke, perhaps ten years before, that I should one day live there, made the way to an engagement easy.

I find that I arrived at Hardwicke on April 2, 1855, over twenty years ago. The late Sir Thos. Cullum, who died before my arrival, was a great planter and an accomplished horticulturist. Lady Cullum was also devoted to gardening, and distinguished by refined and highly cultured taste. Hardwicke is largely their creation, and in its planning and furnishing they were ably assisted by the late Rev. Frederick Cheere and some good practical gardeners—Mr. Smy, who is just dead, my immediate predecessor, and Mr. Saml. Barret, still land steward at Hardwicke. Of my own doings here it would ill become me to write, or to say more than that all the changes and extensions have been planned and executed with a view to preserve the old beauties of the place while adding new ones to them, and, in a word, to endeavour to fill the garden and glasshouses with plants, and adorn them with beauty all the year round.

How far I have succeeded or failed in this ideal it is not for me to record; suffice it, that through all these years I have been able to give pleasure and satisfaction to an employer who long since merged the authority of the mistress in the kindness of a friend; have added somewhat to the beauties of a place not destitute of natural and artificial charms; have formed and boldly expressed my convictions on all public questions; have continued to advocate in public and in private all measures tending to the elevation of horticulturists and the advancement of horticulture; to diffuse among all classes a deeper love and a truer knowledge of gardening as one of the strongest antidotes to debasing pleasures and sweetest allurements to virtue; and to be, in a word, in some humble means worthy of a profession that is allied to all that is beautiful in Nature and skilful and refined in Art, that condenses the vegetable wealth and plenty of the world into the limited areas of gardens, embodies the revelations of science, the scintillations of genius, and the results of the most successful practice into profusely illustrated poems of stately measure and well-balanced rhythm, or weaves them into finished

pictures flushed with beauty and filled in with plenty—an art that, in fine, affords to all its votaries, of whatever rank or station, some of the purest and most satisfying pleasures that fall to the lot of man."

Since the above was written, some months since, Lady Cullum has died, and Mr. Fish, writing of this, says, "The sun of Hardwicke seems put out."

then produce clusters of bloom on stems from 1 foot to 2 feet long, and will be valuable at a time when the bulk of the regular Chrysanthemums of November are past.

If the wall is lower, and large blooms are required, the method of training the plants must be altered, and Pompons should not be planted, only the large-flowered varieties. Plant these at 2 feet apart. Secure the stems to the wall; train in a slanting direction across one another, which allows of more branches being laid in without extending them beyond the top of the wall. Thin the branches at the breaks, and select the buds as advised earlier in this note; but if quantity of flowers is the object, and the wall is low, top the shoots when about 6 inches long, and repeat the topping when 6 inches more growth has been made—after that allow the shoots to grow away uninterruptedly.

As soon as the roots have taken possession of the new soil, apply weak liquid-manure freely, increasing its strength when the flower-buds have formed. After hot days let the plants be well syringed, which keeps the foliage clean and healthy.

There are some varieties so valuable for wall culture that they should not be omitted from any list, viz.,—Japanese: Elaine, Source d'Or, Mrs. Horril, Peter the Great, Madame Louise Leroy, Mdlle. Lacroix, Thomas Wilkins, Pride of Madford, Viviand Morel, Charles Davis, Phœbus, President Borel, Niveum, Mrs. J. Lewis, G. W. Childs, Lady Randolph, G. C. Schwabe, and Etoile de Lyon.

Of Pompons: Snowdrop, Primrose League, White Trevenna, Golden Circle, Black Douglas, St. Michael, W. Sabey, Rosinante, and its yellow sport, Nelly Rainford.

Of single-flowered varieties: Mrs. Langtry, Purity, Mary Anderson, Jane, Yellow Jane, and Admiral Sir T. Symonds are good. *E. Molyneux.*

Nursery Notes.

MR. JAMES CYPHER'S, AT CHELTENHAM.

A brief visit paid recently to this nursery disclosed numerous Dendrobiums, profusely loaded with blooms. The plants, to be fully appreciated, must be seen, as a mere description of them is an impossibility. That universal favourite species, D. nobile and D. n. nobilius, were very fine; and exceptionally fine, too, was Cypher's form of D. nobile, the chastest of the nobile group; while other varieties were D. n. marmoratum, whose sepals are spotted; D. n. Virgil, having a very dark-coloured lip, and pure white sepals; D. n. Sanderianum, and D. n. Cooksoni was also fine. The various plants of D. Ainsworthi showed great freedom of growth, as also abundant bloom. D. Findleyanum, D. atroviolaceum, D. melanodiscus, D. rubens grandiflora, and many of D. Cybele, of which last there were many distinct varieties, the finer being D. C. nobilior ×. Very striking was a plant in bloom of D. Schneiderianum ×, = D. aureum and D. Findleyanum, the intense orange tinted lip of this hybrid being a remarkable point. These are but a few culled from the collection. There were observed many seedlings either in flower or expected to flower for the first time this season.

It is worthy of remark that Mr. Cypher cultivates his Orchids in small, low, ordinary glasshouses, with no extraordinary means of ventilation, but also with a total absence of draught. How much of his success is due to the simplicity of the arrangement can only be guessed.

Cattleyas, Lælias, Odontoglossum crispum, and Cypripediums are largely cultivated. Of the last-named, a fine batch of C. villosum was in flower, the plants being in rude health, and the flowers of large size. I remarked four dozen examples of Oncidium Marshallianum furnished with flower-spikes in a forward state, and some Epidendrum Stamfordianum and E. O'Brieni were noted. *J.*

MESSRS. BARR AND SONS.

Daffodils, Early and Late.—"Almost all the varieties are blossoming together," said Mr. William Barr, when we looked in at the Long Ditton Nurseries on April 26. The cold weather had prevented the early ones from "take(ing) the winds of March with beauty," but in the meantime, the later ones were getting through their preparatory stage, until the sudden spell of unusual warmth about April 19 had the effect of levelling them all up. The nurseries, therefore, presented such breadths of yellow colour of many shades, that it would be idle to attempt a description of the scene, unless the standpoint be from the comparative degree; and we say that of the many fine displays we have seen at Messrs. Barr & Son's establishment, this was the richest. But there is a very obvious disadvantage attending such a prodigal display, for we have to make up our minds to a very short season of bloom; and Herrick's lines will be unusually appropriate—

"Fair Daffodils! We weep to see
You haste away so soon."

There was little time to be lost in moralising, however, for visitors were entering at every gate to see the fleeting picture, and so with Mr. Barr we hurried off to see the expensive treasures that at present are carefully protected from damaging winds by lath-made walls or houses. On our way there was the pretty little Narcissus triandrus albus, upon some stonework. It looked very beautiful, but its effect would have been even better had the flowers been over a green carpet. The double-white Arabis near to, also upon some stonework, was flowering very strongly; it is a capital plant, and as many hardy plant growers may not have obtained it yet, our note may be useful. By this time our attention was directed to the fine new yellow trumpet Daffodil King Alfred, already seen at some of the exhibitions; Weardale Perfection, a superb bicoloured trumpet, still very rare; and the lovely pale coloured Madame de Graaffe, with an ample rim to the trumpet, and which is not surpassed by any modern variety of the same type. All of these have been figured in our columns. Messrs. Barr's new variety of the Poet's Narcissus "Glory" is a very fine one, being large in size, unusually pure in its whiteness, and having a richly coloured crown. The Rev. G. Engleheart's variety "Cassandra" growing near by, has rather better form, the segments being wider towards the base, and consequently imbricate, but it is less in size (as seen at Long Ditton), and appeared to be less white; it is a pity to compare them with each other to the prejudice of either, for both are very beautiful. A new white trumpet Daffodil of large size has been named after Peter Barr, who at the age of 75 has just left the New Hebrides, and hopes to travel from Cape Town to Egypt by land, beside having many other adventures before coming home. This white trumpet with a yellow interior base may live to be as good a veteran. Next was General Roberts, the new yellow trumpet variety already referred to in these columns; it has short, broad, somewhat pale-coloured segments, and rich trumpet with good lip. N. Leedsii "Maggie May" is a delightful flower, and although we have seen it many times, may not be described as common, whilst the bulbs remain at the price of 12 to 15 guineas! Incomparabilis Gloria Mundi has a very rich orange-coloured cup; and Glory of Leiden, which is the last of the rarities we will mention, might almost be termed a "starer," for its bold, rich, yellow trumpets do not "nod," but look upward.

We can only dwell momentarily among the beds out-of-doors, however much we would like to do so. Stella superba, a bicolor of the incomparabilis section, was marvellous, and Mr. Barr says it is a capital grower; Duchess of Westminster (Leedsii), John Bain (Burbidgei), very suitable for naturalising in grass; Frank Dyke, excellent for the same purpose, owing to its pretty "winged" appearance; the well-known Emperor and Empress; Mrs. Langtry (Leedsii), with a yellow ring on the cup; Ray Smith, a yellow trumpet variety, with broad, glaucous foliage; Hume's Giant, and Victoria, were among the most noteworthy varieties in this extensive collection. Victoria is not only one of the new and valuable trumpet varieties (see fig. in *Gardeners' Chronicle*, June 12, 1897, p. 380), but it is very suitable for forcing purposes, being earlier than Horsfieldi, and following Golden Spur. Then there is Lucifer, an incomparabilis variety, raised by Mrs. Lawrenson; its rich, orange-coloured cup is one of the most remarkable developments of colour in the whole genus Narcissus.

We cannot close this note without a reference to the gorgeous Tulips, including T. Greigii, that helped to make the nurseries so gay; nor the Hyacinths, and especially the Grape Hyacinths, that formed such panels of blue. Such a grateful scene as Muscari concinna (Heavenly Blue) makes upon a hedge-bank which has been planted with this variety, is one that must remain ever in our memory.

Obituary.

D. T. Fish.—Few names in the horticultural world were better known than that of D. T. Fish, whose death on the 22nd ult. it was our painful duty to announce in our last number. Whether as a gardener, an exhibitor, a judge, a writer, a lecturer, an orator, a politician, a town councillor, or a religious teacher, he made his mark. His zeal and energy till quite recently were boundless. He threw himself into everything he undertook with a fervour that was really astonishing. On one occasion we remember to have seen Fish at some railway junction, and while waiting for his train he was writing his report of a flower show for the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, resting his paper on some bench on the platform, which was certainly not an ideal writing-desk. Not many now remember the provincial show of the Royal Horticultural Society at Bury St. Edmunds, but those that do will recall the fact that its success was in a great measure due to him. So arduous were his labours on that occasion, that for once he succumbed to over exertion. For these services, Fish was rewarded with the honorary Fellowship of the Royal Horticultural Society. Some time afterwards, during the evil days of the South Kensington régime, some one discovered that the Council had done an illegal act, and Fish was deprived of his well-won honours. Of course, he was bitterly mortified, as well he might have been, though in the circumstances no other course could probably have been followed. Happily, means were subsequently taken to repair this unwitting injustice, and Fish was latterly a life Fellow of the Society.

David Fish was born on September 25, 1824, close to Old Scone, Perthshire, where David Douglas was born—as he was fond of narrating. He was a garden apprentice in Scone Palace Garden, the property of the Earl of Mansfield. The Earl was an enthusiastic lover of trees, many of them of Douglas' introduction, and it was one of the duties of young Fish to cover up the Conifers on frosty nights, as their hardiness was then not proven. While he was at Scone he paid some attention to British botany, and made a large collection of Perthshire plants. Leaving Scone at an early age, Fish placed himself at Putteridgebury, near Luton, under the tuition of his brother Robert, then a noted gardener, and afterwards a constant contributor to the *Journal of Horticulture*. David Fish also spent some time in the nurseries of Messrs. Backhouse of York, and Knight & Perry, the predecessors of Messrs. Veitch at Chelsea. Afterwards we hear of him as head gardener at Broke Hall, Suffolk, where he came under the tuition of Donald Beaton. Then he went to Glevering, where he did not remain long; and to Kirkleatham Hall, Redcar. For many years he occupied a similar post at Hardwicke House, near Bury St. Edmunds, and this portion of his career was the most amply filled. The death of Lady Cullum

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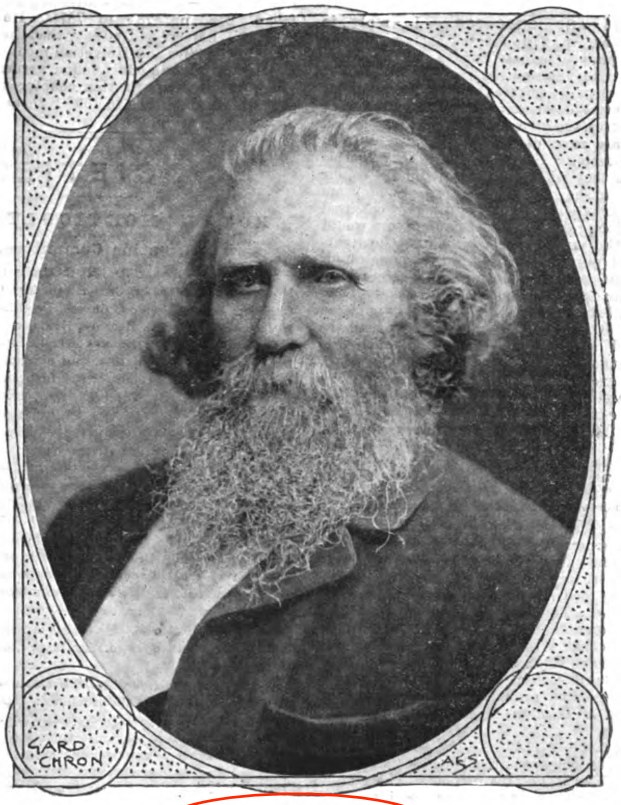
served to sever his long and honourable career at Hardwicke, and he subsequently devoted himself to the duties of county council lecturer in Cambridgeshire and other counties, doing much to promote the extension of fruit-culture in the eastern counties. Literary work also occupied much of his time, and in addition to his contributions to our columns, he superintended the horticultural departments of the *Bazaar*, and of the *Agricultural Economist*. He was also the editor of Cassell's *Dictionary of Popular Gardening*, and himself contributed much to that work.

He removed to Edinburgh in 1896, and gave numerous lectures in that city, in Dundee, and other parts of Scotland, as well as in Huntingdonshire.

His services were frequently in request as a judge at flower shows; and he always took a prominent part in the great co-operative displays at the Crystal Palace. He was always striving to benefit his fellow-gardeners, and ceaseless in his endeavours to promote the progress of the art he loved so well.

He was a most prolific writer, too much so, perhaps (especially from the point of view of the compositor, as his handwriting was by no means of the most legible character) and a fluent and effective speaker; the brilliancy of his imagination, his readiness of pen, and the copiousness of his speech, sometimes produced the impression that he could not be a good practical gardener. Those who knew how well Hardwicke Gardens were managed, and those who remember his success as an exhibitor, will know how erroneous such an impression was. As a man and a colleague he was high-principled, right-minded, warm-hearted, just His sympathies were wide, his appreciation of the true, the beautiful, the good, beyond average. A full account of Mr. Fish's life, up to the year 1875, is given in our issue for May 22 of that year, and should be studied by all gardeners.

The interment of the remains took place at Warriston Cemetery, Edinburgh, on the afternoon of Sunday, April 28, attended by a deputation of about a dozen members of the Scottish Horticultural Association. A wreath was sent by the association, bearing the inscription, "In grateful remembrance of their much esteemed and eminent Horticultural Brother, from the Scottish Horticultural Association."



THE LATE DAVID TAYLOR FISH.

HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

IRRITATION TO THE SKIN CAUSED BY PRIMULAS.—In reply to "Rus in Urbe," I find that the leaves of P. sinensis are apt to cause some persons irritation of the skin when handled. The Heliotrope has the same effect. I was seriously poisoned by the leaves of P. obconica, and would not now handle the plant without gloves, and will not permit a plant of this species to be grown if I can help it in any greenhouse under my charge. *H. H., Nurseries, Downfield, near Dundee.*

FROST IN BEDFORDSHIRE.—Plum, Cherry, and Pear-trees here are flowering this year with the utmost profusion, and the prospects until this morning (April 29) were extremely satisfactory. We have now registered a frost that is likely to prove disastrous, as the sun is rising in a cloudless sky, and the trees are all fully exposed. The minimum temperature on the ground was 22° Fahr. (10° of frost), and 24·5° in a case at 4 feet above the surface. Fortunately, the air was very dry, as at 6 P.M. on the previous night (April 28) the relative humidity was only 63 (100 representing complete saturation), and this is very unusual here at that time of day, being generally nearer 80. This may prove the saving clause, but at present it is impossible to say what the result will be. Gooseberries, red, and black Currants are also in full flower. *R. Lewis Castle, Ridgmont, Beds.*

THE FARNINGHAM SITE.—The Royal Horticultural Society is to be congratulated on the result of the meeting on Tuesday, April 23, and it is to be hoped that we shall hear no more schemes for the purchase of land for an experimental garden. A point was raised by Mr. Veitch and Mr. Shea as to its being contrary to the terms of our Charter to apply the funds of the Society to buying or renting land for the purpose of erecting a building in which the shows may be held. This point ought to be cleared up; if it be so, then by what right do we rent the Drill Hall, and incur the expenses of the Temple Show? *Alfred O. Walker, Maidstone.*

THE HORTICULTURAL HALL.—With regard to the discussion at the meeting of the Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society, and the correspondence which has appeared in connection with the Hall question, there is one very essential point which has only been touched upon by one side, viz., the incompatibility of a Hall with the charter of the Society, and until the existence or non-existence of such an obstacle is made perfectly clear, it is obvious that adequate support will never be forthcoming on the one hand, or on the other that the Fellows will reconcile themselves to a different project. The Fellows present were advised at the meeting by members of the Council to study the Charter and see for themselves how it stood in the way, but I venture to think that as few or none of us carry that Charter in our pockets, it would be much better if the obstructive clauses were published, reasons being given at the same time why they were not considered an obstacle when a Hall was formerly so strongly advocated by the Council. I am aware that a new Charter has since been acquired, but I am not aware that any such material alteration was inserted as precluded the attainment of what so many Fellows consider to be a vital aim of the Society. If the Charter be so framed it is a great pity, and its amendment should be obtained if possible. Anyway, now that the opinion of the Fellows in favour of a Hall has been so unmistakeably manifested, and a definite nucleus of support promised, the next thing is to know exactly how the practicability question stands, so that it may be generally known what is the nature of the impediments, and the possibility of removing it, if it really exist, be seriously considered. From the spirit evinced at the meeting, I am perfectly sure that were this point definitely cleared up, and support heartily invited by the Council, ways and means would be forthcoming which would provide the Society with a proper home as a fitting celebration of its forthcoming centenary. Two things, however, are essential, cordial co-operation all round, and no fog about the facts. *C. T. D.*

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: THE CENTENARY.—Again the horticulturists of Great Britain generally, as well as the Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society, owe their earnest thanks to the *Gardeners' Chronicle* for important assistance, most ably rendered at a critical period. The result of the meeting on April 23 was both satisfactory and convincing, and the prompt recognition of this by the President, as shown by his action in declining to take advantage of the objectionable bye-law which would have permitted voting by proxy at a subsequent meeting, was exactly what we should expect from a gentleman like Sir Trevor Lawrence. The letter by Sir W. Thiselton-Dyer is the most masterly and logical review of the Society's duties, dangers, and responsibilities that has ever been published. It cannot be too carefully read by all who are earnestly concerned respecting the future welfare of an organisation which is becoming rapidly more powerful every year. With this growth and increased capacity for beneficial work, there is a corresponding need for greater caution in the conduct of its affairs, and any serious division of opinion amongst its supporters would speedily cause a relapse into the old order of things. Let the question of the Centenary celebration be discussed in a calm and reasonable manner, and there can be no doubt whatever that it can be rendered worthy of the Society and the occasion. For myself, I am convinced that the provision of a suitable hall for the Society's meetings would not only conduce more to its advantage and credit in every way, but if a scheme be carefully devised on the broadest possible basis, it will secure an adequate financial support. I am now writing from personal knowledge of the opinions of some who are well able to aid in a material degree. It would be a graceful

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No less than 51 visitors attended the dinner of the Club, when papers by Dr. Bull, Mr. C. B. Plowright, surgeon, of King's Lynn, and Mr. Phillips, of Shrewsbury, were read. Dr. Bull's paper was on the resting spores of fungi, illustrated with drawings and actual specimens; Mr. Plowright discussed Gerarde's idea of fungi; and Mr. Phillips detailed at length all the curious species of fungi found upon charcoal beds.

The excursions and exhibitions of fungi were somewhat late this year, but this lateness did not prevent the sharp eyes of the members detecting four handsome species of fungi not hitherto published as British, viz., Hygrophorus fornicatus, Fr.; Agaricus icterinus, Fr.; Clavaria curta, Fr.; and C. rufa, Fr.; it is probable that after further examination others new to our flora will be published.

As on previous occasions, the fungi were arranged in proper botanical sequence the day before, and amongst the specimens of most interest was a large piece of the great Polyporus from the Bank of England, and a magnificent Agaric (A. dryinus) which was found growing on the stand of one of the magnetic instruments in the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. This was sent by Mr. Frederick Currey, F.R.S.

One of the rarest and most curious fungi was found by Mr. Plowright, viz., Marasmius Hudsoni, Fr. This plant excited considerable interest, from its peculiar structure and extreme beauty when viewed under an ordinary lens, but which beauty is brought out to much greater perfection under the higher powers of the microscope. At fig. 294, p. 1469, I have engraved this plant, natural size, growing, as it does, upon dead Holly leaves; the Agaric is small in size, as shown, and the pileus is thickly set with long purple-brown bristles. When this pileus is seen under the microscope it is found to be thickly dotted all over with glandular hairs (fig. 295, p. 1469), a most uncommon thing amongst fungi, and these hairs not only cover the pileus but run over the gills and down the stem; the bristles, which are sometimes branched, and hairs, are shown as they occur upon the pileus, greatly enlarged, at C, D; the glands are then in a perfectly plain condition. On a minute examination of the gills it will be found that the plain character of the glandular hairs is lost, and they gradually merge into and become papillose cystids, as at E. The granular matter attached to the tips appears to be closely analogous with the spermatozoids of some German writers, but although I have commonly seen the Brownian movements of the spermatozoids tipping the cystids of some Agarics, yet I have not been able to detect anything like motion in the granular matter of Marasmius Hudsoni. The spores (F) are very peculiar in shape, are furnished with a central nucleus as shown, and measure .0004" long.

The first excursion of this Club was made on Tuesday, October 21, to Mynde Park and Bryngwyn, when the very first fungus found was Coprinus lagopus, Fr.—a rare plant, and one never met with before by the Club. Soon after the equally rare Lactarius uvidus, Fr., was found for the first time by the Club; this species turns bright amethyst when touched or broken. Amongst the rarities of the day were Polyporus Schweinitzii, Fr.; Agaricus applicatus, Batsch.; A. acerbus, Bull; Lactarius glyciosmus, Fr.; Marasmius caulicinalis, Fr.; Merulius tremellosus, Schr.; and a good number of Russulæ. The excursionists dined with Mr. Rankin, the High Sheriff of the County, who received the members with great liberality and kindness at Bryngwyn. A microscopic *conversazione* was held at the house of Mr. Griffith Morris, surgeon, of Hereford, in the evening, when Mr. Broome and others exhibited various minute objects of interest under the microscope. On Wednesday morning the fungi were fully examined at the "Green Dragon," and an excursion made to Belmont, where Agaricus aureus, was found last year by Mr. Renny. The church and convent at Belmont were visited, as also the house and grounds of Mr. Wegg Prosser. It was originally intended to make this excursion in boats up the river Wye, but there was such a high wind, and the river was rushing with such violence, that boating was found impossible; the excursionists on their return were overtaken by a hurricane of wind and rain, one umbrella was blown across a field of Beans, and others had their umbrellas torn inside out and split. In the evening the visitors dined with Dr. Bull, and discussed the fungi found, as Marasmius Hudsoni, Russula emetica, &c. Thursday, October 23, was the day of the great excursion to Haywood Forest, where a number of rare Agarics were met with, as A. clavipes, Pers.; A. acerbus, Bull; A. icterinus, Fr. (new to Britain); Hygrophorus calyptræformis, B. and Br.; H. fornicatus (also new), Geoglossum olivaceum, Pers.; G. glabrum, Pers.; G. glutinosum, Pers., with Clavaria curta, Fr., and many other species of interest. The trees attracted great attention, regarding which, and the trees of Moccas Park, we shall say more anon. The members lingered long round the giant "Monarch" Oak (whose branches spread more than 100 feet), and the fine large trees of Cornus mascula, full of fruit. In the evening 51 guests sat down to the Club dinner, where turkey was served stuffed with Herefordshire truffles—Hygrophorus pratensis, Fr., and the Vegetable Beefsteak (Fistulina hepatica, Fr.). The latter is one of the most delicious of all fungi, and when cooked as it always is at the Woolhope dinner its rich and luscious flavour can never be forgotten. Dr. Bull, after his paper on Sclerotia, spoke at length on this fungus, and impressed upon the members the necessity of gathering the plant at its precise time of ripeness (just before decay sets in. He acknowledged it to be inferior to some fungi when young, and compared its infant state to the green state of some of our most delicious Pears. He wisely said that if Pears, which take months to mature, must be gathered at some precise time, how much more so is it necessary to gather fungi at an equally precise time, when their entire growth only numbers hours instead of months, as in Pears. In the evening the members were entertained at a *conversazione* at the house of Thomas Cam, Esq., surgeon, of Hereford, when Mr. C. E. Broome read his paper on New Genera of Fungi, and Mr. James Renny his on Saprolegnieæ. A discussion took place, in which Mr. Berkeley, Dr. Bull, the Rev. James Davis (President), the Rev. J. E. Jones-Machen, the Rev. Wm. Houghton, Mr. Lees, of Worcester, and other naturalists present took part. The last excursion was made on Saturday to Moccas Court, the seat of Sir Geo. H. Cornewall, Bart. Sir Geo. Cornewall accompanied the visitors the entire day, and entertained them at dinner at dusk in the most handsome and liberal manner; in fact the way in which Sir George Cornewall devoted the whole of the day in pointing out the objects of interest in and about Moccas Park, and in so many other ways enhancing the great enjoyment of the day, will never be forgotten. It must be confessed that the scenery, the truly magnificent and gigantic trees (one tree measuring 36 feet round), and the ancient Norman church, attracted quite as much attention as the fungi. Here Thelephora multizonata, B. and Br., was found, and close by Anthina flammea, Fr., both by Mr. Cam; with many other fungi of extreme interest, such as Hygrophorus russo-coriaceus, B. and Br., which was in great abundance. Fries considers this to be the same with his Agaricus (Clitocybe) ericetorum, but Berkeley very properly maintains it to be a true Hygrophorus; in fact it differs in no way from H. virgineus, Fr., except in its powerful odour of Russian leather; it grows with H. virgineus, and we have found the latter plant sometimes smelling strongly of sugar. Be this as it may, no one could pass over the lawn where this Hygrophorus grew without noticing its delicious fragrance, which loaded the air. During the sumptuous dinner laid before the guests at dusk by Sir George Cornewall, vivid flashes of lightning ever and anon illuminated the dining-room. It was afterwards learned that a heavy storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, had broken over Hereford (10 miles off), striking the trees and tearing off their limbs, but the congress of botanists happily quite escaped it, although they had a good drenching in the morning. A *conversazione* was given in the evening at the house of Dr. Bull, when various matters of mycological interest were gone into. Some of the fungi exhibited at the "Green Dragon" were unusually large. Dr. M'Cullough brought from Abergavenny a specimen of Lactarius controversus, P., 2 feet 3 inches round, A specimen of Agaricus geotrupus, Bull, measured 2 feet 6 inches round, and a plant of Agaricus radicatus, Relh., brought by the Rev. Wm. Houghton, had a stem 1 foot 4 inches long. On the tables were Paxillus pannoides, Fr., Agaricus (Volvaria) gloiocephalus, Fr., Mitrula cucullata, Fr., Merulius lacrymans, Fr., in great sheets; Russula emetica, Fr., Agaricus hybridus, Fr., Lactarius glyciosmus, Fr., and an enormous number of more or less rare or common edible or poisonous species, all arranged in botanical sequence and properly labelled. There can be no doubt that the Woolhope meeting is a great and successful holiday, but a great deal of hard work is always got through; for instance, it is a heavy piece of work to name and arrange such a vast number of species, and the visitors who benefit thereby ought to be ever thankful to Dr. Bull for the deep and stedfast interest he has ever taken in making sound advances in the study of fungi. The more hard-working members seldom get to bed till 12, and are up again before daylight painting new species, or pressing the rarer plants for their herbaria. A large number of ladies were present at the exhibition, and some complained of the difficult names and terms; among which "trama" and "annulus" were objected to. One gentleman suggested the more English (?) word "veil" in connection with the "annulus," but a beautiful young lady was heard to whisper, in reference to "veil" and "ring," that she thought she preferred the latter, that is, if——. We heard no more. *Worthington G. Smith.*

Notices of Books.

THE seventeenth, and last, part of De Candolle's *Prodromus* has just been issued. It contains the remaining orders of the incomplete series, with the exception of Artocarps, of which M. Bureau has failed to complete the Monograph in time for publication. Some interesting historical memoranda are given respecting the work, which was commenced in 1824 by Auguste Pyramus De Candolle, and has been brought to its present condition under the editorship of his son, Alphonse, with the assistance of numerous botanists. A general index to the genera of all the volumes is given, which will be very serviceable. Thus, after fifty years, but still prematurely, ends a remarkable work, which has been, and indeed is, of incalculable value as a book of reference to botanists. The march of science has been so rapid, and the additions to our knowledge so great, that the early volumes are somewhat out of date. This is, of course, inevitable, but it is a source of extreme regret that M. De Candolle should have brought the work to a close with the Dicotyledons, and that he has no intention of proceeding with the Monocotyledons. This is the more to be regretted as the latter series of orders stand in dire need of monographic revision, and great as the difficulties of the task are, it must be remembered that they are counterbalanced by the facilities for travelling, the greater accessibility to books and herbaria, and the greater number of students as contrasted with what was the state of affairs forty years ago.

That M. De Candolle, who still possesses unrivalled facilities for bringing the work to a completion, should thus bring to an untimely end the magnificent structure of which his father laid the foundation, of which he himself raised the superstructure, and to which his own son has also contributed, is, we repeat, a matter of extreme regret.

This circumstance makes us doubt the policy of so gigantic a work being left to individuals to accomplish. M. De Candolle we believe, and not without reason, prides himself on the fact that his father and himself, aided by the co-operation of many botanists, have so far brought the work to a conclusion, without Government aid or subsidy, and doubtless at considerable pecuniary loss to themselves. There is much to be said for and against this subject; in the meantime we have here a splendid torso as the result of individual zeal and labour, and it is a debateable question whether if done at all it would not have been done in a more perfunctory and less zealous mode if done by Government aids. The historical and statistical details to which we have referred are so interesting, that we shall take an early opportunity of adverting to them.

Amateurs' Exchange List.

[The object of this department is to facilitate the interchange of plants, &c., between amateurs. It must be expressly understood that this column is exclusively reserved for amateurs' use, and that no commercial or pecuniary transactions can find place under this heading. The Editors reserve to themselves, absolutely, the right to determine what shall be inserted, and to frame such regulations as they may deem desirable. The Editors undertake no responsibility whatever in the matter beyond the publication of what they deem fitting. As a rule, plants readily procurable at the nurseries will be excluded. Space cannot be afforded for many offers at one time.]

THE following is a list of the species and varieties of Haworthias in the possession of Mr. J. T. Peacock, Sudbury House, Hammersmith. Mr. Peacock will be pleased to exchange duplicates of any of these for any others not here named:—

Haworthia attenuata	Haworthia papillosa
,, ,, arachnoides	,, planifolia
,, atrovirens	,, pentagona
,, ,, attilinea	,, parva
,, Bolusii	,, quadrata
,, bicarinata	,, retusa
,, bullata	,, rugosa
,, clariperta	,, radula
,, ,, variety	,, rigida
,, cymbæforme	,, spiralis
,, cuspidata	,, spirella
,, coarctata	,, setata
,, congesta	,, subtortuosa
,, erecta	,, subulata
,, foliolosa	,, scabra
,, fasciata	,, turgida
,, ,, major	,, tortuosa
,, granata	,, ,, major
,, Greenii	,, tessellata
,, glauca, sp. var.	,, ,, elatior
,, hybrida	,, ,, minor
,, imbricata	,, viscosa
,, lætevirens	,, ,, indurata
,, minor	,, sp. nova
,, ,, nigra	

Obituary.

ROBERT FISH, gardener to George Sowerby, Esq., Putteridgebury, Herts, died early on the morning of Thursday, the 23d ult., in the 65th year of his age. He had been ailing for some time, still a fatal end was not anticipated; and his sudden decease will come as a surprise to most horticulturists. Few men were more widely known, or more generally esteemed, than Robert Fish. Possessed of rich stores of knowledge, gleaned with an industry that never flagged, nothing seemed to give him so much pleasure as the distribution of his abundance to others. No sooner was a horticultural periodical—the first of its class—established by the late Mr. Loudon, than Mr. Fish became one of its contributors; and from that time till the pen fell from his grasp by partial paralysis, he continued to wield it. Years ago he did much good work for the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, the *Gardeners' Journal*, and for many years he has been on the staff of the *Journal of Horticulture*; and his pen, his power, his purse, have ever been ready to advance horticulture or help horticulturists. And yet all his writings were the result of the husbanding of the fragments of his time. For the last thirty-six years his life-work has been the forming, furnishing, and adorning the gardens of Putteridgebury, and he succeeded in raising them to fame as among the best illustrations of gardening in the country. He especially excelled in flower gardening, and there are few, if any, gardens in Britain which could exceed that at Putteridgebury in the luxuriant wealth of its masses and the grand effects of its colouring. Mr. Fish was an example of what a young man without any special help from fortune may become. At school, in the village of Scone in Perthshire, he was distinguished for his diligence and thirst for knowledge, and to the last he never thought his education finished. Self-culture followed school teaching. Few men valued their time more. In early life he was a great reader—a taste doubtless fostered by his taste of the classics at school. But he went early as an apprentice to gardening in the gardens of the Earl of Mansfield, at Scone Palace, Perthshire. In those days work was heavy, and sympathy and encouragement but scant for young gardeners. But the young apprentice read at meal times, and far into the night, and laid the foundation of that culture, sweetness, and light, to use Matthew Arnold's words, that distinguished and helped him to be what he was through life. The same course of study and reading were pursued at Valleyfield, Caenwood, Shuckburgh, and Chiswick, whither the young gardener went in search of a thorough knowledge of his business. Robert Fish first became a master

gardener at Hyde Park Corner; close to the Ring where the Messrs. Tattersall have ruled over horseflesh for so many years he began the practice of the art he had learned—learned with so much diligence. Few places could be more unpromising to a young horticulturist; but he looked upon difficulties as made to be mastered, and he went on mastering them for years, to the entire satisfaction of his employer, the Mr. Tattersall of forty years ago, and to the surprise of many who went to see for themselves.

It was at "The Corner" that Robert Fish made his *début* as a public writer. Here he also formed many valuable friendships that only ended with his life. Perhaps the most influential on his own career was that of the late Mr. Loudon, who encouraged the young gardener by his warm friendship, and invited him to try his wings in the *Gardeners' Magazine*. At that time, too, he had many ideas and plans about the elevation of horticulturists, hence his origination of Mutual Improvement and other societies. He had an intense love of knowledge for its own sake, and also for its influence on the character and *status* of those who possessed it. No man was more jealous for the honour of the cloth, none had a warmer regard for every true gardener. To the whole craft his heart was open, and to the last he continued an enthusiast in his profession. He even wished to retire, not because it was to his interest to do so, quite the reverse, but in case the gardens should suffer through his illness; and it was not till his employer assured him again and again that he had never been better served, and that the garden could not look better, that he consented to remain in his place.

Robert Fish did much to live down the mischievous fallacy that a good writer must needs be a bad gardener. Practice, with writers like him, precedes the writing. Week by week he simply cut a sheet from his own doings of the week and had it printed. And so of other matters; the man who can clearly point out to others the why and the wherefore of things, is surely by that very process the better qualified to understand and do them himself. To the last the deceased's practice was abreast of his teaching. And now, after life's not fitful fever, but earnest work, he sleeps well in the quiet parish churchyard of Lily—fit name for such a lover of flowers. The whole of his family, from the most distant parts of England and Scotland, with the manager of the estate, and its owner, George Sowerby, Esq., gathered around his grave last Monday—the latter further testifying his esteem by burying him at his own expense, and proposing to commemorate him by a suitable memorial. Better advice could hardly be given to gardeners, young and old, than to copy the example and imitate the useful life of Robert Fish.

THE WEATHER.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AT BLACKHEATH, LONDON,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29, 1873.

1873. Month and Day.	Barometer. Mean Reading Reduced to 32° Fahr.	Barometer. Departure from Average of 18 Years.	Temperature of the Air. Highest.	Temperature of the Air. Lowest.	Temperature of the Air. Range.	Temperature of the Air. Mean for Day.	Temperature of the Air. Departure of Mean from Average of 50 Years	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 5th Edition. Dew Point.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 5th Edition. Degree of Humidity. Sat. = 100.	Wind. Average Direction.	Rainfall.
1873	In.	In.	°	°	°	°	°	°			In.
Oct. 23	28.84	−0.88	51.3	38.3	13.0	42.9	− 5.6	41.4	95	S.W.	0.37
„ 24	29.14	−0.58	45.6	34.9	10.7	40.4	− 7.8	37.9	91	variable	0.01
„ 25	29.40	−0.32	48.2	31.2	17.0	39.5	− 8.4	38.8	98	N.E.	0.00
„ 26	29.58	−0.14	51.6	37.2	14.4	42.5	− 5.1	38.1	85	N.N.E.	0.00
„ 27	30.21	+0.48	49.5	32.0	17.5	39.7	− 7.6	35.0	84	N.N.E.	0.00
„ 28	30.28	+0.56	44.0	27.7	16.3	34.6	−12.4	32.1	91	variable	0.00
„ 29	30.03	+0.30	49.5	26.7	22.8	35.1	−11.7	34.2	97	variable	0.00

Oct. 23.—Overcast, and rain fell till about 3 P.M.; very gloomy about 10.30 A.M. The clouds variable till night, then cloudless and very fine. Flashes of lightning seen between 9 P.M. and midnight
— 24.—Overcast, dull and foggy till night, then cloudless and very fine.
— 25.—Generally cloudy. Foggy. Slight rain between 6 and 8 P.M.
— 26.—Very fine with light clouds. Slight frost at night.
— 27.—Brilliantly fine. Thin clouds generally present. Frost at night
— 28.—Hoar frost. Cloudless but foggy throughout. Very fine.
— 29.—Dense fog in morning, with cloudless sky. Cloudy afternoon and evening.

JAMES GLAISHER.

Miscellaneous.

PARISH BOUNDARIES AND THE PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND.—In a recent number of the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute* Mr. Topley discusses the question of the relation of the parish boundaries in the south-east of England to great physical features, particularly to the chalk escarpment. This is a curious and valuable paper, based on much geological observation and antiquarian research. The writer shows that everywhere along the foot of the chalk escarpment there is a line of villages and parishes, often very narrow; villages near the foot of the hills are marked by the circumstance that the parish to which they belong ascends the escarpment, but very rarely extends in the opposite direction. In the Weald of Sussex, for instance, there are 119 parishes ascending the chalk escarpment, their villages lying below it, while there are only six villages whose parishes stretch in the opposite direction. In the case of the lower greensand escarpment there are 103 parishes, of which only 15 belong to villages lying beneath the escarpment, while 88 belong to villages on the lower greensand. Mr. Topley accounts for these facts by recalling the features of the country when the settlements first took place; he shows, for instance, how the whole surface of the Weald clay would be one dense forest unsuited for settlement, while in the wider chalk valleys the access to water would form the determining cause of settlement. Each knot of settlers would take the down land behind them on which to pasture their sheep, the good land around the dwellings would be taken under the plough, and the forest land in the other direction, whether wood or open glade, would afford mast for swine and pasture for cattle. Mr. Topley's views receive support from the names of the villages, a large number of which within the Weald end in *den*, *fold*, *hurst*, &c., words denoting forests and woodland pastures. At the foot of the chalk escarpment numerous villages have the syllable *ing* in their name, a syllable considered by Mr. Kemble to be indicative of the family settlements of the Teutonic invaders. It is not only in the chalk districts that this relation of the shape and extent of parishes to the physical features of the land exists, but in other formations also. The oolitic range of Lincolnshire affords a strictly parallel example with that of the chalk escarpment. The settlements were determined by the out-cropping of a water-yielding stratum, and land fit for arable culture along the foot of the escarpment. On the west there would be wood and pasture over the lias; on the east there would be rising open land.

INJURY TO LEAD BY INSECTS FROM DECAYING WOOD.—In making some repairs lately it became necessary to remove some 5 lb. lead flat, which had been down about 35 years: one of the boards was found extensively wormeaten and decayed, also one of the next partially so. Upon examining the lead which covered the decayed wood it was found full of holes, similar to those in the wood beneath, the other portion which covered the sound boards being perfectly sound. I have shown it to some practical builders, and they say they never came across such a thing. Will you please mention it in your journal, to learn whether such a thing has occurred elsewhere; as, if it is established, it will readily account for the pin-holes plumbers find in guttering, or other leadwork in combination with woodwork? *Jno. Murray, in the "Builder."*

LANDSLIPS IN THE SALT DISTRICTS.—The subsidences and landslips in the mines and towns of the salt districts of Cheshire have of late years become so serious, that the Government instructed Mr. Joseph Dickinson, inspector of mines, to investigate the matter and report. Mr. Dickinson has accordingly prepared an interesting report, which has been recently published. From this report it appears that in such towns as Northwich there is scarcely a wall which is perpendicular, or a floor that is horizontal. Sometimes, though not often, houses have been suddenly swallowed up with all their contents. There is one house in which the first-floor has become the ground-floor, with a new door in the wall, the original door showing only the top at the ground level. And yet Northwich is a thriving town, and the people take the matter easy, and buy and sell their house property just as is done in other towns. Sometimes the houses are built with wooden framework to keep them together, but there is frequent pulling down and rebuilding going on, and the place is a good one for the building trade. *Builder.*

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB.—The eighth annual report of this club has been issued, from which it appears that the Society is in favour with amateurs and others, and is doing good work in an unpretending way. The President's (Dr. Braithwaite) address contains a brief *resumé* of some of the more important points lately discussed by botanists and zoologists.

Garden Operations.

(FOR THE ENSUING FORTNIGHT.)

[The subjoined directions are intended to supply general information, and must, of course, be adapted to the peculiar circumstances of each locality.]

PLANT HOUSES.

Succulents.—Keep the air of the house as dry as possible, with as little artificial heat as will keep it above 38° to 40° degrees at night. With sun, give air. Keep *Cacti* dry, and small or sickly ones near the glass. The *Aloe* tribe require great care in watering at this season, especially such as *Haworthia setata*, *arachnoides*, and *translucens*, or they rot in a few days; the whole tribe are on the move, therefore to keep them quite dry is not good. *Agaves* should be watered when dry, but without wetting the foliage. *Stapelias* must be watered when dry only, but care is required that they do not get sodden; the better their position is ventilated, so long as there is no cold draught, the safer are the plants. Be careful with such *Mesembryanthemums* as M. tigrinum and minimum, as they damp, but if kept dry and well exposed to light, they are perfectly safe. Avoid damp among *Sempervivums* and *Echeverias*, especially seedlings. Such succulents as *Kleinia repens*, *Pachyphytum bracteosum*, or *roseum*, will keep during winter perfectly safe if put into shallow boxes without soil and kept dry. *J. Croucher.*

FLOWER GARDEN, &c.

The Parterre and Mixed Garden.—In all cases where a system of spring bedding is not pursued, the beds and borders should be at once cleared of the remains of dead and decaying plants, and dug over deeply in order that the soil may receive the full benefit of the winter's frosts, &c. Much has been said against the so-called unsightly masses of bare earth which the flower garden generally presents during the next five or six months. In reality, however, there is less in this than may at first sight appear to be the case. For after all there is nothing so very unsightly in neatly formed beds of fresh soil, surrounded by closely-cut and well-kept greensward, or neatly-trimmed Box or other edgings, which display to advantage the outline or pattern of the various beds or clumps which go to form an artistically designed parterre. The fertilising material which the beds and borders may require can be applied at the present time if it is in readiness, and if it is decided as to the sorts of plants intended to occupy each respective bed. This circumstance should never be lost sight of, as the various plants used differ so very much as to their requirements in the quality of the soil, &c., and for this, as well as for other reasons, I think it is always advisable to prepare the manurial or fertilising matter during the winter by frequent turnings, &c., and apply it to the beds and borders in what may be considered the necessary quantities just before the summer bedders are planted out. Wherever spring bedding is being carried out the process should be pushed forward with all possible dispatch in order to allow the dwarf shrubs and spring flowering herbaceous plants to get somewhat established in the beds before frost or very inclement weather sets in, and the sooner the various sorts of bulbs used for this purpose are also planted, the better, to induce early flowering, and thereby render the parterre gay at the earliest possible period, as well as to ripen the bulbs sufficiently early to enable them to be taken up in time to make room for the summer bedders. Take up carefully the bulbs and tubers of such plants as *Dahlias*, *Cannas*, *Gladioli*, *Tigridias*, *Commelina cœlestia*, *Caladium esculentum*, *Marvel of Peru*, &c., which after being dried should be stored in some secure place out of the reach of frost. The roots of such plants as the three last named may with advantage be packed in cocoa-nut fibre, dry earth, or sand. Cut down the decaying flower-stems, &c., of hardy herbaceous plants and *Hollyhocks*; lift and pot any of the latter which are scarce. Clear off decaying annuals. Pot rooted layers of *Carnations* and *Picotees*, also rooted cuttings of choice *Pansies*, &c. Keep lawns and walks free from falling leaves, &c., and let them also be frequently rolled. Attend to the stock of bedding plants, remove decaying leaves, &c., and give air whenever the state of the weather will permit, and give water only when it is really required. *P. Grieve, Culford, Bury St. Edmunds.*

FRUIT HOUSES.

Vines.—If a bed of fermenting leaves can be made on the inside border of the early vinery about to be started, it will be of much advantage. Whenever the temperature of the house threatens to fall, a yard of this fermenting material can be turned over, which will prevent farther decrease, and will be much more beneficial to the Vines than will a recourse to fires. If this bed is kept moderately moist, it will act as an evaporating tray. The temperature may range according to outside influences, but those started so early will require a higher temperature to excite them than if they were started in the dead of winter. There is no danger of the temperature being too high by day, when the weather is favourable and plenty of air can be admitted. A night temperature of from 50° to 55° will not be too much to begin with. Syringe morning and night, and on bright weather keep the paths and all other surfaces constantly moist by sprinklings. If pot Vines from which the early Grapes are taken can have bottom-heat, it will be of great advantage. A Melon pot, or any such structure, is well adapted for such a purpose. The Vines can be turned out of these pots and plunged in a rich bed of turf and bones. By adopting this practice I have taken three splendid crops of Grapes off the same Vines. *Geo. Johnston, Glamis Castle.*

Cucumbers.—Extra care and attention must now be given to Cucumbers if it is desired to tide them safely over the dull, sunless days of November. Fire-heat should be regulated according to the weather, taking care that a minimum temperature of 65° is maintained. Cover the house with mats or Frigi Domo at night, which will save firing, and be better in every way for the plants. A rather dry atmosphere is now desirable, and plenty of air whenever the state of the weather permits. At this season and till the end of the year the plants should not be allowed to carry

plant. The plants are never tied up, the earthing being easily done by using two thin pieces of board as long as the trench is wide, each board having two pieces nailed across and pointed; these are put close to the rows and pressed into the ground, the space between being filled with soil, and the board shifted on as the work proceeds. The close stocky growth of this celery is remarkable.

—— We note below the *Vegetables Certificated at Chiswick* by the Fruit and Vegetable Committee of the R.H.S., in the course of the 1873 trials:—

PEAS.

Laxton's Gem, a dwarf, early, wrinkled green marrow.

Laxton's Dagmar, an early, dwarf, wrinkled white marrow.

Laxton's The Shah, an early wrinkled white marrow.

Laxton's Marvel, a large-podded, second early, white wrinkled marrow.

Laxton's The Baron, a very large-podded early green marrow.

KIDNEY BEANS.

Carter's White Advancer, a dwarf, prolific, early white variety.

Cutbush's Giant Dwarf, a strong-growing second early variety, with very large pods.

Osborn's New Early Forcing, fine, dwarf, early prolific.

Carter's Dwarf Butter Bean, a variety with large fleshy pods, of a pale yellow colour.

Carter's Mont d'Or Butter Bean, a tall runner, with large, fleshy, pale yellow pods.

TOMATO.

Hathaway's Excelsior, large, smooth, round, early and prolific.

POTATOS.

Fenn's Alice Fenn, early white kidney.

Fenn's Early White Kidney, large early white kidney.

Fenn's Little Gem, early white kidney.

Breesee's Climax, large round second early white.

Fenn's Early Market, large white early round, prolific.

Extra Early Vermont, early rose-coloured kidney, great cropper.

Vermont Beauty, large, smooth, flat, red; second early and very handsome.

American Pale Rose, large, flat, rose-coloured kidney; second early; enormous cropper.

—— The *Sydney Fig*, growing at Clumber, Notts, is described by Mr. Bennett, as having been first introduced by Cardinal Pole, and planted in the park of Lord Sydney. Messrs. Lee sent it out under the above name, and from that firm Mr. Moffat, formerly gardener at Clumber, obtained it, and planted it in its present position in one of the circular fruit-houses. It is a fine variety, and the tree is of large dimensions.

—— Mr. RIVERS, writing to the *Gardeners' Chronicle* about *Figs*, observes:—"I have reason to believe that I have fruited and tasted more varieties of Figs than any untravelled culturist in England, having had 130 varieties fruiting in pots, many very good, many very so-so, but all nice enough. The variations in colour and size were something remarkable. As far as I remember, the *White Marseilles* was and is the best of all; in fact, when ripened in our sunny south and a little forced, it is not to be matched, particularly when it has a small neck and a drop of honey in its reserve. The *Bourjassottes, Grise* and *Blanche*—from Burjasot, a village near Valencia, in Spain—are both good, as is *Barnissotte Grise*, much like the former; but then we have *Grosse Verte*, which in size and flavour is wonderful; and then *Dorée*, with its bright yellow, is a gem. Still nothing can exceed the *White Marseilles*, and I may add the *White Ischia*: when thoroughly ripe they are perfectly delicious, and the Marseilles bears two good crops in one season—one ripe in May, and the other in August."

Obituary.

—— Mr. JOHN EDLINGTON died at Easton on October 9, leaving a widow and family unprovided for. He was for many years gardener to the Earl of Strafford, at Wrotham Park, Barnet, Herts; and subsequently to Sir Montagu J. Cholmeley, Bart., at Easton Hall, Grantham, Lincolnshire. He was formerly an occasional correspondent of the FLORIST.

—— Mr. ROBERT FISH died at Putteridge Bury, on Oct. 23, in his 65th year, esteemed and regretted by all who knew him. His career as a gardener commenced at Scone Palace, under Mr. Beattie; but, like many young Scotch

gardeners anxious to win their way in the world, he soon left Scotland for London, and entered the garden at Chiswick House, under Mr. Lindsay. In the late Mr. Loudon he found an attached friend, who hailed him with delight as a contributor to the *Gardener's Magazine*; indeed, as a constant contributor to the *Gardeners' Journal*, and subsequently to the *Journal of Horticulture*, he has left his mark on the garden literature of the past forty years. At Putteridge Bury, in his ordinary professional pursuits, he had a full measure of success, excelling, especially in flower-gardening, and doing much to outlive the fallacy that a good writer must needs be a bad gardener.

GARDEN WORK FOR DECEMBER.

FLOWERS.

OUT-OF-DOORS the flowers are at last almost gone. It is better so. For the last month they have yielded more pain than pleasure, struggling with difficulties; flowering to the rough, ungenial accompaniments of howling winds, driving hailstorms, suffocating fogs, nipping frosts, cold battering rains, and showers of dead and dying leaves, they have seemed a cruel emblem of living beauty bound by the iron fetters of fate to the dying and the dead. The last lingering Michaelmas Daisy has faded, the last Rose of autumn has passed away, and the last sturdy Tritoma has had its neck broken by the frost. *December* has, in a word, swept the dead and the dying into one common grave, and made a clearance of the surface of the garden. The bare earth is far more cheerful than the lingering look of the dead and fading beauty. Early decapitation inures the crowns gradually to the cold, and they get hardened to it before it reaches its maximum. Clear early, manure and dig or point the surface, as surface roughness baulks the penetrative force of the frost, and also mellows and enriches the soil; in this way early clearing and early cultivation become of the highest service. Much underground work is also done by plants this month; early bulbs and other spring flowers are preparing themselves to come forth by and by with vigour sufficient to enable them to lay their blanched or painted cheeks against the thick-ribbed ice without flinching. There is one beautiful December flower, the Christmas Rose, that ought to find a place in every garden; though perfectly hardy, the purity of its white is enhanced, and its earliness promoted, by the shelter of glass. Choice beds of *Hyacinths* or *Tulips* should be mulched with leaf-mould, spent tan, or cocoa-fibre refuse.

Continue to make new *Roseries*, or renovate old ones. The ground should be well trenched and enriched with manure. Top-dress established rose-beds or borders. Plant Briars for bedding, if not already done. Collect and sow seeds for rose stocks, or put them in earth to save a season, as the seeds take two years to vegetate. In gathering the hips, choose those of strong plants with brown bark, in preference to those with lighter rind. Finish planting all *deciduous Shrubs* and *Trees*, and also *Evergreens*, if likely to be pressed for time in the spring. Sweep up dead leaves; mow every fortnight as long as the grass continues to grow. Sweep and roll walks, and let cleanliness be everywhere apparent.

All specimen plants in stove and greenhouse should be kept cool and quiet. *Chrysanthemums* must have all the air possible, and be freely watered until the flowers are fully expanded; but a dry atmosphere is best for the preservation of their flowers. The same remark applies to *Chinese Primroses*, &c. *Cyclamens* make a charming addition to cool houses at this season of the year; and so do *Roman Hyacinths*, which are so early and so sweet, *Violets*, early patches of *Myosotis*, and forced *Primroses*.

In the Plant Stove and Orchid House, *Calanthes*, *Begonias*, *Poinsettias*, *Euphorbias*, *Justicias*, *Thyrsacanthus*, *Gesnera*, &c., will enliven this month,

OBITUARY.

We have to record with much regret the death of Mr. Robert Fish, of Putteridgebury, Herts, which took place on the 25th inst., an event by which Horticulture has lost one of its most gifted and distinguished practitioners. Like most men who have risen in the world, Mr. Fish began to make his mark on horticultural literature and practice young. He was born at New Scone in 1808, and received his education in the village parochial school, where he laid the foundation of a sound education, including Greek and Latin. His schooling ended, self culture began, and the latter only ended with his life, which has been all along devoted to acquiring knowledge and imparting it to others. He possessed, in an extraordinary degree, the power of condensing his intellectual resources into practice when and where they were needed. He obtained an introduction to the late Mr. Loudon, who at once welcomed his contributions to the *Gardeners' Magazine*, and extended to him his personal esteem and friendship. He struggled against partial paralysis for years, and held the pen for horticulture till it may literally be said to have been seized from his hand by approaching death. When he began, it was, of course, rare for practical gardeners to write for the press; in fact, there was hardly any horticultural press to write for. The high character of Mr. Fish's practice only gave emphasis to his teaching. His ambition was always to prove that the clearest thinker ought to be the best practitioner, and in this he succeeded; for, if our horticultural literature has teemed with his thoughts, the gardens of Putteridgebury Park have, for the last five-and-thirty years, afforded a striking example of his practice. Beginning in a common field, he has left behind him a paradise of beauty. His love for horticulture was only exceeded by his stronger love for horticulturists. Almost his first efforts were put forth to advocate the amelioration of the condition and to elevate the status of gardeners: and throughout a long life his powers, his pen, and his purse, have been at their service. He is gone; but, though dead, he yet speaketh through his writings and his life. For the future of horticulture, it is to be hoped that the seeds of both may bring forth a good crop of the same "strain"—men who will not simply advance and improve, but likewise elevate and adorn the profession to which they belong.

at **Norwich** by Francis Samuel Bircham Gentleman and John Boon Cordwainer both of Hackford next Reepham the Executors.

FISH James.

Effects under £600.

10 October. The Will of James Fish late of Upperthorpe in the Parish of Sheffield in the County of **York** Gentleman who died 16 April 1873 at Upperthorpe was proved at **Wakefield** by Batty Langley of Sheffield Timber Merchant the sole Executor.

FISH John.

Effects under £200.

31 May. The Will of John Fish late of 44 Radford-street Over Darwen in the County of **Lancaster** Paper Cutter who died 19 May 1873 at Over Darwen was proved at **Lancaster** by William Hayes Cloth-looker and Samuel Fish Pattern Maker the Son both of Over Darwen the Executors.

FISH John.

Effects under £3,000.

24 September. The Will with a Codicil of John Fish late of Hethersett in the County of **Norfolk** Gentleman who died 21 August 1873 at Hethersett was proved at **Norwich** by James Clarke Grocer and James Smith Farmer both of Hethersett the Executors.

FISH Michael.

Effects under £100.

16 May. Administration of the effects of Michael Fish late of Bude in the County of **Cornwall** Master Mariner who died 4 November 1872 at Sea was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Thomas Fish of Camelford in the said County Cabinet Maker the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

FISH Robert.

Effects under £3,000.

Administration (with Will) of Goods unadministered passed at the Principal Registry January 1879.

19 November. Administration (with the Will) of the effects of Robert Fish late of Putteridge Bury in the County of **Hertford** Gardener who died 23 October 1873 at Putteridge Bury was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Janet Fish of Putteridge Bury Widow the Relict the Universal Legatee.

FISH William.

Effects under £450.

15 May. The Will of William Fish late of Clist Honiton in the County of **Devon** Boot and Shoe Maker who died 13 March 1873 at Clist Honiton was proved at **Exeter** by Fanny Fish of Clist Honiton Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

FISHER Abraham.

Effects under £450.

3 April. The Will of Abraham Fisher late of Claremont Halifax in the County of **York** Stone Merchant who died 16 March 1873 at Claremont was proved at the **Principal Registry** by James Shepherd of Claremont Butcher one of the Executors.

FISHER Anne.

Effects under £600.

27 December. The Will of Anne Fisher formerly of Barnstaple in the County of Devon but late of Walmer in the County of **Kent** Spinster who died 10 December 1873 at Walmer was proved at **Canterbury** by Martin Long Daniel of Ramsgate in the Isle of Thanet in the County of Kent Gentleman the sole Executor.

FISHER Betsy.

Effects under £300.

12 April. The Will of Betsy Fisher late of The Cross in the Parish of St. Bees in the County of **Cumberland** Spinster who died 12 March 1873 at The Cross was proved at **Carlisle**

FISH Edwin Graham.

Personal Estate under £50.

24 October. Administration of the Personal Estate of Edwin Graham Fish late of 16 Queen's-place Dumfries in the County of Dumfries in **North Britain** Bachelor who died 21 June 1878 at 16 Queen's-place was granted at the **Principal Registry** to William Joseph Fish of 16 Queen's-place Cabinet Maker the Brother and only Next of Kin.

FISH Elizabeth.

Personal Estate under £1,000.

22 January. Administration of the Personal Estate of Elizabeth Fish late of Great Crosby in the County of **Lancaster** Widow who died 3 January 1878 at Great Crosby was granted at **Liverpool** to William Stamper Fish of Moor-lane Great Crosby Gentleman the Son and only Next of Kin.

FISH John.

Personal Estate under £200.

9 April. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Fish late of Middle House Turton in the County of **Lancaster** Farm Labourer a Bachelor who died 27 February 1878 at Middle House was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Benjamin Fish of 4 Boundary-street Great Lever near Bolton in the said County Gentleman the Father and Next of Kin.

FISH Mary.

Personal Estate under £450.
Resworn November 1879 under £100.

21 January. Administration of the Personal Estate of Mary Fish (Wife of Samuel Fish) late of the "Oddfellows' Arms" Church-street Eccles in the County of **Lancaster** who died 12 December 1870 at the "Oddfellows' Arms" was granted at **Manchester** to the said Samuel Fish of 100 Church-street Retired Licensed Victualler.

FISH Mary.

Personal Estate under £100.

6 April. Administration of the Personal Estate of Mary Fish late of Bowdon in the County of **Chester** Widow who died 4 January 1878 at Bowdon was granted at **Chester** to John William Fish of 21 Bold-street Blackburn in the County of Lancaster Bookkeeper the Son and only Next of Kin.

FISH Mary Ann.

Personal Estate under £450.

4 June. Administration of the Personal Estate of Mary Ann Fish late of 60 New-Ellin-street Sheffield in the County of **York** Widow who died 24 February 1878 at 60 New-Ellin-street was granted at **Wakefield** to Tom Wilfrid Carr of 146 Cemetery-road Sheffield Commercial Traveller the Brother.

FISH Robert.

Personal Estate under £1,000

17 January. Administration (with the Will) of the Personal Estate of Robert Fish late of Putteridge Bury in the County of **Hertford** Gardener who died 23 October 1873 at Putteridge Bury left unadministered by Janet Fish Widow the Relict the Universal Legatee was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Alexander Fish of 20 St. Mark's-crescent Regent's Park in the County of Middlesex Warehouseman and James Moore of 15 Camelia-street Wandsworth-road in the County of Surrey Baker the Executors of the Will of the said Janet Fish. **Former Grant** Principal Registry November 1873.

FISHENDEN Sarah.

Personal Estate under £300.

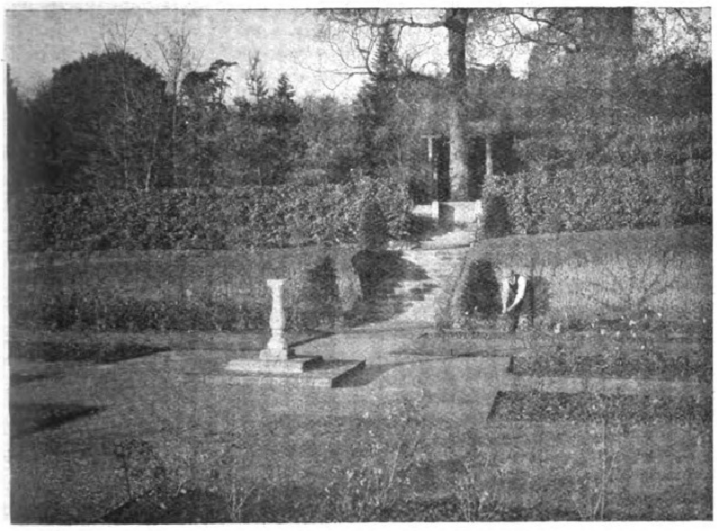
14 January. Administration of the Personal Estate of Sarah Fishenden late of 3 Brown-street Bryanston-square in the County of **Middlesex** Widow who died 8 September

William Fleet

On the Slopes of a Surrey Hill.

THE GARDENS AT WYNNSTOW, LIMPSFIELD.

THE announcement that the honours of the Croydon Chrysanthemum Show had been carried off by Mr. J. A. Allen, of Wynnstow, Limpsfield, prompted me to write and ask if I might pay a visit to his gardens, and have a chat with him, or with his gardener, Mr. William Fleet. The reply was a cordial invitation to see the gardens at any time convenient. It happened, however, that Mr. Allen was away from Limpsfield at the date I fixed, and I made my inspection under the auspices of Mr. Fleet. I expected to see some very fine blooms of Chrysanthemums, but the many charms of the gardens took me by surprise.



THE ROSERY AND EXTENSION AT WYNNSTOW, LIMPSFIELD.

The situation of Wynnstow itself is magnificent. Just outside the village of Limpsfield, it is situated on the slope of a hill, facing south, of which the summit approaches one thousand four hundred feet. The entrance is very near the road, and the gardens are seen only from the verandah in front of the drawing-room. But the Irish and Golden Yews on the north side are worthy of note, and though no attempt is made at elaborate floral decoration of that part of the house, both Jasminum and Clematis montana are at home on the walls.

At this point Mr. Fleet explained that the house was erected and the gardens were laid out thirteen years ago by Mr. Allen, when he bought the site.

A WORK OF THIRTEEN YEARS.

"Then everything here has been done in thirteen years?"

"Absolutely. Of course, there are disadvantages as well as advantages in doing the work from the beginning, but so far as my employer is concerned, it has been throughout a labour of love. He is keenly interested in horticulture, and particularly in the cultivation of rare trees and shrubs, and spends a great deal of his time in his gardens. It has been my privilege and pleasure to be associated with him not only since he came to Limpsfield, but previously, when he resided at Enfield. In fact, I have been his gardener for twenty-two years. For nine years previously I was at Dudley Lodge, Harrow."

"What is the nature of the soil?"

"Sand and rockstone, a mixture which it is not difficult to manage, and I think that the climatic conditions on the south side are pretty well all that could be desired. The prospect from here takes in a number of specimen trees, such as Scarlet Oaks, Cedrus deodara, Abies Douglasii, Golden and Irish Yews, fine groups of Philadelphus, and especially a Holly tree nearly eighty years old, which has three or four varieties growing on the original tree. You will notice that further down the slopes there is a very fine Beech hedge. This makes a splendid fence, and was until recently the boundary of the gardens. As to the extensions which have lately been made, I will tell you presently."

THE LILY POND.

"The only bedding on the terrace consists of Salvia Ball of Fire, and Geranium Paul Crampel. But we make a feature with groups of Brugmansia adjacent to the dining-room windows, and of Agapanthus in tubs. Immediately beyond the terrace is the tennis-court, and on the right-hand side of the house is the Lily pond—faced up by the local stone dug out of the foundations of the house—are Japanese Lilies and other flowering plants, notably Iris Kæmpferi, which finds the soil particularly congenial. We had as many as seventy blooms at once on the Lilies this year. Pampas Grass also flourishes on the banks of the pond, and here, too, you get a fair idea of the avenue of Rhododendrons, shaded by Birch trees."

"You have not mentioned the Roses growing on the wall below?"

"Nearly the whole of that wall is covered by one seedling, seventy feet long. During the flowering season it is a perfect picture with literally thousands of pretty, light pink blossoms. Growing on the same wall is Carpenteria, which makes an excellent combination with the Roses."

HOW TO PLANT BULBS.

Proceeding down the slope, Mr. Fleet conducted me through the shrubbery, with its fine collection of rare specimens.

THE DELL, WYNNSTOW, LIMPSFIELD.

"Here," he continued, "we naturalise spring flowering bulbs in thousands. You may be interested to know that our mode of planting is to drop the bulbs from the bag, and, wherever they roll, there we

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plant them. Thus they really choose their own position, and the results are always most satisfactory.

"Next we come to the Dell, with a rustic seat under a spreading Spanish Chestnut, and running water on whose banks Bamboos are thriving. Other conspicuous features of the Dell are a very choice example of Hibiscus, a Maidenhair Tree, Japanese Acers in variety, and several Magnolias (which on the thirteenth of November are still in flower). Hydrangea Doctor Hogg, also, are a very fine growth, and we get the blue tint which is so much appreciated. Hanging above the Hydrangeas are free-flowering branches of Fuchsia gracilis.

THE AVENUE AND PERGOLA.

"Along the way to the new extension are striking specimens of Cupressus lutea, thirty feet high, which we brought from Enfield, and two noble Cedars. Then there is the avenue of Abies, and a large group of Picea nobilis. The winding pergola, about a hundred feet long, is adorned by many varieties of climbers, including Roses. But all the year there is always something in bloom."

"When was the extension taken in?"

"Only last January. Here, again, the local stone was called into requisition for the terrace steps. The sundial is in the centre of the Rosery, which is edged with a continuous herbaceous border. That is to say, the features of this extension are the Roses and herbaceous border."

"Are the Roses of one section, or several?"

"There are practically only Hybrid Teas, in sixteen varieties of thirty-six each. Each bed contains one variety, and the favourite Roses are Lady Pirrie, Prince of Bulgaria, Konigin Carola, Edward Mawley, Gustave Grunerwald, Chateau de Clos Vougeot, Madame Jules Grolez, Lyons Rose, Lady Ashtown, La Tosca, Mrs. Edward Mawley, Richmond, Le Progres, Clara Watson, General McArthur, and Madame Abel Chatenay. As far as we can gather from results in the first year, the Roses promise to yield good results."

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

"With respect to the herbaceous border, it is too soon to say more than that the varieties chosen are the most popular and up-to-date kinds. In the lower garden we have planted a collection of flowering shrubs, which eventually should add materially to the beauty of the gardens. Some of the trees planted on the extension boundary are Pyrus aucuparia, Berberis Wilsonæ, Spiræa arguta, Buddleia Veitchiana, Laburnum, Guelder Rose, Pinus cembra, Cerasus J. H. Veitch, Juniperus sinensis, Halesia tatraptera, Holly, Veronica Purple Queen, Clerodendron trichotomum, Philadelphus fantasia, Osmanthus, Pyrus salicifolia, and Cydonica Knapp Hill Scarlet.

"The great features are these and the flowers, but as you have seen already, we grow a considerable quantity of fruit, principally Apples, Pears, and Plums, and we have quite enough vegetables to supply the house, while the long Nut avenue beginning at the end of the tennis-court and finishing at the lower end of the original garden, furnishes us with plenty of nuts. On the slope in ordered disorder are large patches of Antirrhinums, Dahlias, Mignonette, Pentstemons, and a great number of hardy Chrysanthemums. I have raised many seedlings this year, and they are still flowering in quantities. But it is time for you to have a look at the show Chrysanthemums."

THE JAPANESE CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

Accordingly we retraced our steps, and entered a small house crowded with lovely blooms.

"This is the only glass we have," said Mr. Fleet, "and as you can imagine, it is not an easy task to find space for even the Chrysanthemums. The collection is necessarily not large, but every shade of colour is represented, from very deep crimson to the purest white. Perhaps the most splendid example of white flowers is furnished by the plants of Mrs. Gilbert Drabble. We limit the collection exclusively to the Japanese section, and in varieties, to Mrs. A. T. Miller, Willie Rawlings, Miss Lilian Hall, Splendens, Rose Pockett, Pockett's Crimson, Lady Talbot, Master David, Mrs. George Mileham, W Mease, Mrs. H. Thornton, Lady Letchworth, Mary Farnworth, Reginald Vallis, Kara Dow, Amaranthia, Mrs. G. Cocker, Exquisite, Evangeline, H. E. Converse, White Queen, and Mrs. Frances Joliffe."

"When did you begin to flower these?"

"The second week in October, and with proper care and ventilation the season lasts until the end of November. As a rule, the bloom of a Japanese variety from the time it shows colour till the time it is fully developed, lasts a month. I keep just under a hundred plants, not because I should not like to have more, but because the space is very limited."

THE SUCCESS AT CROYDON.

In order to realise the full beauty of the collection, I mounted the steps and looked down upon them, and was able to congratulate Mr. Fleet upon the production of some of the most wonderful flowers I have seen.

"Do you grow especially to show?" I inquired.

"Well, I grow for the two-fold purpose of decorating the house and the verandah, and of exhibiting a few choice blooms at the local show. There were no money awards at Croydon for 1914, but I received the highest prize I could get in the shape of the card Excellent. The collection consisted of twenty-five cut blooms, with eighteen inches of stem, the Chrysanthemums being thus shown with their natural foliage, and embraced especially good blooms of Rose Pockett and Mrs. Frances Joliffe. The significance of the award lies in the fact that the competition was open to all classes, and that the number of entries was therefore very formidable. The competitors included some of the best known growers in the district."

"You seem to have a number of exhibition blooms in evidence."

"Yes, there are plenty quite up to the exhibition standard, as, for instance, those of Miss L. Hall, Pockett's Crimson, F. S. Vallis, Original Vallis, and Evangeline. Good, bad, or indifferent, I am entirely responsible for the appearance of the blooms. From the time the cuttings are taken I do everything myself, not excluding the watering, which is one of the most important matters in connection with Chrysanthemum cultivation."

"How is the house occupied during the summer?"

BEGONIAS FOR FIVE MONTHS.

"With Blackmore and Langdon's double Begonias. I start the tubers in March or April, and they begin flowering early in May, lasting in any case till September. I prolong the flowering season by bringing them on in batches. The varieties are all named, and make up, I consider, a very dainty collection. They are immensely appreciated, and the blooms are remarkable for the high average of merit. Every inch of space in the house is turned to account, and the side stage just now is devoted to Azalea indica, Arum Lilies, Cyclamen, and a few varieties of Orchids. But cultivation under glass is quite a small matter at Wynnstow."

ALFRED WILCOX.

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKES.

Tubers should be lifted, graded, and stood in a Cool Place.

Many amateurs who grow this vegetable do not trouble to dig the tubers up, but leave them in the ground all the winter, lifting a few at a time, as they are wanted. This is not good gardening practice, for those that remain in the ground will start into growth next season, and overcrowding will ensue, with consequent deterioration of the crop.

The correct thing to do is to lift the tubers, as one would Potatoes, carefully grading them, and reserving those of medium size for seed purposes next spring. When all are dried, store them where they will be safe from frost, covering them with light soil or sand. They keep best when so covered.

The soil where they were grown can then be trenched and well manured. Should any tubers be found while digging, do not let them remain, as they are likely to come where they are not wanted, and spoil the regularity of the rows. Tubers for the next crop can be planted early next March.

Among berry-bearing shrubs that will thrive under deciduous trees are the Snowberry (Symphoricarpus racemosus); Skimmia japonica, with red berries; Gaultheria Shallon, purple, and Butcher's Broom (Ruscus racemosus), with red berries. Laurustinus, Aucuba, and Cotoneaster microphylla may also be grown.

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Obituary.

We regret to have to record the death of Mr. George Fleming, formerly of Trentham, a man whose name is as familiar as a household word amongst horticulturists. Mr. Fleming was born at Dunrobin in 1809, and had consequently almost reached the appointed three-score years and ten. He died at Hanchurch on July 27, and was interred at Trentham on August 1. Of late years Mr. Fleming's attention has been given to agriculture rather than horticulture, but for many years he managed the gardens at Trentham with great success, and at that period was a very frequent and highly-valued contributor to our columns. We shall endeavour to give a more complete history of his horticultural career in a future issue.

Wilson of High Ashurst Dorking in the County of Surrey Esquire and George Edward Moser of Kendal in the County of Westmoreland Gentleman the Executors.

FLEMING George.

Effects under £4,000.

2 September. The Will of George Fleming late of Hanchurch in the County of **Stafford** Gentleman who died 27 July 1876 at Hanchurch was proved at **Lichfield** by Mary Fleming of Hanchurch Widow the Relict William Gorst of Neewood Farm Bebbington in the County of Chester Gentleman and James Bevington of Barlaston in the County of Stafford Earthenware Manufacturer the Executors.

FLEMING Henry Esq.

Effects under £3,000.

31 March. Administration of the effects of Henry Fleming late of 2 Charles-street Berkeley-square in the County of **Middlesex** Esquire Permanent Secretary to the Poor Law Board a Bachelor who died 28 February 1876 at 2 Charles-street was granted at the **Principal Registry** to James Fleming of 12 Dorset-square in the said County Esquire one of Her Majesty's Counsel the Brother and one of the Next of Kin.

FLEMING John.

Effects under £2,000.

24 January. The Will of John Fleming the Elder late of the City of **Worcester** who died 24 December 1875 at the City of Worcester was proved at **Worcester** by Thomas Robert Huxley Gentleman Richard Hobbs Auctioneer and William Atkins, Hay and Coal Merchant all of the said City the Executors.

FLEMING Marmaduke Ripley.

Effects under £450.

11 February. The Will of Marmaduke Ripley Fleming late of Waterloo near Blyth in the County of **Northumberland** Gentleman who died 26 January 1876 at Waterloo was proved at **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** by Mary Burn of Waterloo Widow the Daughter the sole Executrix.

FLEMING Mary.

Effects under £300.

27 May. The Will of Mary Fleming late of 10 Beauchamp-street Stockport in the County of **Chester** Widow who died 19 April 1876 at 10 Beauchamp-street was proved at **Chester** by George Chapman of Stockport Draper the sole Executor.

FLEMING Mary Ann.

Effects under £450.

2 June. Administration of the effects of Mary Ann Fleming late of Bath-road in the City of **Worcester** Widow who died 3 May 1876 at Bath-road was granted at **Worcester** to James Phillips of Hill-street Fallow Hill in the said City Grocer the Brother and one of the Next of Kin.

FLEMING Stephen.

Effects under £200.

12 September. Administration of the effects of Stephen Fleming late of 17 Bartholomew-road Kentish Town in the County of **Middlesex** Gentleman a Widower who died 8 July 1876 at 17 Bartholomew-road was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Frances William Fleming of North-road Highgate in the said County Corn Dealer the Son and only Next of Kin.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Fleming, John (*c.*1822/3–1883), *gardener*
by Brent Elliott, *rev.*
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Fleming, John (*c.*1822/3–1883), gardener, was born in Scotland and first came to public notice in 1850. His early life and antecedents have not been traced: the earliest detail offered in his obituaries was his residence with a Mr Aiton of Bardsea, Ulverston, Lancashire, about 1844. From there he went to the garden of the earl of Denbigh at Newnham Paddox, Warwickshire, and thence in 1850 to Harewood, Yorkshire, where the grounds were then in the course of transformation by Sir Charles Barry, whom Fleming assisted in the creation of the terrace garden. From 1853 to 1855 he was gardener to the earl of Southampton at Whittlebury Lodge, Towcester.

From 1855 Fleming was head gardener at Cliveden, Buckinghamshire, initially to the second duke of Sutherland and then to H. L. Grosvenor, first duke of Westminster. At Cliveden he found himself working again with Barry, assisting him in the creation of a new terrace garden. By 1859 he could display the results of his experiments with the planting of bulbs in the parterre for a spring display. At this time there was much comment in the horticultural press about the excessive attention lavished on summer bedding at the expense of plants for the other seasons, and Fleming was the first gardener to become well known for ‘spring gardening’, though by the 1870s there was a coterie which pressed the claims to priority of William Ingram of Belvoir Castle. Fleming reported his experiments in the *Journal of Horticulture*, and published *Spring and Winter Flower Gardening* in 1864 (2nd edn, 1870).

In 1868, when a fashion for foliage came in, Fleming planted a bed of dwarf foliage plants and succulents, in the pattern of the countess of Sutherland's monogram. The *Gardeners' Chronicle*, reviewing the experiment, coined the name ‘carpet bedding’ for it, and recommended it for wider trial. Carpet bedding was to become a dominant fashion in England in the 1870s, and an international one in the 1880s. In 1870, with James Gray of Chelsea, Fleming erected new glasshouses at Cliveden, at the same time as he was engaged in landscaping a valley on the estate which was praised by William Robinson (1838–1935) as a fine example of wild gardening (*Garden*, 235).

From 1862 to 1864 Fleming served on the council of the Horticultural Society, and he was a member of the committee for the International Horticultural Exhibition of 1866. He died unmarried, of phthisis and abscess of the lungs, at Cliveden House on 26 November 1883, aged ‘about 60’ (d. cert.). The administration of his estate was granted to a Canadian relative.

BRENT ELLIOTT, *rev.*

Sources *Gardeners' Chronicle*, new ser., 20 (1883), 701 · *The Garden* (1 Dec 1883) · *Journal of Horticulture* (6 Dec 1883) · census returns, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881 · d. cert.
Likenesses portrait, Royal Horticultural Society, London
Wealth at death £1782 3*s.* 2*d.*: administration, 19 Aug 1885, *CGPLA Eng. & Wales*

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Brent Elliott, 'Fleming, John (*c*.1822/3–1883)', rev. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Oct 2007 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/37420, accessed 10 Nov 2014]

John Fleming (*c*.1822/3–1883): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/37420

TG, 1883

OBITUARY.

We have to record with much regret the death of Mr. J. Fleming, which, though he has been long ailing, occurred somewhat suddenly at Cliveden, on Monday last. Mr. Fleming was a remarkably good gardener, and has long had charge of one of the prettiest places in the home counties. He may be said to have originated the present system of spring gardening—a system which, Belvoir perhaps excepted, was nowhere better carried out than at Cliveden. There early in the year might be seen all that was choice and good in the way of spring flowers, to the extension of the cultivation of which the little book which he wrote on the subject greatly contributed. Beautiful, too, naturally as Cliveden is, it has, in many important details, been improved by Mr. Fleming, whose skill in matters pertaining to landscape gardening fully entitled him to be entrusted with such work. Many fine vistas have been cut in the woods under his direction in order to bring into view some distant object of interest; new drives have also been made, and the surroundings of existing ones improved under his care. Nor did the glass department, or even the kitchen garden bear less evidence of his skill as a gardener. In short, both to gardening and gardeners, to so many of whom he was well known, his death will be a sad loss.

of houses at Hatfield in 1869; a set of houses for Lord Alington, at Crichel House, Wimborne, in 1870; the fine conservatory and range of plant-houses at Wimbledon House in 1869; the new block of fruit and plant houses at Cliveden in 1870-72; another grand range at Cobham Hall, Surrey, in 1878; and a complete set of houses, in 1880, for Lady de Rothschild, at Aston Clinton. In life the generosity of his disposition towards gardeners was a household word among his friends; in his death many will mourn the loss of a benefactor and true friend. Mr. Gray was buried on Thursday last in Brompton Cemetery. We are requested to state that the business will be carried on as usual by one of his sons—Mr. Alfred Gray.

—— We have also the sad duty of recording the death of another of our old friends in the person of Mr. JOHN FLEMING, of Cliveden. Twenty years ago Mr. Fleming's name rang through the gardens of England as the originator and most successful exponent of the system of winter and spring bedding which subsequently became a fashion in gardening, and one of the most charming of fashions too, but of late, owing to increasing years and severe lung disease, he has led a somewhat quiet and secluded life, and so had almost passed out of the minds of almost all but his most intimate friends. Of the early life of Mr. Fleming but little is known. His parents were Scotch; his father died in Canada a few years ago, and we believe he had no relatives left in this country. As a young man he served some time in the gardens at Newnham Paddocks, Lutterworth, and about the years 1850 and 1851 he was gardener at Harewood House, Leeds, and while there laid out the extensive pleasure grounds, and the terrace gardens, which are in the Italian style. About 1853 he left Harewood, to become gardener to Lord Southampton at Whittlebury Lodge, Towcester, where he stayed only about two years. In 1853 the noble Italian mansion erected at Cliveden, from the designs of Barry, was finished, and on Mr. Meredith, the then gardener (and afterwards noted Grape grower at Garston), leaving about 1855, Mr. Fleming became gardener to the late Duke of Sutherland. Between 1856 and 1858 he carried out many alterations in the pleasure grounds; in fact, completely altering the whole aspect of the place. In the laying-out of the flower garden he succeeded, under great difficulties (the beds having to be excavated out of the solid chalk), in working out a design of his own creation, which, though many have criticised, none have yet improved upon. It was in this garden that, encouraged by the late Dowager Duchess of Sutherland, he commenced the system of winter and spring bedding, which afterwards became so popular. It was in the spring of 1859, we think, when the spring garden was first seen to the greatest advantage, and so great was his success during the next few years that, with a view to meeting the strong demand that set in for information on the subject, he wrote his little book, *Spring and Winter Gardening*, which was published at the *Journal of Horticulture* office in 1864. On the death of the distinguished lady, to whose love for spring flowers he owed the opportunity he had had of developing that phase of gardening that was almost a passion with him, Cliveden passed into the hands of the Duke of Westminster, and Mr. Fleming may almost be said to have passed with it, for he resisted an offer of a position that others would have accepted in favour of the place he had made his home. In 1870, to meet the larger demands of the Westminster family, the glass department had to be reorganised, and he designed the new set of plant and fruit forcing structures that were erected by Mr. James Gray, of Chelsea, who went over to "the great majority," but a few hours before him. Mr. Fleming was a member of the committee which organised and so successfully carried out the great International Horticultural Exhibition of 1866, and previous to that had from 1862 to 1864 been a member of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society. Besides his flower gardening, Mr. Fleming was an adept in the art of producing early fruits and flowers under glass, and in the kitchen garden never failed in producing vegetables in abundance and of the best quality. We do not know that he was the raiser of any novelties, but it will be remembered that a few years ago he was the means of bringing the merits of the Negro Largo Fig more prominently before the members of the craft. Though in a critical state of health, he kept up his correspondence with friends until a few days before his death, on the night of Monday last, an event which none will regret more than ourselves.

—— The death is announced of Mr. JOHN ELIOT HOWARD, the scientific chemist and quinine manufacturer. Mr. Howard probably inherited his love of scientific research from his father, Mr. Luke Howard, F.R.S., a well-known meteorologist in his day, and a correspondent of Goethe, who admired his works sufficiently to write a poem on their author. He was the great-grandson of an officer who lost his fortune and estate in the cause of James II., and his wife was descended from the Westons, Earls of Portland. Their son was born on December 11, 1807, and passed a long life of active usefulness. His diligent researches connected with the history of febrifuge alkaloids led, in 1858, to his purchase at Madrid of a manuscript by Pavon, and of a large collection of specimens of Peruvian Bark collected by that botanist in Peru. He also employed the botanical artist, Mr. Fitch, to proceed to Madrid and execute careful drawings from Pavon's specimens. The result was the publication, in 1862, of Mr. Howard's magnificent illustrated work, *Illustrations of the "Nueva Quinologia" of Pavon, and Observations on the Barks Described.* When Mr. Clements Markham introduced the cultivation of Cinchona plants, yielding the febrifuge alkaloids, from South America into India, he found in Mr. Howard a most valuable adviser, ever ready to take any trouble, and to help by all means in his power in furthering an undertaking which he believed to be of great public utility. Mr. Howard rendered his assistance in the most public-spirited way, and without a thought of recompense or remuneration. He undertook the laborious analysis of barks grown on the plantations in India, and furnished a series of reports, which have been invaluable as guides to the cultivators. In 1869 he embodied the results of his investigations in another costly work, entitled *Quinology of the East India Plantations*, which has also been of essential use to all who are engaged in Cinchona cultivation. Mr. Howard's aid has thus been of great value and importance, from the first, in securing the success of this great undertaking. His disinterested services were highly appreciated by the Government, and on October 17, 1873, the Duke of Argyll, then Secretary of State for India, caused a letter to be addressed to Mr. Howard, conveying the thanks of Her Majesty's Government to him for his valuable assistance in connection with Cinchona cultivation. Mr. Howard was the author of numerous pamphlets and papers in pharmaceutical journals, but his literary work was by no means confined to the subject of quinology. He took a deep interest in the general progress of science, he thought much on the questions which are occupying the minds of learned men, and on several occasions he gave the results of his meditations to the world. The high position he had gained as a man of science was recognised by his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society, and he was also a Fellow of the Linnean Society, corresponding member of the Société de Pharmacie de Paris, and of numerous other scientific societies on the Continent. There are many planters in India, scientific inquirers, and men in all ranks of life who will hear of Mr. Howard's death with sorrow, and will ever remember his kindliness and liberality, and the readiness with which he gave them aid and advice. He died, almost suddenly, on the 22d inst., aged 76.

To this notice, extracted from the *Times*, beyond fully endorsing all that is said as to the kindliness of the man and of his zeal in promoting his favourite studies, we have little to add. Mr. Howard took great pride in his garden, where his rockery gave evidence of his love for plants, and where a separate house was devoted to the culture of various Cinchonas, of which he had probably the largest collection anywhere in cultivation. His observations of the plants in growth, aided by his extensive dried collections, gave him a practical knowledge of these puzzling plants beyond that of any writer on the subject since his lamented friend Weddell.

Latterly Mr. Howard took great interest in the question of hybridisation, and specially as to the stability of hybrids—matters in which some controversy has been going on for some time among cultivators of Cinchonas in India and elsewhere. Without entering at this time upon disputed points, which are nevertheless of great interest to practical cultivators, we may still perform a melancholy duty by publishing a letter which we received from him so recently that from press of matter and considerations of space we had not been able to publish it, but which will now be read with special interest:—

"Your article on the dying out of the Lombardy Poplar in Germany interests me in connection with what I learn from Ceylon of the dying out of some sorts of Cinchona there and at Darjeeling.

"'A Java Proprietor' writes recently in the *Ceylon Observer*:—'Regarding Cinchona, I must confess I was not prepared to hear such gloomy accounts. . . . I think your want of success has been due chiefly to the quality of the soil; but I feel convinced that with more attention to your seed—being sure that the same is from mature trees, and more care with your nurseries—not being in too great a hurry to put out poor weakly plants, your failures would not come up to 66 per cent., as I am told they do all round.'

"It might be a great help to the planters if you would bring to bear on this subject the conclusions of your large experience. I suppose that I am right in saying that hybrids are, as a rule, unstable and untrustworthy; and this state of things prevails largely in our colonies. Then there are, however, one or more very valuable and stable sorts which are credited with being hybrid, and about which there has been much controversy, without any clearly defined result. An example of this is found in what is called the 'Jamaica hybrid,' of which a correspondent writes me that he has 30,000 in a new and promising plantation in South America.

"Of this I have excellent specimens of flower, leaf, and fruit, and cannot distinguish these from the C. officinalis as defined by Sir J. D. Hooker, which Dr. Trimen assures me are increasing in Ceylon. He says (April 16, 1883):—'Hybrids, both natural and artificial, are increasing, and it is easy to recognise now Ledgeriana and succirubra, calisaya and succirubra (clearly distinct), Ledgeriana, and officinalis. The second is, I believe, your anglica.' (?) Of course I am not in a position to try any experiments in this line, having only once been able to ripen the seed from my Cinchonæ, and I cannot learn of any reliable experiments in India. I have, it is true, the results of some by the late Mr. McIvor, but these were cut short by his premature death."

—— We have also to announce the death, on November 21, of Mr. WILLIAM YOUELL, of Yarmouth. Years ago Mr. Youell carried on a good business as nurseryman and florist at Great Yarmouth, his speciality being Gladioli and hardy florists' flowers; and we believe he was, if not the first, one of the earliest who sent up plants from the country for sale at Stevens' Rooms. Late in life misfortunes came upon him; he lost his business, and in 1881 was elected a pensioner on the funds of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution.

Florists' Flowers.

SEASONABLE NOTES: AURICULAS.—The alpine Auriculas are being very much cultivated out-of-doors, and they are certainly very beautiful subjects for the adornment of the alpine or rock garden, and are well adapted to fit into nooks that are partially shaded from the sun. The noonday and early afternoon sun is too hot for them, but they delight in the morning sun; and in the rock garden it is generally easy enough to give them the position they want. We have spaces in our rock garden that hold about a dozen plants of the best varieties, and they have a much better effect in that way than they have as isolated specimens in the flower borders. The weather has been fine, and the ground in good condition, so we have planted a quantity out. Those that have been planted out and established require frequent looking over to destroy slugs and to remove dead and decaying leaves, which, if allowed to remain, may injure the stems of the plants, and cause decay to set in. All the alpines are adapted for out-of-doors culture. At present the general collection of show Auriculas merely require looking over to remove the decaying leaves. During damp frosty weather the outer leaves die off very rapidly at this season. The plants scarcely require any water except those that bloomed in the autumn, and are now making new hearts. These must have a little water in fine weather, to aid in maturing the incipient flower trusses. Remove the lights from the frames whenever it does not rain; the plants do not mind very cold weather.

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—Like the Auriculas the more hardy varieties of these are grown out in the

FLEMING James.
Personal Estate £99 16s. 5d.

26 May. The Will of James Fleming formerly of Bank Iron Works Middleton but late of Hilton Fold Tonge-lane Middleton in the County of **Lancaster** Engineer who died 23 November 1881 at Hilton Fold was proved at **Manchester** by John Fleming of 77 Manchester-Old-road Middleton Engineer the Brother and Thomas Pollock of Goodier House Newton in the County of Chester Engineer the Executors.

FLEMING John.
Personal Estate £125 9s. 11d.

29 April. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Fleming late of Barnsley in the County of **York** Labourer a Widower who died 13 April 1885 at Barnsley was granted at **Wakefield** to Annie Burton (Wife of William Burton) of Old Mill Lime Works Barnsley the Daughter and only Next of Kin.

FLEMING John.
Personal Estate in England £1,029 2s. 2d.

18 June. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Fleming late of 177 Mount-Pottinger-road Belfast in the County of **Down** Distiller's Agent a Bachelor who died on or about 17 March 1885 at same place granted 8 May 1885 at **Belfast** to Jane Fleming of 177 Mount-Pottinger-road Spinster the Sister and one of the Next of Kin.

FLEMING John.
Personal Estate £1,782 3s. 2d.

19 August. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Fleming late of Cliveden near Maidenhead in the County of **Berks** Head Gardener a Bachelor who died 26 November 1883 at Cliveden was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Margaret Baxter Stoddart of Sullivan Township County of Grey in the Province of Ontario in Canada Spinster the Niece and one of the Next of Kin.

FLEMING John.
Personal Estate £254 10s.

8 December. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Fleming late of Penrith in the County of **Cumberland** Cabman a Widower who died 12 September 1885 at Penrith was granted at **Carlisle** to Mary Robinson (Wife of Thomas Robinson) of 3 and 5 Forshaw-street Barrow-in-Furness in the County of Lancaster the Daughter and only Next of Kin.

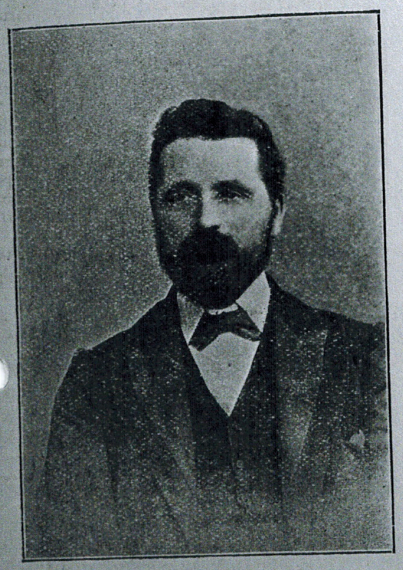
FLEMING Joseph.

24 February. The **Eik** of the Commissariot of **Forfar** dated 13 February 1885 of Mrs. Elizabeth Welch Miln or Fleming of Scotswood-terrace Dundee as Executrix Dative quâ Relict of Joseph Fleming Clothier Dundee who died at Dundee 25 May 1884.

FLEMING Marianne Charman.
Personal Estate £579 4s. 1d.
Resworn March 1886 £689 3s. 6d.

24 November. Administration of the Personal Estate of Marianne Charman Fleming (Wife of John Fleming) late of 2 St. Paul's-terrace Brockley-road New-cross in the County of **Kent** who died 24 June 1868 at 2 St. Paul's-terrace was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Alfred Bedington of Upper Tollington Park in the County of Middlesex Esquire and Clement Lowe of Dockhead Bermondsey in the County of Surrey Veterinary Surgeon the Executors of the Will of Elizabeth Johnson Widow the sole Executrix of the Will of Robert Johnson the sole Executor of the Will of the said John Fleming.

favourable opportunity and recommence their operations? It is a pity that we cannot have a Muzzling Order for insects. I should like to muzzle some of the mosquitoes, which have been rendering life unbearable. Curiously enough, the few wasps which have survived the wet seem to have developed an æsthetic sense. Instead of raiding my Vinery, as usual, they spend most of their time in examining some new Cannas in the



MR. JOHN FLEMING.

conservatory. Wonderfully handsome Cannas they are, too, with immense blossoms in gorgeous colours. One of them, King Humbert I., is declared by Mr. Sprenger, the Tuscan grower, who raised it, to be "the finest Canna in existence." Of the first seedling, he says, "This plant produced from May to July five stems, bearing five hundred and thirty flowers; after flowering, these stems were cut off, and some superphosphate and potash was given to the plant, which, until the end of November, produced as many more flowers, so that the whole number formed during the six months reached one thousand and seventy-three." I don't think that King Humbert I., which is probably destined to be the forerunner of a new race—though, unfortunately, it is sterile—is yet on the market. At least, I have not yet seen it in any catalogue. I have two plants, but as they were damaged on their journey from the Continent, they are only just showing the flower-heads. I hope to get a photograph of them later.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

STRAWBERRIES can be propagated from the seed. The fruit from which the seed are obtained should be fully ripe. It should be spread out and dried, thus preserving it in the pulp. Another method is to mix the fruit with dry sand, and so thoroughly manipulating the mass that the sand will not remain together. Then sow the sand containing the seed in light and friable ground; cover the seed not more than one-quarter of an inch. Occasionally a seedling will produce fruit the second season; that is, plants started in autumn will bear the following spring. The fruit will not be identical with the parent vine.

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 104.—MR. JOHN FLEMING, F.R.H.S., AT WEXHAM PARK GARDENS, SLOUGH.

THE feature, *par excellence*, of the gardening at Wexham Park is the number and the beauty of the decorative plants grown in the houses. But there are many other noteworthy points, such as the flower garden adjoining the mansion, a handsome modern building, the lovely wild garden, with a rustic bridge over the lake, and the lake itself partially covered with Water Lilies. In fact, there is abundant evidence everywhere that Sir Charles and Lady Pigott are greatly interested in the adornment of their grounds, extending over some fifteen acres, while it is equally obvious that they possess in the person of Mr. John Fleming a head gardener of quite exceptional knowledge and skill. Mr. Fleming informed me, as we commenced our round in the range of houses, after a rapid glance at an admirably-arranged herbaceous border, that Lady Pigott is especially fond of plants, and that consequently he spares no pains to secure a constant and large supply at all seasons of the year.

At the time of my visit two houses were practically full of Campanulas, one being devoted to the blue and the other to the white variety, with Humea elegans, grown by hundreds, six to nine feet high, mixed among them. They presented a most charming sight, and I asked Mr. Fleming how he managed to grow them with such splendid blooms.

"They are grown very easily," he replied. "I plunge half into the open in winter, and the other half in cold frames. They do not need either protection or fire-heat."

"Do you try to lure the bees away from them?"

"Yes; we put tiffany up, and it certainly has the effect of diminishing the number. The Chimney Campanula, which is the only kind we grow, has the advantage of being dwarfer than the old pyramidalis. Another hardy annual which is most useful for grouping and for house decoration is Sutton's dwarf variety of Coreopsis. As Lady Pigott likes to always have upwards of a hundred plants in the mansion, you can understand the importance of this department."

"Do you grow Coreopsis in the herbaceous border also?"

"Yes; this is the first year I have got them to flower in the house. They bloomed inside in March, and outside during July and August. No fire-heat is required to force them; only protection in cold frames."

"How many houses are there altogether?" I inquired, as we entered one devoted to Pelargoniums.

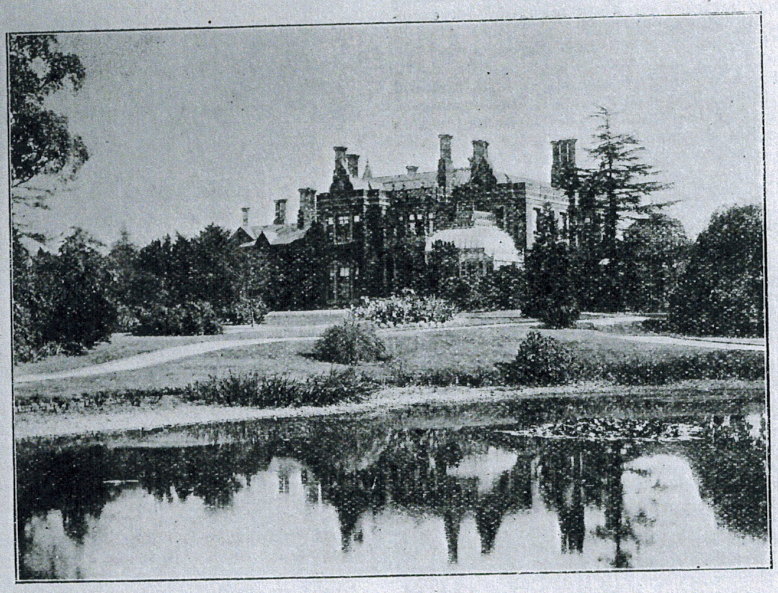
"Sixteen, and several ranges of forcing pits. We are said to have the best collection of Zonals in the country."

"They are a grand lot in this house. How long have they been in flower?"

"Since March; our system is to throw all the old plants away every year, and keep growing the young. Old plants mean trouble, and the deterioration of quality. We have some of the newest and some of the older varieties. The latter are as good as the former if they are well done. There are a few of double New Life, the variety which Messrs. Cannell brought out two or three years ago. We have them because the mixture of scarlet and white is curious. Also they flower very freely."

"You might give me the names of some of the others."

"Among the best are King of Denmark, M. Bruant, Diego Podda, Mermine, Enid, Charles



HOUSE AND LAKE, WEXHAM PARK, SLOUGH.

"How long do they flower?"

"From about the first week in July until the end of August. The only thing that troubles them is the bees, who fertilise the flower, and then it soon sets. We showed them at the Drill Hall in London two years ago, and they took everybody by surprise. Until I came to Wexham, Campanulas were not grown here."

Marson, Royal Purple, Ian Maclaren, Omphale, Stella Massey, and Volcanic."

"You go in largely for Carnations?"

"Especially Malmaisons. Our largest Malmaison this year carried one hundred and twenty-five flowers disbudded. It was four feet six inches through, and three feet high. I think that this is a record."

"Have you any particular treatment to recommend?"

"No, only that great care should be bestowed upon the plants in their young state. Our house is by no means a model one for Carnations, being right under a wall, but I had over a thousand Malmaisons during the season."

"Which are your leading varieties?"

"Calypso (pale rose), Lady Ulrica (salmon-rose), Mrs. de Stage (bright scarlet), Mrs. Towers (salmon-pink), among the newer varieties. The older include Nell Gwynne (pure white), Prime Minister (sweet-scented scarlet), Sir Charles Fremantle (deep rosy-pink), Princess May (salmon-rose), and Princess of Wales (rose-pink).

"What about 'self' and fancy Carnations?"

"Our collection of these include Cecilia (yellow), Isinglass (scarlet), Alice Ayres (white, tipped carmine), Duchess of Fife (pink), Germania (yellow), Uriah Pike (crimson), Duchess Consuelo (canary-yellow), also General Roberts, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Rundell, Swanley Yellow (one of the best), Ballet Girl, Countess of Aberdeen, and Phenomenal."

"Orchids, I notice, are by no means overlooked?"

"We have in one house a very good mixture of Cœlogynes and Dendrobiums. The former do exceedingly well, particularly Cœlogyne cristata. There are also Cypripediums in variety, including C. Stonei. Cattleyas flower in the Cattleya house all the year through. We had a great show of C. gigas from a very fine strain. Calanthes for winter-flowering are grown in this house."

"You have, I believe, been highly successful with Begonias?"

"At Westminster Aquarium, last autumn, we got a gold medal, and our exhibit of two dozen plants was said to be the finest ever shown of the winter-flowering. The varieties are Gloire de Lorraine and Turnford Hall. In the previous year we exhibited six plants, and, in addition to the first prize, the Royal Horticultural Society awarded me a special medal for excellence of culture."

"How many of the two varieties do you grow?"

"From two hundred and fifty to three hundred and fifty. The colour, shape, and number of flowers are the features. We have had plants three feet through, with one strike only. Our plan is not to propagate until very late."

"Are your Crotons grown from cuttings?"

"Certainly; and they were all put in during the last seven years. Considering that Crotons are slow-going, we think that this growth is very fine. The colour is also good. On the span-roof, eighty feet high, are Alamandas, Stephanotis, and Gloriosa superba. The Stephanotis has been in flower continually since March. We have also a quantity of Pancretias in flower all the year round, and a good stock of Caladiums."

"I see you have a house for border Carnations."

"Yes; these never have any heat, and are all plunged in cold frames in the winter. Adjoining the new Carnation house is another house with Campanulas. In the Palm house we grow nine or ten Orange plants for the sake of the sweet smell of the flower."

"The Fernery appears to contain a valuable collection?"

"There are many rare plants, especially a very fine Davallia Morreana, which was repotted some three years ago. It is difficult to get these Ferns re-established. They are very delicate, but very good for exhibiting. Other varieties include Nephrolepis davallioides multiceps, N. exaltata, and Adiantum tenerum (variety Farleyense)."

"The south wall, I observe, is covered with Begonias."

"It used to be whitewashed; but about three months ago I planted the Rex variety of Begonias, propagated in the spring. The wall is no more trouble now than when it was whitewashed, and the Ferns and Begonias do well together."

"How long have the Vines in your Muscat house been planted?"

"Only three years last June. They are Muscats of Alexandria, and carry about seven bunches each on an average. This is very good for young Vines. In the Peach house we have the Nectarine Peach, which is more remarkable for size than for flower. Other Peaches grown are Early Alexander, Early York, Hale's Early, Waterloo, Crimson Galande, and Royal George."

Just outside these houses I remarked on some very fine double Stocks, white, scarlet, and purple, and Mr. Fleming said:—

"They are East Lothian Stock, and came from Mr. Forbes of Hawick. There is a great difficulty in getting a majority of double Stocks in the South of England, but Sutton's Mauve Queen are a lovely colour."

A feature of the fruit garden is the border of Roses and Pinks, and a new idea is a border of late-flowering plants, including Cactus Dahlias, late-flowering Gladioli, Asters, Cyanthes in variety, and Scabious."

"You have a fine Tree Fern in the centre of the conservatory?"

"And a large Phœnix. On the roof is the well-known climber, Cobæa scandens. There is a general mixture of greenhouse plants."

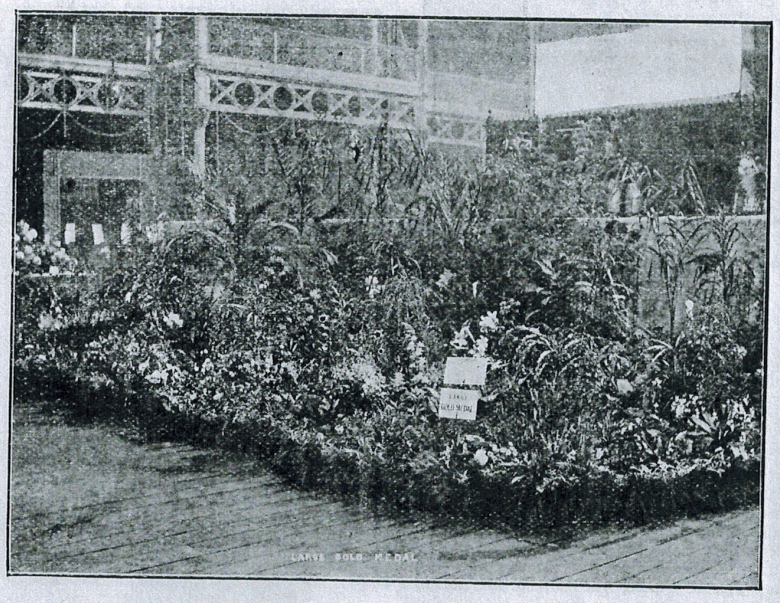
"What varieties of Roses do you grow on the pretty central arch?"

"Crimson Ramblers, and the white Scotch Rose. In addition, of course, Roses of all the best sorts are grown."

"Among your ornamental trees and shrubs, which do you place first?"

"There are several splendid specimens of Cedars of Lebanon. The Beach and the Weeping Ash are well represented, and the collection of Yuccas and Rhododendrons is very good."

On the way to an outer kitchen garden of a few acres, in which useful vegetables are grown, we passed an old Rose walk, nicely sheltered, and then returned to the kitchen garden proper. Just outside Mr. Fleming's cottage are a number of Lantanas, grown as standards, with a stem of about three feet six inches, and in pyramid form. They have only been grown two



One of Mr. Fleming's Groups of Decorative Plants.

"I suppose your experience with respect to the fruit crop is much the same as that of other people?"

"So far as Apples are concerned, there is more fruit on one Lord Suffield tree than on all the rest. Among the other Apples are Blenheim Orange, Keswick Codlin, and Ribston Pippin. The Pears include Beurré Diel, Beurré Ester, and Marie Louise; and the Plums, Golden Drop, Early Prolific, and Monarch."

Next we came to the singularly artistic beds facing the mansion, and, as Mr. Fleming pointed out:—

"Here standard flowers, with undergrowth, are the feature. The former consist of Daturas, Fuchsias, and Heliotropes, the varieties of Heliotrope represented being Swanley Giant (one of the best ever sent out), Maria, Fairfrau von Konig, and others. The undergrowth consists of Begonias, Calceolarias, the Pyramid Heliotropes, and Ivies."

"How do you treat the Daturas?"

"I let them rest in a cold place in winter, just protected from the frost, and start them in a warm one in spring. There are about eighteen plants which have all been grown from cuttings since I came here."

years, and it is intended to increase the quantity.

Then, when Mr. Fleming had told me that he grows from seven to eight hundred Chrysanthemums in pots, and that Lady Pigott does not care about Dahlias because she considers them stiff, I asked him to give me some personal details about his own experiences.

"I was not intended for a gardener," he rejoined, "but when my father saw that I wished to become one he allowed me to have my way. Born on the estate of Brucklay, in Aberdeenshire, I was apprenticed in 1873, under Mr. A. Coutts, who was then gardener at Kinsteary, Nairn, the seat of Lady Gordon Cathcart. My first place as journeyman was at Balgownie House, and my next in Lord Moray's gardens, at Donibristle, Inverkeithing, Fifeshire. I then moved to England."

"What part of England?"

"Heaton Park, Manchester, the residence of the Earl of Wilton. There I continued, for three years, my practical education under Mr. Baillie, and subsequently went to Neville Court, Tunbridge Wells, where I had charge of the glass department. At that time, plant and fruit-growing under glass were leading features at

Neville Court. On leaving, I was strongly advised to give up private employment, and take charge of the plant and landscape department of the nurseries belonging to Messrs. Cripps and Sons at Tunbridge Wells. Although the late Mr. Rust, of Eridge, thought that I was missing a grand opportunity, I have never regretted keeping to the private branch of the profession."

"Where was your next post, then?"

"I went from Neville Court as head gardener to the late Mrs. Alcock, of Eardemont, Crayford, Kent. I remained at Eardemont between six and seven years. Orchids and carpet-bedding were the principal features. My next appointment was that of head gardener at The Holt, Farnham. During the five years I was at The Holt we had two private shows every year, one in the autumn of Chrysanthemums, and the other in the spring, of Camellias and flowers of the period. After eighteen months' experience as gardener to the late Mrs. Twells, I came to Wexham Park about seven years ago."

"You have done a great deal of showing here. How many medals have you been awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Chrysanthemum Society?"

"Six gold and silver-gilt medals. The silver-gilt is the lowest award given me in London. I have also been awarded a silver cup by the Royal Horticultural Society at their Temple Show."

"How large is your gardening staff?"

"I have seven men in the bothy. We exhibit from January to December, and have gained medals right through the year. To sum up, I suppose I may say that we have a particular style in handling the plants. Each plant is grown well and put up well, and alike in spring, summer, autumn, or winter we have as good a supply as it is possible to cultivate."

Alfred Wilcox.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 61.—LILIES, AND AUTUMN WORK.

Dear Kate,—Last week I discoursed on one of my favourite flowers, *i.e.*, Irises; this week my letter shall be about another of my little weaknesses, *i.e.*, Lilies—the true Liliums, not the many plants which are given the title of Lily, such as the Calla (Arum), or the Narissus, which is the Good Luck Lily of China.

Do you remember that when I told you how we planted the new peaty borders we made last October, I mentioned that we put in a lot of Lily bulbs between the dwarf Rhododendrons, Azaleas, etc.? Well, those bulbs have been most successful. Many of them were home-grown plants, having already been cultivated in the garden for some years; and the borders (which are at the end of the lawn, in a position half-shaded by distant trees and shrubs) have been very effective up to this time with groups of Tiger Lilies, crimson and white L. speciosums, L. Henryi (in rich apricot), the pure white trumpets of L. longiflorum (of which the best variety for out of doors is insulare), the crimson blooms of L. elegans Van Houttii, and the splendid blossoms of L. auratum, the golden-rayed Lily of Japan, the queen of them all, and its fine varieties, platyphyllum and rubro-vittatum. It is a pity that these grand flowers are so seldom seen in our gardens; they need but a little care to flourish and do well from year to year, but the bulbs are too often so injured by the fatal plan which the packers have of cutting out their lower, fleshy roots (to save a little room, I suppose) before sending them to us, that they are apt to fail from this cause alone. These roots should be most carefully preserved, and should never become quite dry, for they hold the store of nourishment which the bulb needs to start with in spring; and the ignorant plan of depriving the bulbs of these roots is, I believe, at the bottom of the fungoid disease which sometimes attacks Lily bulbs which have been imported. The moral of all this is—grow your own bulbs, or, at all events, refuse to buy those which have no roots, for then the Japanese, Bermudans, etc., would soon find out the way to pack the bulbs intact.

I am sure that there is a great future for those horticulturists who will turn their attention to Lily-growing in this country from seeds and bulbils. The British-born Lilies are far hardier than those which have grown up in hot climates, and many new and valuable varieties could be added to the few we already have by hybridising seed. Even in cold districts such Lilies would do well, if well-drained and supplied with the pure, light compost of loam, peat, and sand which most of them enjoy under their roots; I always add a handful of charcoal, too, for this is both nourishing and purifying. Then, in November, as soon as the stems die down, we

Lilium auratum platyphyllum.

place little conical mounds of dry ashes over the Lily bulbs in the borders, each heap being about eight inches deep in the middle. These ashes serve the double purpose of protecting the bulbs from severe frost, and also of shunting off the heavy rain of winter, for Lily bulbs must never lie in wet, cold soil. In planting the bulbs, a hole about eighteen inches deep should be made for each, and the lower six inches filled with broken crocks, covered with cinders and ashes; then we put in rough pieces of peat or turf (pulled to pieces by the hand, and rather large), and place the light, porous compost I have already mentioned on that. This ensures good drainage, and is most important for Lilies; the bulbs should lie about four inches below the surface, and in March we clear off the ashes (taking great care not to break the points of the Lilies, which are then moving), and substitute for them a rich manurial mulch (with soot, too, in it) to nourish the growing stems, and keep the surface roots (which spring in whorls from these on most of them) cool and moist.

In hot, dry weather we convey water to the lower roots by means of water-spears, but this summer the clouds did the watering rather more than we cared about.

Once well planted, the bulbs are best left alone (except for these little attentions) for several years, and most of them will produce fresh bulbs, and grow into fine groups in this way. But those which are too delicate for the open border can be cultivated in the same way in a border under a frame or in a greenhouse; even by pot-culture, for several years, I have succeeded in obtaining a supply of good bulbs from a Nilgiri Lily, sent to me seven years ago from India. One of these young, British-born bulbs produced the two fine blooms which I send you, in August last. We take care not to hurry off the foliage after flowering, even by a day; the wretched plan of putting Lilies in pots on their sides "to dry," after they have bloomed, is fatal, for they want plenty of sunshine and sufficient water, until every scrap of the stem has ripened away naturally, if they are to produce blossom next year; and the Nilgiri Lily likes to take its time about this, so that it is not really dormant until March, when it can be repotted, placing the bulb low in the pot, so as to leave plenty of room for top-dressing (later on) as it grows. The Bermuda Lily (L. Harrisi) can be cultivated in the same way, and will produce much better bulbs than those generally imported.

I hope I have said enough to infect you with my craze for Lilies; if so, you should get the best bulbs you can, and start growing your own Lily bulbs. The little black bulbils which Tiger Lilies (and some others) produce at the axils of their leaves should be left to ripen till the whole stem is dead, and then be planted in a box of light soil in the greenhouse. They grow into fine bulbs in a few years, so it is worth while to take care of them.

We are now taking in all the tropical flowers which will not stand frost (such as Daturas, winter-blooming Salvias, Bouvardias, etc.), which we plant out in the garden for the summer. Before taking them up, the roots of these plants should be cut round with a small, sharp spade, to the size of the pot into which each is to go. We do this a week or ten days before raising the plant, and then soak the ball of roots (in the border) with liquid manure, in a thin, clear state. This induces the cut roots to throw out a quantity of fresh rootlets, and in a few days the plant should be dug up (with care not to expose the roots), and placed in its pot for the winter. But don't attempt to carry the plant to the pot, even in a barrow, for this is sure to result in the soil falling away from the roots, which will make the plant droop, so that half its beauty will be gone. Take pots, drainage, and good soil, down to the plant, and lift the ball of roots straight into the pot, fill it up with soil, then water it, and place it in a shady, sheltered position for a week or two, till all chance of drooping is over, before removing it to the conservatory. Daturas and Salvias enjoy very rich soil; Bouvardias should have a compost of equal parts of peat, loam, and leaf-mould, with a little sand and charcoal, and the necessary soils for potting the plants up should be mixed in readiness before raising them. Be sure to leave plenty of room for water at the surface, and make the plants firm, placing them exactly in the centre of the pot, and working the compost down between this and their roots with a stick. Scarlet Geraniums can be potted up now, and wintered in any dry place free from frost; but you must keep them as dry as possible, and pick off every fading leaf before mildew has time to seize on it, for this is a great enemy of Geraniums. Fuchsias, Marguerites, Heliotropes, and Petunias, etc., may now be taken in; many of the plants will need to be cut back in the early spring, after which they will make good growth in a warm greenhouse. You can put in a box of cuttings of Calceolarias, and of Marguerites now, keeping them just free from frost.

Your friend,

I.L.R.

In Memoriam

TOM HENRY FORD.

We regret to record the death of one of the oldest members of the Kew Guild in the person of Mr. Tom Henry Ford, on the 15th September, 1932, at Swansea.

Mr. Ford was born at Chewton Mendip, Somerset, on 10th, December, 1849. After receiving his early training in his native county, he went to Kew on December 15th, 1875 and left in November, 1876. He came to South Wales about 50 years ago, and was head gardener in several private gardens, retiring some years ago.

Mr. Ford was an intelligent gardener and a keen botanist, and most of his leisure time since his retirement was spent in the Educational Garden at Singleton Park, Swansea. He was never so happy as when conducting interested persons and parties around the various collections. The botany students from the Swansea University College were always keen to have his practical assistance in the garden, for his knowledge of botany was extensive.

A widow and grown-up family survive him and to them we extend our deep sympathy in their loss.

D.B.

Obituary.

ALEXANDER FORSYTH. — Last week we briefly recorded the decease of Mr. Alexander Forsyth, who had reached a good old age, having exceeded the allotted three score and ten years. For some time past he had been in failing health. Thus has passed away another of the practical gardeners of the old school; one, moreover, who had been a very successful practitioner in his day, having occupied with credit some prominent positions in the gardening world, as well as gained for himself an honourable name in connection with the literature of horticulture. His gardening fame carries us back some few decades, for between forty and fifty years ago he was appointed to the charge of the gardens at Alderley Park, Cheshire, the seat of Lord Stanley of Alderley. Subsequently he became gardener to the Earl of Shrewsbury, at his princely establishment—Alton Towers, Staffordshire. Besides filling these and other situations of importance, Mr. Forsyth had been a constant and frequent contributor to the pages of this journal from its commencement up to a very recent period, and his name is appended to many a cultural essay both in *Loudon's Gardeners' Magazine* and in the later volumes of the *Florist and Pomologist*. Among other topics of interest contributed to our pages we may mention his persistent advocacy of Holly-leaf tea, and his strong recommendation of the compact undeveloped inflorescence of the Rhubarb plant as an esculent, "the pouches of unopened flowers," he argued, "bearing the same relation to the leaves of Rhubarb that Cauliflowers do to Cabbage leaves." For this purpose the Rhubarb was directed to be grown in rich ground, so to get large masses of tender flower-buds, the removal of which would, of course, be beneficial to plants grown also for a supply of the leaf-stalks. Mr. Forsyth died on the 8th inst., in his seventy-sixth year. Of late years Mr. Forsyth resided at Salford, near Manchester, where we believe he held some official position.

The Gardens at Hawarden Castle.

INTERVIEW WITH

MR. JOHN FORSYTH.

IT was on a pleasant September day that, thanks to the courtesy of Mr. William G. C. Gladstone, I had the privilege of going round the gardens at Hawarden Castle, the residence for so many years of the great Liberal statesman who was four times Prime Minister of England. For many reasons, Hawarden is historic ground. The ruins of the old castle, on its lofty eminence, with the keep upon the summit, are the material evidence of its existence in days before the Conquest, and the modern mansion, which was built in 1752 upon the site of Broadlane Hall, would possess imperishable associations if only because it was for so many years the much-loved home of Mr. Gladstone. But it is not with the historic aspect of Hawarden, nor yet with the numerous features of interest in which it abounds, from the village street to St. Deniol's Library and the ancient church, that I have to deal; though even in writing of the gardens as I saw them, under the guidance of Mr. Forsyth, who has been head gardener at Hawarden for thirty-three years, it is impossible to forget that for several decades Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone found delight in them.

At the outset, when I asked Mr. Forsyth about the creepers on the castle front, my attention was diverted for a moment to the porch, which was erected on July 25th, 1889, by the family to celebrate the golden wedding of the illustrious grandparents of the present owner, and subsequently my cicerone pointed out various spots which were connected with memorable episodes in the life of his former employer.

"As to the creepers," he said, "the castle is practically, as you see, covered with Ivy, though Ampelopsis Veitchii and the old white Jasminum mingle with it."

"The lawn facing the building has no bedding?"

"No, it is quite plain, but in June the Rhododendrons, chiefly ponticums, with a few hybrids, give a blaze of colour. The soil is sandy and dry, too dry for Rhododendrons, so that we have to get peat in order to grow them. This is the north side, and was originally the chief front. But the late Mrs. Gladstone's mother altered the south side, and made it the front of the castle. The north side has some fine specimens of Irish Yews, Oaks, and Beeches. The Beeches at Hawarden are exceptionally fine."

A Circle of Limes.

"And Limes," I rejoined, as we approached a cluster of magnificent trees, dwarfing by their height the castle by their side.

"There are nineteen Limes in a circle. They were all planted at the same time, and are all in full vigour. Beyond, on the same side, is another plain lawn, with a background of Beeches and English Yews. On the west, also, is the old castle, which can be seen from the library windows."

"The Temple of Peace?"

"Yes, that is the name which was given to it by Mr. Gladstone. Speaking of trees, the very fine Oak, which is just outside the flower garden, but on the lawn, is supposed to be the only tree that, according to Sir John Glynne, was standing about the place in 1730."

Bedding in the Flower Garden.

"As to the flower garden itself?"

"Four of the beds at the side are filled with Henry Jacoby Geraniums, edged with Lobelias Paxtonia (blue and white)—a very old variety, not much grown, which harmonises with the crimson of the Geraniums. Then, there are four beds of Tea Roses, mixed varieties, with white Lobelia edging. The other beds are filled in spring with Wallflowers and Myosotis."

"What are the varieties of Roses on poles in the centre of the grass on the front lawn?"

"Dorothy Perkins and Felicite Perpetue, mixed. The six beds on each side consist of Madame Crousse Geraniums and Emperor William Lobelias, which do not grow too large to be out of proportion to the size of the beds. At each end is a bed of Roses, one with Madame Abel Chatenay and Mrs. W. J. Grant; the other with Papa Gontier and Laurette Messimy, edged with Mrs. Sinkins Pinks. The other beds are: four of Begonias, the large-flowering single variety, chosen for colour; four, at corners, of yellow Marguerite Morning Star, edged with Emperor William Lobelias; four of seedling Verbenas, with nice foliage; and two of Heliotropes, edged with variegated Geraniums. For spring bedding here, we use Tulips and Hyacinths."

More Combinations on the Terrace.

"There are two fine Magnolias on the lawn now coming into bloom."

"They have made their growth since 1860, and flower down to the bottom. The White Thorn—in the centre on the lawn, with Roses, mostly Hybrid Teas, all round, and seats underneath—dates very far back. On this side of the castle the creepers are Gloire de Dijon Roses and a Magnolia."

"I should like particulars of the beds on the other side of the Thorn tree."

"There are four of Marguerites, four of Heliotropes, and four of Begonias, the same as on the other side; four of Scarlet Defiance Verbenas, all grown from seed, and making a dazzling show when they are all in flower. The Rose pole is also the same as on the other side, and there are fourteen beds of Geraniums Henry Jacoby, two with Nicotiana affinis in the centre, edged with variegated Grass; one Rose bed of General Jacqueminot, and another of Bruce Findlay, edged with white Lobelias; and the two Rose beds in the centre are filled respectively with Madame Falcot and Gruss an Teplitz, edged with Mrs Sinkins Pinks. These beds are not filled in the spring."

"We have not noted the standard Roses all round outside the bedding."

"They include the best varieties, such as Charles Lefebvre, Clio, Baroness Rothschild, and Duke of Edinburgh. You can judge from what you see of the park here that it is splendidly timbered. Not far away are two large Walnut trees, which bear well, and right in the corner of the flower garden at the end of the terrace is a grand specimen of the common Ash."

The Fruit Walk.

Then, having stood on the spot from which Mr. Gladstone, from his garden front, addressed tens of thousands of people in the park, and noticed several fine Spanish Chestnuts and other trees on the 'Broad Walk,' we proceeded to the kitchen garden, which, with the range of fruit and plant houses, is on a considerable scale. At the entrance is a rockery adorned with common Ferns, and very good specimens of Osmundas, and on a slope beyond is a second garden devoted to Potatoes and sundry vegetables.

"You combine the useful and the ornamental on each side of the walk in the centre of the garden?"

"As to the useful, there are standard Apples on one side, and standard Pears on the other. The principal Apples are Lane's Prince Albert, Cellini, Stirling Castle, King of Pippins, Keswick Codlin, and Ecklinville Seedling; the Pears are Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise, Pitmaston Duchess, Winter Nelis, and Williams's Bon Chretien. The crops of both Apples and Pears have been excellent. The flowers in the borders are chiefly Lobelia cardinalis, and Godetias Duke of York and Lady Albemarle, filled in with Geraniums Flower of Spring, Pyrethrums aurea, Lobelias Brighton Blue, and Nigellas Miss Jekyll."

A Blaze of Gladiolus.

"But you have also a quantity of flowering plants on the wide borders on either side of the houses, including a fine show of Sweet Peas and Border Carnations."

"The Sweet Peas, which are planted in clumps, are chiefly Miss Willmott, Mrs. Walter Wright, King Edward, Helen Lewis, Queen of Spain, John Ingman, Mrs. Charles Foster, and Navy Blue. The best of the Carnations are Raby Castle, Alice Ayres, Old Clove, Ketton Rose, Fiery Cross, and Blanche."

"Your Gladioli make a splendid mass of scarlet."

"We find the variety Brenchleyensis extremely useful for decorating the table, either in day or artificial light. It is also very valuable for church decoration. They last in flower for quite five weeks. I give them plenty of manure in winter, which I suppose materially contributes to my successful cultivation. Phlox in variety are a feature of this border, and also Cactus Dahlias. The best of the latter are Cycle, Countess of Lonsdale, Mrs. Charles Foster, Mrs. John Goodheart, Night (black), and Delicata. Montbretias and Nicotianas in variety flourish here, and Hyacinthus candicans is quite hardy, and lives outside through the winter. The few Roses in the front yield us a considerable quantity of blooms."

"Opposite, I observe, you have Pansies and Stocks in profusion."

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"Both are mixed, the Stocks being of the large-flowering German section. They are put in at the beginning of June, and flower till the frost cuts them down, making a mass of colour, and the air fragrant with their perfume."

"You grow a good deal of fruit on your very high walls."

HAWARDEN CASTLE—NOTABLE AS THE RESIDENCE OF THE LATE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P.

"We get some excellent crops of Peaches and Nectarines. The former are Royal George, and the latter Barrington, which is rather too late for this climate. The only Nectarine is Lord Napier. Pears on the wall are Marie Louise and Pitmaston Duchess; Plums, Jefferson, Kirke's, The Czar, Magnum Bonum, and Victoria. Amongst the Apples on pyramids are Yorkshire Beauty, Stirling Castle, Alfriston, and Lane's Prince Albert."

"Do you grow many varieties of Strawberries?"

"Only four, Royal Sovereign (which we force), Waterloo, President, and Noble. I keep the plants four years, and I find that at the end of the fourth year they are better than at the end of the second. Of course, a good deal depends upon the soil."

"Amongst your many thriving breadths of vegetables, I see that your Scarlet Runners grow to an amazing height."

"The variety is Ne Plus Ultra, which is a vast improvement on the old Scarlet Runner, and bears fine crops of Beans, of great length."

"When do you begin to pick Peas?"

"The third week in June. Of very early varieties, Gradus is the best, and the other two are Dickson's Champion Marrowfat, and The Gladstone. Instead of growing a number of varieties, if I have a Pea that does well, I sow it at different dates, and obtain a succession of crops. Onions are sown both in autumn and spring, and I find that the four best varieties are Nuneham Park, Magnum Bonum, Bedfordshire Champion, and Rousham Park Hero. As to Potatoes, we use May Queen for early work, and Sir John Llewelyn and Up-to-Date. Formerly, we forced vegetables, but have given up doing so."

"When were your Vineries erected?"

"Twenty-eight years ago. The house we are now entering is the latest, and has borders inside and out—in my opinion a great advantage to cultivation. The varieties are Alicante, Madresfield Court, and, on the back wall, Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling. With regard to Madresfield Court, the skin of the berries is so thin that it easily cracks. The house in which they are grown should be kept very dry, and if you want them at their best, you should give them a house to themselves.

HAWARDEN VILLAGE AND THE ENTRANCE GATES TO HAWARDEN PARK.

"The early Vinery," continued Mr. Forsyth, contains chiefly Black Hamburgh and one of Foster's Seedling. These are very old Vines, and the house was built over them, and we had a good crop of Grapes the first season afterwards. These Vines are between eighty and ninety years old."

"There will be a nice show of Camellias in the greenhouse?"

"They are well set with buds, and we shall get thousands of flowers just when they are wanted, after the Chrysanthemums are over. The variety is alba. We used to grow them in pots, but they have done much better since we planted them out. The Roses on the side of the house are Niphetos, and Letty Coles, a very pretty pale pink variety. On the stages the plants in flower depend upon the season of the year. Just now the Fuchsias are strongly in evidence. The chief varieties are Mrs. Marshall, Display, The Doctor, Diadem, Covent Garden, Rose of Castille, Addington, and A. H. Henkle, a very peculiar Fuchsia. The Geraniums in bloom include David Thompson, Hermione, Amy Ampthill, Countess of Seaford, and Wonderful. Now, we come to the mid-season Vinery, which, when it was put up, twenty-eight years ago, was to be fed from pits, but the pits have not been added. Muscats are the principal Grape, and Black Hamburgh on the back wall. From the latter we get very fine bunches, the reason being that there is plenty of light. In the Peach house we have Princess of Wales, Royal George, Gros Mignonne, and Nectarine Violet Hative. The crops have been pretty fair on the whole."

"You have Tomatoes on the outside wall?"

"Yes, but they will hardly ripen, because of the cold season. The varieties are Early Ruby and Sunset. In the little stove the contents are mainly Begonias for winter flowering, Coleus thyrsoides, and on the roof Allamanda Shortii. The Gloxinias, which are all seedlings, have been very nice for house decoration.. There is a considerable number of Adiantum Ferns, and from the large specimen of Pandanus Veitchii in the pot, we grow a number of nice young plants."

"You seem to have a quantity of Chrysanthemums coming on in the frame-ground."

"They are nearly all Japanese varieties. A few of the best, which we grow for cutting, are Mrs. H. Molyneux, Madame Ferlat, Miss Nellie Pockett, Lady Selborne, Queen of the Exe, Mrs. Joseph Thompson, Mrs. Barclay, Cullingford, and George Penfold."

The Cultivation of Marguerite Carnations.

"How long have your Marguerite Carnations been in flower?"

"They started in the middle of August, and will bloom off and on for twelve months. They are all seedlings, a good many of them doubles, and they yield a great quantity of flowers of

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various colours. They should be sown in February, and given a very little Clay's fertilizer. I pot them all indoors, using a little rotten manure in the bottom of the pots."

Talking to Mr. Forsyth at home, in a room with portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, I enquired where he commenced his career.

"I started in The Nunnery, near Douglas, Isle of Man, and was there for five years. From Douglas I went to Kingston-on-Thames, for experience in plant-growing, at Messrs. Jackman's nursery. Then, for three years, I was foreman at Coworth Park, Sunningdale, and for three years foreman at Kinmel Park, Abergele, North Wales. My first appointment as head gardener was in Montgomeryshire at Dolfugan Hall, and before coming here I had charge of the gardens at Belmont Castle, Perthshire, for nine years."

ALFRED WILCOX.

The subject of next week's interview is Miss Gertrude Cope, gardener to Mr. George Cadbury, The Manor House, Northfield, near Birmingham.

Levelling Ground for a Tennis Lawn.

THE cost of making a tennis lawn is not a serious matter where the ground is naturally level. But as such a condition does not often obtain, and as uneven, or sloping, ground must be levelled before a satisfactory lawn can be made, it is of the utmost importance that the work be well done, and on right principles. We may take, for example, a plot of ground which slopes considerably from east to west, or north to south. I have seen such plots wrongly dealt with. They were levelled, it is true, but the manner of levelling was wrong, as the soil from the higher portion was simply placed on that of the lower. Result: the soil on half of the plot—the lower half—was deep, and the grass there grew strongly, and remained green during the summer months, but the top half of the plot quickly became brown, on account of the shallow layer of soil. No amount of surface manuring and watering could materially alter the poverty of the turf in the summer time. But if a little more expense had been incurred and the work carried out in a right way, a very satisfactory lawn could have been made.

Levelling Sloping Ground.

Now, the proper way to deal with sloping ground is as follows: The old turf must be taken off first, and placed on one side. If any portion is to be relaid, care should be taken to have all turves cut evenly, and then laid out instead of being stacked. After dealing with the old turf, remove the surface soil to a depth of at least one foot, and put it on one side. Now we come to the real work—the levelling of the subsoil. When this is satisfactorily done—leaving the surface gently sloping to three or four inches from one end to the other to ensure drainage, and avoiding having stagnant water remaining on the surface—the top soil must be replaced evenly all over. This will ensure the soil being of the same depth all over the lawn, and the turf of even quality and solidity.

Make All Firm.

It is very important that the soil be thoroughly trodden down, firmed, and made smooth before any turves are laid. The latter should be of the same length, width, and thickness, and put down with the joints coming opposite the centres of turves in other rows. Although the work of laying the turves may be extremely well done, there is the possibility of the joints opening when a spell of dry weather comes. These openings must be filled with powdered clay or marl prepared for the purpose.

DELAMERE.

Autumn-Sown Peas.

SO many excellent varieties of early Peas are now on the market, and many of them are so hardy and vigorous in constitution, that the old practice of November sowing merits more extensive trial. Where the soil is naturally light, warm, and well drained, there is much to be said for the system. Of course, where the staple is heavy, wet, and cold and the position is at all bleak and exposed, autumn sowing would be futile; but, given favourable conditions, with a suitable aspect, the advantages are readily apparent. Plants so sown are enabled to get a good start by the spring, and commence growing away as soon as the weather is propitious; the strong root-hold they obtain enables them the better to withstand the hot, dry spell which is frequently experienced in the early summer; and the cropping period is considerably extended.

Preparing the Site.

Where it is determined to make an early sowing of Peas, the site should be prepared some time previously. A sheltered and sunny situation, opening to the south and west, and cut off from the cold and biting winds of the north and east, should be chosen. Trench to a depth of from one and a half to two feet, and be liberal with the supply of manure, which should be mellow and well decayed. In addition, it is advisable to add a proportion of a good artificial fertiliser, such as superphosphate. The Pea is a vegetable which will amply repay for the extra trouble and expense in making the ground rich and deep; while, on the other hand, dissatisfaction and possible failure are likely to result from a parsimonious policy. If the ground has been well dug over beforehand, it will have settled nicely by the time for sowing.

Sow Thinly.

The seeds should be sown in drills, about two inches deep, and from four to eight inches wide. Sow thinly, allowing each seed to be, say, three inches from its fellows. There is no advantage gained by sowing thickly; on the contrary, the young plants, when they start growing, are so cramped together that their progress is retarded, and their growth not properly developed. The distance between the rows must be determined by the height to which the variety attains. Dwarfs such as American Wonder and Webb's Surprise should be planted about three feet apart; and taller-growing varieties, up to five feet apart, the space between being utilised for other vegetables. Cover the seeds with good soil, and leave room for a top-dressing later, when the young plants are up.

Guard against mice, which are very apt to devour the seed. The usual preventive, in addition to traps, is to moisten the seed with water, and then roll in red lead. Watch must also be kept for the usual insect pests, and means adopted to check them, and also to circumvent the birds, which are very partial to the tender young tops of the Peas.

Extra Early Crops.

Where extra early crops are required, recourse must be had to greenhouse treatment. The seed should be sown in 8-in. to 12-in. pots, which have been three-parts filled with good, rich soil; cover with an inch of finer soil. Good drainage must be provided. There must be no attempt at forcing during the early stages, but the pots must be kept cool, and the soil fairly moist. When the young plants appear, thin them out, to avoid overcrowding. Give a top-dressing of rich compost as soon as they attain a height of two or three inches, and repeat the process later, when the plants have got well into growth. Do not "coddle" them, but give plenty of air whenever the outside temperature is mild and genial, and see that they never suffer from lack of moisture. As growth advances, and the pots become full of roots, more water must be given. When the pods have set, gentle forcing may be resorted to. Stakes will, of course, be provided as required. With attention to these details, and by the selection of suitable varieties, good crops of tender Peas may be gathered some time sooner than by the ordinary culture.

Good Varieties.

There are a number of good varieties of recent introduction, which lend themselves to all the purposes of the grower. For outdoor sowing, Early Perfection, William the First, Kinver Gem, Early Eclipse, and Earliest of All are each to be recommended, and among dwarf varieties, King Edward VII., English Wonder, Chelsea Gem, and Webb's Surprise. For pot culture, mention should be made of Toogood's Forcing, Webb's New Little Marvel, Chelsea Gem, and To-morrow.

ILEX.

Broad Beans.

BROAD Beans thrive remarkably well when the seeds are sown in rather heavy, retentive soils. But the ground must be well broken up, tilled and enriched prior to the sowing of the seeds. Many amateurs like to sow Broad Bean seeds in the autumn or winter time. Now, for this sowing, I would advise cultivators not to select the heaviest and most retentive soil in their garden. Such may, and really does, answer best for the spring sowings, but we must not expect the seeds to germinate, and the resultant plants to thrive in a cold, unduly moist medium, and these are the conditions that obtain where the soil is clayey in the winter time. The warmer the soil the better for the seeds, and, finally, the plants. So I strongly advise amateurs to select a warm position and a rather light soil.

Sow in Single Lines.

Having dug and manured the ground, sow the seeds four inches apart in rows fifteen inches asunder, for such varieties as Beck's Early Gem; and allow a space of eighteen inches between the larger-growing varieties. I much prefer to sow the seeds in single rather than double lines, as the plants grow very sturdy from the first, and bear lower down on the stalk than when they are overcrowded in double rows. Put in the seeds about three inches deep; the roots will be thus protected a great deal from the frost.

G. G.

IT is thoroughly understood by practical horticulturists that most plants, after blooming, require a period of rest, during which all growth seems suspended. This period of rest occurs at differing seasons, according to the habit of the plant, but in general, winter is the time which may be regarded as the natural "siesta" of ordinary plants. Before the succeeding spring there will have occurred certain chemical changes, essential to the development of the plant, and without which it could not grow. If branches which have recently lost their leaves are placed in a hothouse they will not bud; but if the same experiment is repeated a few months later, they will be found to do so. There are several methods of greatly abridging this period of rest. According to "La Nature," a simple method consists in immersing the branches in hot water for a greater or less length of time, according to the species. The best way of working is to dip the plants head downwards in a tank full of hot water, so as not to wet the roots, as this would be prejudicial. After they have been immersed, the plants are removed, and placed in their proper position in a hothouse, where they soon grow. Experience has demonstrated that the hot bath should not exceed a maximum of nine to twelve hours, and the best temperature is thirty to thirty-five degrees Centigrade (eighty-six to ninety-five degrees Fahr.).

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Forsyth, William (*bap.* 1737, *d.* 1804), *horticulturist*
by B. D. Jackson, *rev.* Ruth Stungo
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Forsyth, William (*bap.* 1737, *d.* 1804), horticulturist, the son of John Forsyth, was born at Old Meldrum, Aberdeenshire, and baptized there on 25 March 1737. He probably served his apprenticeship in the gardens of Lord Aberdeen at Haddo House, before going to London to work under Philip Miller at the Chelsea Physic Garden. In 1763, on Miller's recommendation, he was appointed head gardener to the duke of Northumberland at Syon House, Brentford, returning to Chelsea to succeed Miller in 1771. He was active in reorganizing and restocking the Chelsea garden.

In 1784 Forsyth was appointed superintendent of the royal gardens of St James and Kensington. Here his interest in the improvement of diseased and decayed fruit trees led him to develop and promote his own ‘plaister’, a paste whose application would, he asserted, cause new wood to grow and bind to the old. His invention came to the notice of those charged with procurement of sound wood, particularly oak, for naval use, and after preliminary investigation he was paid £1500 to reveal the composition of this mixture. A second payment, to follow successful trials, was, however, never made. In 1791 Forsyth published *Observations on the Diseases, Defects, and Injuries of Fruit and Forest Trees*, and in 1802 his *Treatise on the Culture and Management of Fruit Trees*, which reached a seventh edition in 1824.

A modest and unaffected man with many friends, Forsyth was a significant figure in horticultural affairs. He was a fellow of the Linnean Society and of the Society of Antiquaries. He played an important part in bringing about the establishment of the Horticultural Society in 1804. The attack by Thomas Knight in 1802 on Forsyth's claims for his paste, which Knight asserted was neither a new invention nor an effective one, led to a long and bitter debate which severely damaged Forsyth's reputation. The date of his marriage to Sarah, who died on 21 November 1799, aged sixty-two, is not known. Forsyth died on 25 July 1804 at his official residence at Kensington.

B. D. JACKSON, *rev.* RUTH STUNGO

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Archives RBG Kew, corresp. and papers · RCS Eng., notes
Likenesses Freeman, stipple, NPG

Felton, 1830

WILLIAM FORSYTH, Esq. His portrait is prefixed to the seventh edition of his Treatise on the Culture and Management of Fruit Trees, 8vo. 1824; also to the 4to. edition of the same work in 1802. He also published Observations on the diseases, defects, and injuries in all kinds of Fruit and Forest Trees, with an account of a particular method of cure, 8vo. 1791. Mr. Forsyth died in 1804.

1850

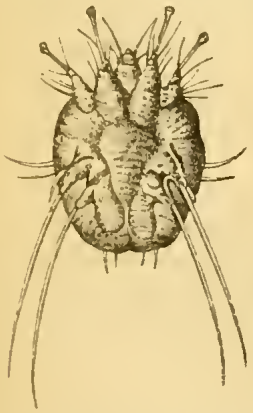
WEEKLY CALENDAR.

M D	W D	JULY 18—24, 1850.	Weather near London in 1849.			Sun Rises.	Sun Sets.	Moon R. & S.	Moon's Age.	Clock bef. Sun.	Day of Year.
18	TH	Whitethroat's song ceases. [Moth seen.	T. 73°—50°.	S.W.	Rain.	5 a. 4	6 a. 8	0 15	9	5 51	199
19	F	Sun's declination, 20° 53′ N. Humming Bird	T. 73°—44°.	S.W.	Rain.	7	5	0 43	10	5 55	200
20	S	Margaret. Goat Moth seen.	T. 73°—47°.	S.W.	Rain.	8	4	1 16	11	5 59	201
21	SUN	8 SUN. AFT. TRINITY. Musk Beetle seen.	T. 69°—44°.	W.	Fine.	9	3	1 52	12	6 2	202
22	M	Magd. Sedge Warbler's song ceases.	T. 69°—56°.	S.E.	Fine.	11	2	2 34	13	6 5	203
23	TU	Turtle Dove last heard.	T. 67°—48°.	S.	Rain.	12	0	3 24	14	6 7	204
24	W	Swallow-tail Moth seen.	T. 67°—46°.	S.W.	Rain.	13	VII.	rises.	☺	6 9	205

ON the 25th of July, 1804, at the residence attached to his office of chief superintendant of Kensington Gardens, died WILLIAM FORSYTH, who merited much for his acquirements as a horticulturist, but whose good fame, we think, is more than jeopardized by his pretensions to a discovery and a reward to which he was not entitled. He was born some time in 1737, at old Meldrum, in Aberdeenshire, and was there early initiated in the horticultural arts, but completed his pupilage by being placed, during 1763, under Philip Miller, at the Chelsea Garden of the Apothecaries' Company. At Miller's recommendation, he obtained the head gardenership to the Duke of Northumberland, at Sion House—a situation which he resigned in 1769 to succeed his old master in the curatorship of the Chelsea Garden. He retained this appointment until 1784, and then resigned it upon succeeding Mr. T. Robinson in the office of the Royal Gardener at Kensington and St. James's. He held this appointment until his death, publishing during the tenure of his office, "Observations on the Diseases, Defects, and Injuries in all kinds of Fruit and Forest Trees, with an account of a particular method of cure invented and practised by the author," 1791; and "A Treatise on the Culture and Management of Fruit Trees," 1802. In 1804 we have seen he died; and but for one circumstance, the testimony of his friends that he was "benevolent, unaffected, modest, and worthy," might have been inscribed without comment beneath his portrait. We are told that from the year 1768 down to 1789 he devoted much time to the cultivation of fruit and forest trees, but especially toward the discovery of some composition to remedy their incidental diseases and injuries. He laid claim to success in his research after this sanitative composition; for we have seen that he published "an account of a method of cure *invented* and practised" by himself; and government gave him £1500 for the discovery. They proposed to double the sum upon certain facts being established by him; but in the meantime Mr. Knight, the late president of the Horticultural Society, stept forth in the discharge of a distasteful public duty—to dispute Mr. Forsyth's title to any reward. We have had occasion to examine minutely into the merits of the contest, and regret to have arrived at the conclusion, that the composition Mr. Forsyth employed was borrowed from Hitt, and other writers upon the cultivation of trees; and that the cures he alleged to have effected were not of the extent or importance certified. Mr. Forsyth's plaister for healing the wounds and restoring to vigour decayed trees, was as follows:—One bushel of fresh *cowdung*; half a bushel of *lime rubbish*, that from ceilings of rooms is preferable, or powdered chalk; half a bushel of *wood ashes*; one-sixteenth of a bushel of *sand*: the three last to be sifted fine. The whole to be mixed and beaten together until they form a fine plaister. Now, there is nothing in this compound sufficiently differing from others recommended by his contemporaries and predecessors to entitle him to call it his invention; but supposing that an arbitrary difference in the proportions of the constituents suffices to sustain such claim, still what can be said in defence of his assertion, that that composition has filled with young wood the hollow trunks of timber trees, and that he had in his possession parts of the trunk of a tree in which the new wood, by the efficacious power of his "poor tree's plaister," had been made to incorporate with the old; and that trees so cured were rendered as fit for the navy as though they had never been injured? Every gardener, every physiologist, knows that this could not be true. New wood and new bark may be induced to grow over old wood, but no power, no application, will induce them to unite to it. It is quite true that Dr. Lettsom, Dr. Anderson, and others, who ought to have been more circumspect, certified that Mr. Forsyth's statements contained "nothing more than the truth;" but they afterwards either acknowledged that they did so on evidence that ought not to have been deemed sufficient, or that they meant no more than to testify in favour of "the utility" of Mr. Forsyth's plaister. Of this there can be no doubt, because every application excluding the rain and air from a tree's wound is of great "utility." It is also quite true that Mr. Forsyth received a parliamentary grant of money, but it was granted upon inconclusive evidence; and, as Mr. Knight observes, affords a much better proof that he was paid for an important discovery than that he made one. The whole of the correspondence on the subject, between Mr. Knight and Dr. Lettsom, can be referred to in the 74th and 75th volumes of *The Gentleman's Magazine*, and may be read as a warning how literary controversy should *not* be conducted. Dr. Lettsom had rashly attested to the truth of that of which he was not a competent judge, and had not the noble candour to seek a fair examination; whilst Mr. Knight poured forth insinuations and charges in a wrathful tone, very unbefitting either a philosopher or a gentleman.

METEOROLOGY OF THE WEEK.—During the last twenty-three years, from observations at Chiswick, it appears that the average highest and lowest temperatures of these seven days are 72.1° and 52°, respectively. The greatest cold observed during the time, 40°, was on the 24th in 1838. There were 82 fine days, and 79 days on which rain fell, during the period.

INSECTS.—Whenever surveying the works of his species—from the minute perfection of the chronometer, marking with faultless regularity the progress of time, to the flying leviathan of the railroad, which almost keeps pace with that progress rendering neighbourship nearly universal—a man inclines to feel elevated with a consciousness of the power of his species, we know of no better antidote than to direct his thoughts to the almost invisible *Acaridæ*, by which his property, his health, and even his life, are destroyed. The Acaridæ, or Mites, are everywhere around and about us. The Harvest Bug (*Leptus autumnalis*) is a mite that will soon be afflicting us with an irritation scarcely less tormenting than that suffered by those who are infected with the itch. This disease is also caused by a mite (*Acarus scabiei*), represented in our wood-cut, and of which the very aspect is demoniacal. We might enumerate many other similar pests; but we will conclude our notice of this class by observing, that with death by dysentery is associated another mite, *Acarus dysenteriæ*. Our property is even more subject than our persons to be injured and destroyed by these minute creatures. The Red Spider, so destructive to our plants, and figured in a former volume, is a mite (*Acarus tellarius*); flour is apt to become uneatable from the inroads of another (*Acarus farinæ*); the strawberry is infested by the *Gamasus baccarum*; our cabinets of specimens fall a prey to one of the same tribe; and even our old cheeses are consumed by the well-known *Acarus siro*, represented, as magnified, in the annexed outline figure. What ground for boasting, then, has he whom the very mites prey upon and subdue?



RANGE OF BAROMETER—RAIN IN INCHES.

July		1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.
18	B.	29.742	29.993	29.975	29.752	30.091	29.450	30.038	30·088	29.741
		29.634	29.822	29.784	29.718	30.086	29.294	30.027	29.913	29.622
	R.	—	0.02	0.50	—	—	0.22	—	—	0.06
19	B.	29.813	29.842	29.753	29.891	30.058	29.828	29.938	29.776	29.603
		29.795	29.754	29.709	29.723	30.030	29.574	29.853	29.499	29.591
	R.	0.07	0.01	0.02	0.39	—	0.05	0.01	—	0.22
20	B.	29.699	20.735	29.756	30.174	30.041	29.995	29.870	29.512	29.677
		29.493	29.690	29.690	30.067	29.955	29.828	29.866	29.299	29.526
	R.	0.29	0.12	0.01	—	0.24	—	—	0.07	0.14
21	B.	29.665	29.864	29.818	30.275	29.921	29.905	29.878	29.758	29.982
		29.469	29.718	29.682	30.227	29.908	29.883	29.867	29.677	29.821
	R.	0.10	0.01	—	—	—	0.04	—	0·21	—
22	B.	29.828	30.128	29.808	30.190	29.935	29.923	30.167	29.836	30.055
		29.724	29.695	29.613	30.044	29.921	29.873	30.020	29.812	29.959
	R.	—	0.02	0.08	—	0.05	—	—	—	—
23	B.	29.999	30.197	29.781	29.999	29.910	29.888	30.228	29.854	29.768
		29.915	30.153	29.457	29.910	29.905	29.825	30.193	29.819	29.556
	R.	0.01	—	0.08	—	0.05	—	—	0.38	0.40
24	B.	30.133	30.118	30.123	29.948	29.924	29.793	30.149	29.903	29.519
		30.085	29.927	30.016	29.916	29.905	29.425	30.016	29.863	29.438
	R.	—	—	—	—	—	0.32	—	0.08	1.16

arg., in chief a mitre of the second. Church dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul.

Worcester. Arg., 10 torteaux, 4, 3, 2, 1. The bishop celebrated in the presence of the metropolitan or in a meeting of the College of Bishops. To this service the "Hosts" refer. Lyndwood calls the bishop "Capellanus" in the College of Bishops. [Provinc. p. 319.]

York. A pall.

Carlisle. Ar., on a cross sa., a mitre, labelled, or. Arms of the priory erected into a see.

Durham. Az., a cross, or, between 4 lions, ramp., arg. (Arms of K. Oswald.)

Cathedrals of the New Foundation bear the old conventual arms.

I ventured some time since to doubt if there were ever any portrait of Prester John; Butler, Heylyn's contemporary, I ought to have remembered, says:—

"... Like the mighty Prester John,
Whose face none dares to look upon,
But is preserved in close disguise,
From being made cheap to vulgar eyes."
The Lady's Answer to the Knight, l. 277.

MACKENZIE E. C. WALCOTT.

BOTANIC GARDEN, CHELSEA.

Henry Field wrote an account of this garden (Gilbert, Clerkenwell, 1820), and it contains several points of interest. It says that John Gerarde, who wrote the *Herbal*, had his garden attached to his house in Holborn, 1596. Is it known whereabouts this house was situated? It is not specified by Cunningham. John Tradescant's was the next in the South Lambeth Road, on the site now occupied by the Nine Elms Brewery (Timbs says, p. 50). This has given way to the railway probably. There is a curious monumental tomb to the memory of these Tradescants, of whom John was gardener to Charles I. Mr. Field also mentions a botanic garden at Westminster, visited by Evelyn, 10th June, 1658, and kept by the botanist Morgan. It seems that the Apothecaries' Society purchased the lease to obtain possession of the plants for their new garden at Chelsea. Whereabouts was this garden? it is not mentioned anywhere by Cunningham nor by Timbs.

Cunningham says the ground was leased to the Apothecaries' Company in 1673, and that it was enclosed in 1686. Field gives Charles Cheyne, afterwards Lord Cheyne, as the owner who leased it to the Society for sixty-one years at 5*l.* per annum.

In 1683 four cedars were planted in the garden near the river. Two remain, Field says (p. 12), at this day; the other two were cut down after about a century, owing to their decayed state. In 1750 they measured 11 feet in girth; in 1793 upwards of 12 feet. On the 15th August this year only one remained standing. Field says (p. 69) that the two decayed ones were cut down in 1771, as also some lime and elm trees in the "Officinal quarter," as being injurious to the growth of the plants. The trunks were sold (p. 70) at 2*s.* 8*d.* a foot, the boughs at 1*s.* 4*d.* a foot.

When Sir Hans Sloane obtained the manor of Chelsea by purchase in 1721, he granted the freehold of the garden to the Apothecaries' Company, on condition that the Professor should deliver to the Royal Society 50 new plants annually up to 2,000. Field states, however, that Sir Hans Sloane received a yearly rent of 5*l.* I always thought it was a free grant, and Cunningham states it to be so. Can any reader enlighten us as to this point? Does the Apothecaries' Society pay anything now; and if not, when did they cease to pay?

The first delivery of plants was in August, 1722 (p. 33). The last recorded delivery was 17th July, 1774, the fifty-first annual presentation; 2,550 plants in all. Field adds,—"It is perfectly certain they were continued long subsequently to that time," but the minute books of the Society have not noticed them.

Of the "Herborizing" excursions, the first was in 1633.

There is a clause in the lease that, if ever they build over it, it will revert to the Royal Society.

William Forsyth resigned his post of gardener to go to His Majesty's garden at Kensington. He prepared a composition to remedy the diseases of trees. Is it known what it was? He published a work, 1791, *Observations on the Diseases, Defects, and Injuries of Fruit and Forest Trees.*

A useful fact is recorded (p. 100). They set up a pump in 1815 to supply the garden with Thames water, finding that spring water injured the plants much.

Phillip Miller was appointed in 1722 to the garden. He published the *Gardener's Dictionary*, 1731, folio, and it was translated into Dutch, German, and French, edited by Professor Martyn, in 1807, in 4 folio vols. Is this the Professor Martyn who edited the *Georgics*, and enriched it with excellent botanical notes? Miller left a large herbarium, which was bought by Sir Joseph Banks. He was buried in Chelsea old church, and the members of the Linnean and Horticultural Societies erected a monument to his memory, a cenotaph in pillar form. Has not this disappeared; and if so, who removed it?

An Edward Oakley (p. 41), an architect, is mentioned as having erected the buildings in 1732. Does he give name to the present Oakley Street? Cunningham is silent.

Also the name of Lyall occurs (p. 104), of the Swan Brewhouse; and he is permitted to open a window overlooking the garden on an annual payment of 5*s.*, and signing an agreement to close it if

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required at three months' notice. Is Lyall Street, Belgravia, called from him? Cunningham is silent.

Mr. Alchorne (p. 70) presented in 1772 forty tons of old stones from the Tower of London, to raise an artificial rock for such plants as delight in that soil; and Sir Joseph Banks, a quantity of lava from Iceland.

These are the principal facts, useful or curious, in connexion with the garden which I find enumerated in this rather scarce book; and I hope that some readers will be able to answer the queries which have arisen in the course of jotting down these remarks.

Can anybody give the origin of Milman's Row and Flood Street, Chelsea, in the immediate neighbourhood? C. A. Ward.

Mayfair.

PARALLEL PASSAGES.

Milton and Charles Wesley.—In *Paradise Lost*, Book iv., Eve thus addresses Adam:—

"*With thee conversing I forget all time,*
All seasons, and their change; all please alike."

In Wesley's Hymns (1741) is one by Charles Wesley, beginning—

"Talk with us, Lord, thyself reveal,"

in which the second verse runs thus—

"*With thee conversing, we forget,*
All time, and toil, and care;
Labour is rest, and pain is sweet,
If thou, my God, art here."

V.H.I.L.I.C.I.V.

"Love wil nouht buen constreyned by maistré.
Whan maistré commeth, the god of love anon
Beteth his winges, and fare wel, he is gon."
Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*, 11076.

"Ne may love be compeld by maistery;
For, soone as maistery comes, sweet love anone
Taketh his nimble winges, and soone away is gone."
Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book iii. Canto i. st. 25.

"Love, that's too generous t'abide
To be against its nature tied;
For where 'tis of itself inclin'd,
It breaks loose when it is confin'd
And like the soul, its harbourer,
Debarr'd the freedom of the air,
Disdains against its will to stay,
But struggles out and flies away."
Butler, *Hudibras*, Part iii. Canto i.

G. A. B.

St. John's Wood.

In one of the old visitors' books preserved at Stratford-on-Avon, Washington Irving wrote the following lines, which have been greatly admired:

"Of mighty Shakspeare's birth the room we see;
That where he died in vain to try.
Useless the search, for all immortal he,
And those who are immortal never die."

The last line of the above is uncommonly like that of the following translation (by Lord Neaves, I presume) of an epigram by Parmenio, "alluding to the story of the Pythian oracle having declared Alexander to be invincible":—

"The rumour's false that Alexander's dead,
Unless we hold that Phœbus told a lie:
'Thou art invincible,' the Pythian said,
And those that are invincible can't die."
The Greek Anthology, p. 78.

Longfellow has been praised by the critics for likening Death to a healer of pain and sorrow, in the following lines in his *Evangeline*:—

"And as she looked around, she saw how Death the consoler,
Laying his hand upon many a heart, had *healed* it for ever."

This, however, is by no means original. In the *Anthology*, from which I have already quoted, the same idea is expressed or conveyed in an epigram by Agathias:—

"Why fear ye Death, the parent of repose,
That puts an end to penury and pain?
His presence once, and only once, he shows,
And none have seen him e'er return again.
But maladies of every varying hue
In thick succession human life pursue."
P. 107.

Lord Neaves observes of the above, that "Æschylus had anticipated this last idea by writing of Death as the only '*healer* of irremediable woes.'" And in another epigram (by Anytè) Death is termed the "kind *healer* of our woes" (p. 199).

W. A. C.

Glasgow.

"That beat a whelpe afore a lyonesse!"
Sir John Harington,
To his Wife, for Striking her Dog.

"Euen so as one would beate his offencelesse dogge,
To affright an Imperious Lyon."
Othello, Act ii. sc. 3.

George R. Jesse.

"Blanchardine and Eglantine," 1597.—In Mr. W. C. Hazlitt's excellent *Handbook* this third edition of a Caxton romance is not entered, and the copy of its Part I., 1597, in the Hamburg Library, is noted as a whole copy, of two parts, of the second edition of 1595. My friend Prof. Wagner sends me the following description of the Hamburg copy:—

"'The | most pleasant | Historie of Blan- | chardine, Sonne to the King | of Friz, & of the faire Eglantine Queene of | Tormaday, (Surnamed) The proud | Lady in loue. | *. | By P. T. G. Gent. | At London | Printed by George Shavv, for William Blackvvall | and are to be Solde at his Shop, ouer | against Guild-Hall gate. | 1597.'

"Second leaf (A 2)—

"'To the worshipfull and most towardly | Gentleman M. Willi[illegible] Peeter, | Sonne and Heire to the right Worshipf[illegible] Sir Iohn Peeter | Knight.'

"And [illegible] 2b at end of Preface:—

"'Your [illegible]or. at commaund | Tho. Pope Goodwine Gent.'

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s-week. This fact was pointed out to me by some workmen who were fixing some hot-water pipes, and they took the trouble to actually measure the growth from week to week. It has many of its leaves, I think, quite 12 inches long, and the sight of them hanging from the roof is very grand. If anything, it seems to increase in vigour and strength. I have two other plants of Maréchal Niel planted out in the same border in rich soil, but they are pigmies in comparison.—H. W. SOREL-CAMERON, *Belvidere, Weston-under Penyard, Ross, Hereford.*

[The accompanying woodcut is an exact copy, and of the exact size of the Rose leaf.]

EARLY WRITERS ON ENGLISH GARDENING.

No. 17.

WILLIAM FORSYTH.

HE was born some time in 1737 at Old Meldrum in Aberdeenshire, and was there early initiated in the horticultural arts, but completed his pupilage by being placed during 1763 under Philip Miller at the Chelsea garden of the Apothecaries' Company. At Miller's recommendation he obtained the head gardenership to the Duke of Northumberland at Sion House—a situation which he resigned in 1769 to succeed his old master in the curatorship of the Chelsea garden. He retained this appointment until 1784, and then resigned it upon succeeding Mr. T. Robinson in the office of the Royal Gardener at Kensington and St. James's. He held this appointment until his death, publishing during the tenure of his office, "Observations on the Diseases, Defects, and Injuries in all kinds of Fruit and Forest Trees, with an Account of a Particular Method of Cure Invented and Practised by the Author," 1791; and "A Treatise on the Culture and Management of Fruit Trees," 1802. In 1804 he died; and but for one circumstance, the testimony of his friends that he was "benevolent, unaffected, modest, and worthy," might have been inscribed without comment beneath his portrait. We are told that from the year 1768 down to 1789 he devoted much time to the cultivation of fruit and forest trees, but especially towards the discovery of some composition to remedy their incidental diseases and injuries. He laid claim to success in his research after this sanitative composition, for we have seen that he published "an account of a method of cure *invented* and practised" by himself, and Government gave him £1500 for the discovery. They proposed to double the sum upon certain facts being established by him; but in the meantime Mr. Knight, then President of the Horticultural Society, stepped forth in the discharge of a distasteful public duty—to dispute Mr. Forsyth's title to any reward. We have had occasion to examine minutely into the merits of the contest, and regret to have arrived at the conclusion that the composition Mr. Forsyth employed was borrowed from Hitt and other writers upon the cultivation of trees, and that the cures he alleged to have effected were not of the extent or importance certified. Mr. Forsyth's plaister for healing the wounds and restoring to vigour decayed trees was as follows:—One bushel of fresh cow dung; half a bushel of lime rubbish, that from ceilings of rooms is preferable, or powdered chalk; half a bushel of wood ashes, one-sixteenth of a bushel of sand; the three last to be sifted fine. The whole to be mixed and beaten together until they form a fine plaister. Now, there is nothing in this compound sufficiently differing from others recommended by his contemporaries and predecessors to entitle him to call it his invention; but supposing that an arbitrary difference in the proportions of the constituents suffices to sustain such claim, still what can be said in defence of his assertion that that composition has filled with young wood the hollow trunks of timber trees, and that he had in his possession parts of the trunk of a tree in which the new wood by the efficacious power of his "poor tree's plaister" had been made to incorporate with the old, and that trees so cured were rendered as fit for the navy as though they had never been injured? Every gardener, every physiologist, knows that this could not be true. New wood and new bark may be induced to grow over old wood, but no power, no application, will induce them to unite to it. It is quite true that Dr. Lettsom, Dr. Anderson, and others, who ought to have been more circumspect, certified that Mr. Forsyth's statements contained "nothing more than the truth;" but they afterwards either acknowledged that they did so on evidence that ought not to have been deemed sufficient, or that they meant no more than to testify in favour of "the utility" of Mr. Forsyth's plaister. Of this there can be no doubt, because every application excluding the rain and air from a tree's wound is of great "utility." It is also quite true that Mr. Forsyth received a parliamentary grant of money, but it was granted upon inconclusive evidence, and, as Mr. Knight observes, affords a much better proof that he was paid for an important discovery than that he made one. The whole of the correspondence on the subject between Mr. Knight and Dr. Lettsom can be referred to in the seventy-fourth and seventy-fifth volumes of "The Gentleman's Magazine," and may be read as a warning how literary controversy should *not* be conducted. Dr. Lettsom had rashly attested to the truth of that of which he was not a competent judge, and had not the noble candour to seek a fair examination; whilst Mr. Knight poured forth insinuations and charges in a wrathful tone, very unbefitting either a philosopher or a gentleman.

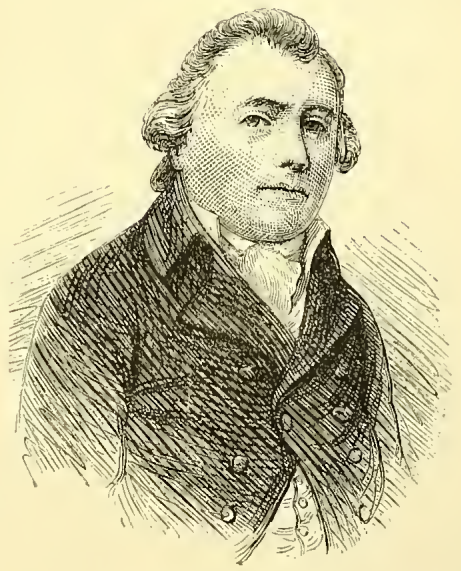


Fig. 18.—W. Forsyth.

There is much relative to this plaister in the "Forsyth Correspondence" published by us in the *Cottage Gardener* in 1851. In the November of 1799 Mr. Forsyth's wife died, and in the "Correspondence" there are testimonies of her excellence. I do not know the number of their children, but two sons are mentioned in the letters.

Besides the works named above Mr. Forsyth published "A Botanical Nomenclator" in 1794, and on "Gathering and Preserving Apples and Pears." He also contributed to the Transactions of the Board of Agriculture on various modes of promoting gardening among all classes.

Mr. Wedgewood, writing to Mr. Forsyth in 1801, first proposed the establishment of a society which ultimately became our Royal Horticultural Society. The genus Forsythia was named in his honour by M. Vahl.

THE ARRANGEMENT OF PLANTS AND CUT FLOWERS FOR INDOOR DECORATION.

IN disposing of an assortment of plants in bloom to produce a general harmony of colouring in a mixed group, or even in making a nosegay, the same colours should recur at least twice if not thrice. One of the masses of colour ought to be larger than any of the others of the same kind, and the other one or two masses or specks ought to be of different sizes, and not so far distant from the first or principal mass as not to be easily recognised by the eye. This necessity of two or more portions of colour of a principal mass, and of secondary

them on for about two years, but as he did not meet with due encouragement in the attendance of pupils they were then discontinued.

Mr. William Forsyth, the Gardener, gave in his resignation in the spring of this year, in consequence of having been appointed to a similar situation in His Majesty's Garden at Kensington. He received the thanks of the Committee for his great care of the Garden while he was in the Society's service.

Mr. William Forsyth.

William Forsyth, F.A.S. and L.S. was born at Old Meldrum, Aberdeenshire, in the year 1737, and came to London in 1763, when he became a pupil of Philip Miller in the Garden of the Apothecaries' Society. He succeeded his instructor in his office of Gardener, in 1771, having been some time before that period in the service of the Duke of Northumberland at Sion. He continued, until his death, July 25th, 1804, to occupy the post of Chief Superintendent of the Royal Gardens at Kensington and St. James's.

Mr. Forsyth, having for many years given attention to the cultivation of fruit and forest trees, and to the diseases and injuries to which they are liable, succeeded in preparing a composition which was calculated to remedy those evils. In 1789, the success of his

experiments attracted the notice of the Commissioners of the Land Revenue, and in consequence of their recommendation he obtained a Parliamentary reward for his discovery. Though the originality of his invention was doubted in some quarters, and occasioned considerable controversy, yet the issue of the inquiries made was upon the whole favourable to him. He published in 1791 his "Observations on the Diseases, Defects, and Injuries of Fruit and Forest Trees," and in 1802 the final result of his labours appeared in a "Treatise on the Culture and Management of Fruit Trees," which was sufficiently esteemed to pass through three editions in a very short time. A genus of plants, belonging to the Natural Order of Oleaceæ, is named *Forsythia* after this botanist.

H.S. Foster

THE GARDENS OF MR. F. E. MUNTZ, AT UMBERSLADE HALL, HOCKLEY HEATH.

THE fine seat of Mr. F. E. Muntz—a household name in Warwickshire—is situated a few miles from Knowle Station, and is surrounded by an extensive park, with beautiful gardens as a setting for the stately mansion. Paying a visit to the gardens towards the end of September, I was surprised to find how little, comparatively speaking, they had suffered from the drought. Mr. H. S. Foster, the gardener, is well known at the county shows, having been successful with Chrysanthemums, foliage plants, fruit, and vegetables. He first pointed out to me an addition to the grounds which was made seven years ago. It includes extensive croquet and tennis lawns, but besides the wide expanse of green there are beds with herbaceous plants and shrubs, while Roses are a conspicuous feature. The general arrangement is very effective, and I commented on the splendid condition of the turf.

"Yes," rejoined Mr. Foster, "we got it from the park. The natural soil varies, but whether gravel, or blue clay, it is very poor."

"The Rose beds, I gather, are mixed?"

"Most of them, but there is one of Frau Karl Druschki, and, as time goes on, I am going to have several beds, each planted with one particular variety, such as that just mentioned; also the Lyon Rose. The other good varieties of Roses are Teas and Hybrid Teas, of which J. B. Clark is one of the best. Others are Liberty, and Gustave Grunerwald. The last I strongly recommend. To make the Rose beds, we have to remove the existing soil to a depth of three feet, and fill up with a mixture of marl and chopped turf, adding some well-decayed manure, and then well mulch on the surface. Between the Roses are planted May-flowering Tulips, which make a fine show before the Roses come in flower."

"Your Ramblers on the archway running round the extension look well."

"It will take some time, owing to the cold situation, for the Ramblers to cover the arches and so fulfil the design. But the Roses are making excellent growth. There are from two hundred and fifty to three hundred planted, including Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, White Rambler, and Lady Gay, and in time we hope to have the finest pergola in the county. The difficulty is to get the Roses established in face of the cold south-west winds, which sweep straight across the valley."

"Evidently the winds do not injure the shrubs."

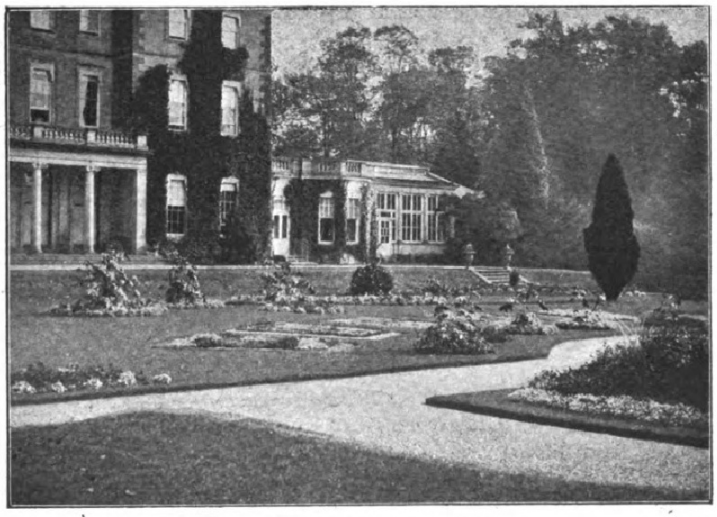
"No, the Portugal Laurels and Hollies, trained as specimens, are growing exceedingly well. With regard to herbaceous plants, we grow here whatever is useful for cutting, like Helianthus, Montbretias, Heloniopsis, Delphiniums, etc."

"You have a fine expanse of country in view."

"On a clear day, we can see the Malvern Hills, forty-two miles distant. There is one other feature worth noting. On the south side, facing north, is a big bank of Rhododendrons, not long planted. In spring, the bank is filled with Daffodils, and other bulbs."

"And," I said, as we turned our steps towards the largest of the three lakes which adorn Umberslade, "masses of Rhododendrons on the banks of the water."

"They are old-fashioned hybrids, planted many years ago. White, mauve, and red are the prevailing colours."



THE LAWN AND FLOWER BEDS AT UMBERSLADE HALL.

Gradually approaching the Hall, we paused on the west front lawn to notice a bed with a striking combination of Nicotianas, Salpiglossis, and Antirrhinums, edged by Eulalias (the Nicotiana affinis being in the centre, and Nicotiana Sanderæ surrounding it); and a great mass of Pentstemons, without any mixture.

"How often do you renew your great Rose bed?"

"At the end of the eighth year. There are nearly four hundred plants in the bed, standards and bushes, including both old and new varieties. This bed used to be full of Mahonia. The bed a little distance further on is composed of Calceolarias, gold and brown, edged by Echeverias and Iresine, with Geranium Waltham Nosegay, one of the best for flowering, and for using in vases."

Remarkable Terrace Bedding.

"You must tell me, please, all about your magnificent show of bedding facing the terrace. When were the beds laid out?"

"Upwards of twenty years ago, and, while constantly altering the combinations of flowers, we have adhered to the design."

"First, there are the four corners?"

"They are composed of scarlet Geraniums, Waltham Nosegay and Paul Crampel, edged with Lady Connie and blue Lobelias, Mrs. Clibran. The idea is to get scarlet corners; in fact, all the scarlet we can. The two oblong beds at the side are made up of Calceolaria Golden Gem, edged with Lobelias. Next to these are two figure-eight beds, with tuberous Begonias of mixed colours, edged with Pyrethrum Golden Feather, with dot plants of Ricinus."

"Not the least effective are your four pyramids of Ivy-leaved Geranium Madame Crousse."

"They have flowered all the better owing to the drought. In fact, this applies to all Geraniums. The three round beds consist of Henry Jacoby, edged by Lady Connie, and by blue Lobelias, with Ricinus as dot plants."

"What is the extent of the grounds?"

"Altogether, the pleasure grounds cover upwards of thirty acres, but a good deal of space is occupied by trees, shrubs, and lakes. Now I think we might explore the conservatory which divides the pleasure grounds from the kitchen garden."

"A very novel and delightful kind of division."

"The late Mr. G. F. Muntz designed it many years ago, and it is much to be preferred as a division, instead of the ordinary high walls."

"It is a spacious and imposing building, capable, I imagine, of holding a big lot of plants. One portion, I observe, is devoted to Chrysanthemums."

The Best Chrysanthemums.

"We grow from three hundred and fifty to four hundred bush, and about two hundred Japanese varieties, and continue a show from September into January, the varieties being selected so as to get the longest possible succession. The pick of the bush varieties are Lizzie Adcock, Source d'Or, Niveus, Pride of Ryecroft, Market Red, Red Dragon (very good for colour), R. Hooper Pearson (very late), and A. J. Balfour (good pink). One of the best Singles is Mary Richardson, a fine bronze; and we also grow a quantity of Stella (white), F. E. Smith, and Miss E. Roberts (pink). Of Japanese, the cream are represented by F. S. Vallis, Shanklin Sunshine, J. Locke, W. J. Davis, Lady Talbot, Purity, Hon. M. Lopes, John Peed, White Queen (extra good), Master James, Master David, and Reginald Vallis. Only a few varieties of Incurved are grown, chiefly C. H. Curtis, Frank Trestian, W. Wainwright, Mrs. Wynne, W. H. Thorpe, and Marjorie Shield, one of the best pinks. We grow summer-flowering varieties, not named, raised from seed, and very useful for cutting in August and September."

"Just at this moment the most prominent feature in the conservatory is your unique display of Celosias, which occupy all the stages of the centre."

"Yes, they are very showy for a long time, from the beginning of August till Christmas. The height varies from three to five feet, and all the one hundred and fifty plants have good trusses of flowers. One plant has thirty branches, all flowering. The foliage is as effective as the varying colours of the Celosias themselves, some of which are orange and yellow, others a magenta shade. I think they want a house to themselves to do them justice."

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"How do you grow them?"

"In 6-in. pots. I start early, and keep them in heat for a considerable time. The great point is to see that in the early stages they do not get pot-bound. They like a rich soil and a moist atmosphere. They take a fair amount of water, and want careful attention. As soon as these have done flowering, I shall lay them on paper to get the seed again, and so we obtain a stock year after year."

"Rex Begonia seems to flourish in your rockery."

Salvias for Table Use.

"It is the principal feature of the centre, and is edged by Selaginellas. Another part of the conservatory is occupied mainly by Salvia Scarlet Queen and splendens, and they supply us with masses of colour until January. When these two hundred have done flowering, we follow them with Crinums."

"Do you use Salvias for decorating the tables?"

"Very frequently, and the foliage greatly adds to the effect. They last quite a week in water, and Scarlet Queen, which I have only had this season, is particularly good. We also use for cutting the Bougainvillea glabra, which grows on the roof. Underneath it is a very old Spiræa, and in the conservatory are also a few Orchids, mainly Cypripedium insigne, because of its useful flowers."

"You get a first-rate idea of the kitchen garden from the steps of the conservatory."

"A feature of the kitchen garden is that it slopes both north and south. On each side of the path in the centre of the garden, from slope to slope, are fruit trees—Apples on cordons. We make the kitchen garden as ornamental as possible, the gravel paths having a grass border, while between the slopes is a fountain with a rockery. The borders on either side are mixed. The rockery, which was only planted in the spring, has a number of varieties, but at present I am not, of course, able to judge how far they are suitable."

"Then, you go in largely for Sweet Peas?"

"From end to end of the garden. So far, I have only grown from spring-sown seed, but in future I shall grow from autumn-sown also."

"Do you find your Gooseberries and Currants do well as cordons?"

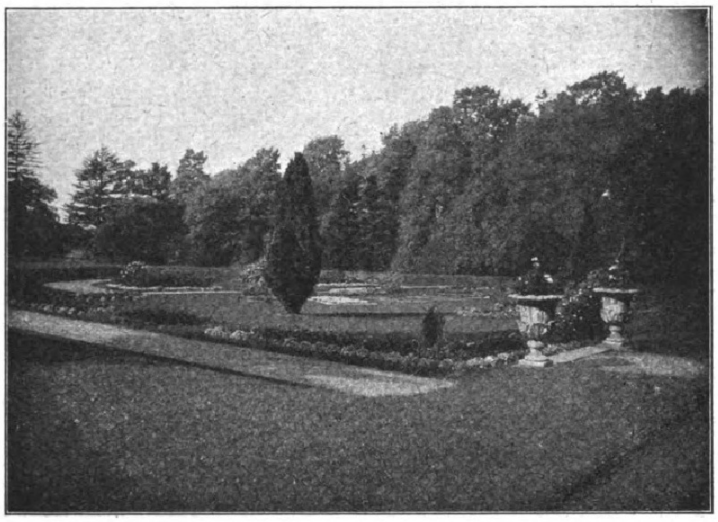
"Both exceedingly well. We had tremendous crops, and Raspberries, of which we are cutting the old canes out, are generally successful. Every year we do away with one bed of Strawberries, keeping none of the plants longer than three."

"How large is your kitchen garden?"

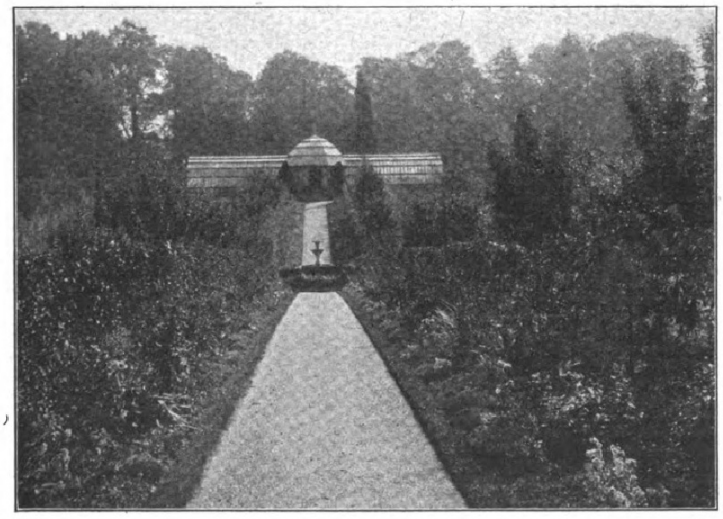
"Two acres, but perhaps, before we discuss the vegetables, you would like to get a glimpse of the houses. In the stove we have a quantity of Crotons, of which we grow a large quantity for grouping, and on the stage opposite is a collection of Calanthe Veitchii. Melons are grown here, and also Cucumbers."

"You have a quantity of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine?"

"Yes; this house has until recently been occupied by Caladiums, but has just been cleared to make room for these. That is one of our special features. We grow between two hundred and fifty and three hundred, and get them three feet high and two feet through. On the side stage are Poinsettias. Both these and the Begonias stay till they have finished flowering. There is Stephanotis on the wall, and Eucharis amazonica planted out. It flowers four times a year, and gives us a splendid mass of bloom about Christmas. I have grown it like this from the first. Now we come to a house which was built for Peaches, but has lately been turned into a Carnation house, though there are still two varieties of Peaches in it growing on the back wall."



ANOTHER VIEW AT UMBERSLADE HALL.



THE CENTRE WALK IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

"When did you start Tree Carnations?"

"Four years ago. We also grow one hundred and fifty Malmaisons. The Malmaisons are all Prince of Wales, and we grow it only because it cannot be beaten."

"Now, as to vegetables?"

"We grow a great quantity of Potatoes, and Peas are largely grown. We prepare trenches during the winter for Peas, digging from two to three feet, putting plenty of well-decayed manure at the bottom, and filling in to within four inches of the top. This leaves room for water when the Peas require it, which this year was very often. We usually commence to pick in May, and keep on till October."

Points in Onion Growing.

"Onions appear to be in great demand."

"They are grown for the production of large bulbs for exhibition, and of moderate-sized bulbs for house use. For early work for both these purposes, we grow the Tripoli varieties, which are sown in July and early August. They are allowed to stand on the seed-bed through the winter, and are transferred as early in the year as the condition of the soil will permit to their permanent quarters, which are, of course, prepared some two months previously. We make an early start in the spring with Ailsa Craig and Premier. The seed is sown about the first week in January in boxes, and placed in a moderately warm temperature, close to the glass. They remain here till they are large enough to handle comfortably, some being then transferred to other boxes, and the remainder to small pots. All are placed on shelves close to the glass. As soon as they have commenced to grow freely, they are removed to a cooler temperature, and as time goes on they are placed in cold frames, and gradually hardened off until they are ready to be planted in the beds, early in April."

"When do you prepare the ground?"

"In November, or earlier if possible, and I always grow my Onions in the same piece of ground. It is trenched to the depth of three feet every second year, and plenty of decayed manure, with a liberal dressing of soot and salt, incorporated with the soil. Being prepared early, the ground has a chance of getting in a good condition when the time for planting arrives. Two days before planting, I give a good artificial manure, a sprinkling of wood ashes and soot over the surface, then just prick this in with a fork, leaving it until the day on which the Onions are planted, when it is trodden firmly and raked level. The taller plants are then transferred carefully from boxes or pots to rows eighteen inches apart each way. For the rest,

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watering and syringing are most important, and we give an occasional top-dressing with fertilisers and soot. For the main crop we sow outside the first week in March, when possible."

How to Keep Cauliflowers Fresh.

"In growing Cauliflowers," continued Mr. Foster, "our main object is to secure a supply of firm, pure white heads. We also start these inside in gentle warmth, and go on in boxes until the conditions are favourable for planting out. The ground being well prepared, we see that the plants never suffer for want of water. About three weeks before they are required for use, we begin to feed them with liquid manure, and also with frequent applications of nitrate of soda. As soon as any heads are fit for use they are pulled, roots and all, and are hung heads downwards in a cellar, where they will keep for a considerable time."

"Do you grow many varieties of Runner Beans?"

"Only four. These are treated in almost the same way as Peas, trenches being prepared for them during the winter. As to other vegetables, we grow the long variety of Carrots, and use the iron bar to make the holes and secure a depth of two feet. These are then well filled with prepared soil, and the seeds sown near the surface. Parsnips, of which several varieties are grown, are treated in the same way as Carrots, only that we make the holes three feet deep instead of two."

Mr. Foster's Showing.

"You have done a lot of showing since you came here, I believe, Mr. Foster?" I remarked, looking at the number of cards in the packing-shed.

"Those cards represent but a portion of the winnings of eight years; in fact, they are only those won during the last three years, and there are a hundred and twenty-seven of them. I was previously, in succession, at Warwick Castle, Strathfieldsaye, and foreman for five years at Hadzor House, Worcestershire, with Mr. C. Crooks, a well-known exhibitor of Chrysanthemums. I have shown at Wolverhampton, Birmingham (Chrysanthemum), Solihull (summer and autumn), Coventry, Hanley, Leamington, and other local shows, and have been fortunate enough to secure a great number of first prizes. At Solihull I have twice won the cup for a group of foliage and flowering plants. This, I am glad to say, has been my best year, and I have taken twenty-six firsts, not including the Birmingham Chrysanthemum Show, which takes place on November 9th."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week a beautiful garden in Middlesex will be described—Derby Lodge, Sunbury.

By Desultor.

ONE of the birds to be encouraged in the garden is the pretty little blue-tit. It eats aphides and grubs of various kinds, and when seen on trees and shrubs—generally head downwards—it is searching for insects, and not damaging the buds, though it may do this sometimes when it cannot get better food. It can easily be taught to come to the window in winter by hanging up outside part of a cocoanut, or a scrap of bacon rind.

It is an amazingly courageous little creature, always ready, especially when hatching, to defend itself, even against man. I have sometimes had to catch tits and turn them out of the Strawberry nets, and they never failed to peck at me valiantly. For this reason the bird is called in the North "billy-biter," a name applied also to the blackcap. The latter is a migrant, leaving us in autumn, so there can be no chance of mistaking the blue-tit for it in winter. Though the mistake is sometimes made at other seasons, the two birds are really very different in appearance, the head of the blackcap being black, or, in the female, dark chocolate, and the rest of the body grey; while the blue-tit's head, tail, and wings are blue, and the rest of its body is yellow. Some of the other tits have a family resemblance to it, the great tit especially, but when they are seen together, the difference in size becomes evident.

The Hornet and Currant Clearwings.

The caterpillars which can be found in this country in the colder months are few in number. Among them are those of the hornet clearwing, the reason being that they take two years to grow to maturity. The perfect insect bears some resemblance to the hornet, from which it gets its name. It is large, over an inch across the wings, which are translucent, and its stout body—which, having no tuft at the end, is more or less pointed—is striped with brown and yellow. The caterpillar is creamy-white. It lives in the shoots of various trees, such as the Poplar, and hollowing them out, often does a great deal of damage.

This insect has a near relative in the Currant clearwing, which is sometimes a serious pest in gardens. Shoots fail mysteriously, and when cut off and examined, are found to have lost their pith. This is the work of the grub or caterpillar of the Currant clearwing, an insect very like the hornet clearwing, but much smaller, and also darker in hue, the yellow being confined to two or three narrow lines, while the body terminates in a brown tuft. If the grubs have not escaped when the discovery is made, they should be destroyed. Any of the moths noticed flying about the bushes should be caught, if possible. Beyond this, there is little that can be done.

Squirrels and their Ways.

Hybernation seems to be largely a matter of temperature. On a bright, warm day, even in mid-winter, squirrels often awake, and, leaving their nests, play about as they do in summer. They are delightful little animals to watch. The way in which they discriminate between good and bad nuts without breaking the shells is wonderful. I have found great numbers of nuts which they had dropped when carrying bunches to their nests for the winter, but never a good one among them.

Towards the end of summer, squirrels used to be perpetually crossing a lawn which I once had in Kent, and as they appeared to come and go between a clump of Pines, and the garden of a neighbour, a retired General, who had a good many Filberts, I often exclaimed, "There they go again with the General's nuts." Presently, I went to look at my own Filberts, and found that they had been stripped; so it was the General who had the laugh after all, though I have no doubt that he also had paid toll.

Some people seem able to exert an astonishing influence over the wild creatures which are generally so frightened of us. Mrs. Bright even tells us that she has induced the squirrels in her garden to enter the room through the open window, and to help themselves to the nuts on the table, and even to go to a cupboard for them. Yet these creatures are naturally so timid that one may spend hours in a wood in which they are numerous, without even suspecting their presence.

Slugs and Snails in Cold Weather.

In mild weather, unfortunately, there are still slugs to be seen in the garden, and also snails, but at the approach of winter the former generally go deeper into the ground, and the latter collect under stones, or in such plants as Box or Ivy, and seal themselves up for a long sleep. It may be wondered how they manage to keep alive without apparently any air. An examination of the membranous covering, really the dried slime which they exude copiously, will disclose a tiny hole, so that they are not without the small amount of air which they need while dormant. The eggs are sometimes laid as late as November, and clusters of them may often be noticed when the ground is dug. They are milky-looking little globules, usually round in the case of snails, and oval in the case of slugs, the size varying with the species. In favourable weather they hatch in a few weeks.

Slugs have the same power as spiders and certain caterpillars of slinging themselves to the ground from a height by means of a mucous thread. The slimy exudation from their bodies is the material out of which the shells of snails are constructed, and its combination with portions of the chalky or other soils which different species frequent helps to give each its characteristic appearance. Presumably, slugs occupy a lower rung of the evolutionary ladder, for they have not reached the stage of covering themselves with a protecting shell, though they have a rudimentary shell—merely a small flat plate beneath the skin. In one species, Testacella, the plate has advanced to the shell form, carried on the body like a little bonnet. It is perhaps significant that Testacella has also advanced in the dietary scale, being a flesh feeder, hunting and eating worms.

An Insect that Loses its Legs.

At this season there may often be noticed on such trees as the Plum, and on such bushes as the Currant, a number of brown protuberances, each about an eighth of an inch in length, resembling in shape a tiny mussel. These are —or rather have been, for they are now dead— insects popularly known as mussel scales.

The life-history of this common pest is remarkable. The female may be taken as an example of thrift, for as she grows, instead of casting away her old skins, she cements them together with an excretion from her body—of course, this is not really a conscious act on her part—and thus forms the covering, the scale, under which she lives and lays her eggs. From these eggs emerge tiny, six-legged scaleless larvæ, which crawl away to a suitable feeding-ground—they may also be distributed further afield by the wind, birds, or other agencies—and then drive their beaks into the bark and begin to suck the sap. A wavy secretion is the first indication of the scale. As the insects grow, never once withdrawing their beaks, they gradually lose the legs which they no longer want, and they become mere sucking-bags, dying in autumn. But before the end comes, the eggs are laid under the protecting scales, where they remain during the winter. That is, if the gardener allows them to do so. It should be his business to destroy them, for it will be seen that when the insects are numerous, they are capable of doing much damage. Paraffin emulsion, with the addition of caustic soda, will destroy both the scales and the eggs. If the emulsion is used alone, it should be applied with a hard brush, in order to dislodge the scales which adhere rather tightly to the bark.

Bees and Snapdragons.

A Manchester reader ("W. O. H.") writes: "While admiring a border of Snapdragons, I noticed a large number of bees alighting on the

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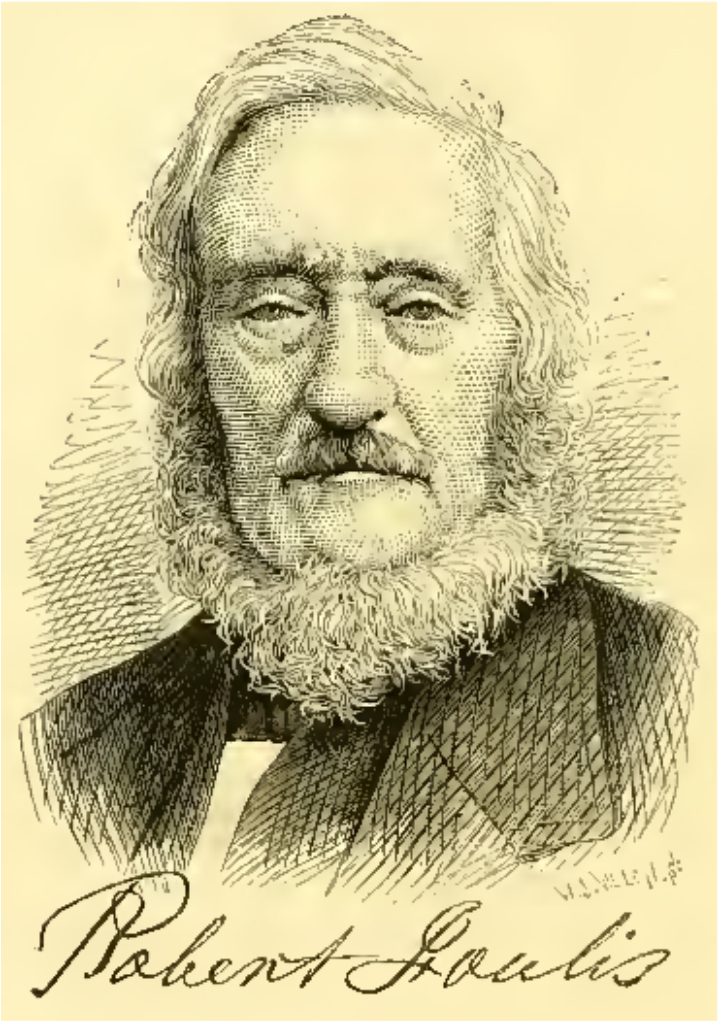


Robert Foulis

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1876 n.s. 5

When a man is singled out by an independent body of his fellows to receive the highest honour it is in their power to bestow, it must be admitted that his claims to such distinction must be of no ordinary character. Such are the claims of the gardener whose portrait we this week place before our readers, Mr. Robert Foulis for nearly half a century has been gardener, farmer, and forester at Fordell, in Fifeshire, the seat of G. W. Henderson, Esq., and has long been known as a very successful horticulturist, and as a keen arboriculturist and geologist. In February last he was awarded the Neill Prize by the managers of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. Mr. Foulis has also been a popular lecturer, some of the texts for his discourses being, “The Green Things that Clothe the Earth's Surface,” “Husbandry, Ancient and Modern,” and “Man's Abode, and How it was prepared,” &c.

“I was born,” writes Mr. Foulis, “at Woodhouslee, about 6 miles south from Edinburgh, in 1799, and am the third son of David Foulis, long gardener and estate manager to Lord Woodhouslee, and afterwards to James Tytler, Esq., of Woodhouslee. David, my eldest brother, on the death of my father in 1816, succeeded him as gardener and estate manager, which situation he held for the long period of fifty-three years. At an early age I entered the parish school of Glencorse, where I received the most of my education.

I afterwards served a three years' apprenticeship under William Clark, then gardener to Sir Patrick Inglis, of Sunnyside, now known as Kingston Grange. From this I went as journeyman to Keilyie—a fine place in those days—in Peebleshire, for one year; the second I acted as foreman. From this, place I removed to Portmore. Here I remained only a short time, having to leave in consequence of the rearrangement of the place. From this I went as foreman to Stobo Castle, also in Peebleshire, where I remained one year, and then removed to Moncrieffe House, Perthshire, the seat of Sir Thomas Moncrieffe, Bart., and served two years under John Mitchell, the then celebrated gardener at this place. From this I removed to Donibristle, the seat of the Earl of Moray, in Fifeshire, where I served three years as foreman, under Alexander Kelly—a man in his day as a gardener above the average. From this I went to London and spent twelve months in Mr. Mackie's nursery (now Low's).

In 1827 I was recommended by my late master, Mr. Kelly, to Admiral Sir Philip Durham, Bart., of Fordell, as his gardener, which situation I obtained. It so happened when I was engaged to go to Fordell that the late Mr. Rintoul, who was in the same nursery with me, was engaged to go to Whittingham, in Haddingtonshire. Being both young men and anxious to gain as much insight in our profession as possible, Mr. Rintoul and I resolved, before going north, to make a circuit of 40 miles round London, and visit the most noted places we could hear of on our journey. In those days such a task was no easy matter, for most of it had to be done on foot. This journey we accomplished in something over three weeks, saw many fine places, and picked up much valuable information.

"From London we took coach to Manchester; here we spent a few days visiting the most celebrated places in that neighbourhood. From thence we found our way to Liverpool, still in quest of information regarding our profession; here we spent a few days visiting the various places round Liverpool, and also on the Cheshire side of the water. We then took steamer for Greenock, where we arrived safely and much pleased with our month's travelling.

I entered on my duties at Fordell in October, 1827, under Sir Philip Durham, Bart., whom I served for sixteen year; who was succeeded by George Mercer Henderson, Esq., and then by George William Henderson, Esq., the present proprietor, and whom I am now serving. Besides the garden I have had the home farm, woods, and the estate generally under my management. The present proprietor has made extensive improvements in every department; long ranges of cottages have been erected on the most approved plan for the comfort and convenience of the various workpeople on the estate; new farm

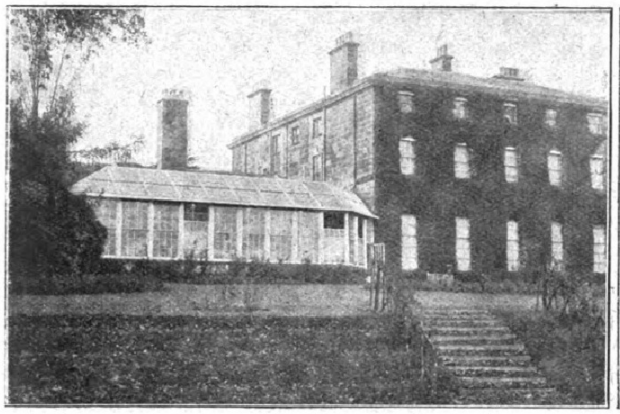
steadings, &c., erected; many miles of wall built, wire fencing put up, and drainage on an extensive scale carried out, and the estate generally put in good order, and, as far as possible, all vacant and waste land reclaimed. Mr. Henderson, the present proprietor, is an ardent arboriculturist; he has had lately planted 53 acres of choice Coniferrae, all thriving remarkably well: nearly all of these plants were reared in the home nursery here. During all these alterations and improvements the garden has not been neglected, as very extensive additions have been made to the glass erections; the ranges now extend to over 700 feet. Pine growing is rather extensively practised here. My system has been to plant out. Many of those I have exhibited are from 8 lb. to 10 lb. weight, and several times I have taken first honours with them at the Edinburgh exhibitions.

Mr. Henderson has lately relieved me from the care and anxiety of the management of the home farm, without any diminution of my salary—an act of generosity I appreciate very much, and by which I shall have more time to devote to my more cherished work in the garden; and, lastly, I have just been awarded the Neill Prize of £54 sterling, of which distinguished honour I feel very proud indeed."

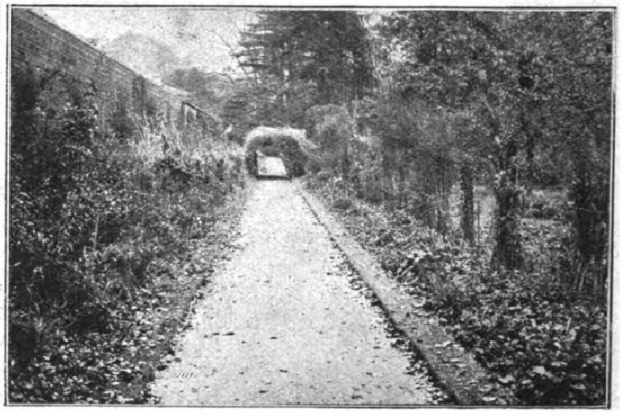
Obituary.

We regret to announce the death, on the 21st inst., at Fordel, Fifeshire, of Mr. Robert Foulis, in his 80th year. Mr. Foulis, whose portrait and autobiography were given in our issue for April 15, 1876, was for a little over half a century gardener and forester at Fordel, a position which his predecessor had held for no less than sixty-three years. He was long and honourably known as a very successful horticulturist, a keen arboriculturist and geologist, a popular lecturer, and one of the most estimable of men. In February, 1876, he was awarded the Neill Prize by the managers of the Royal Caledonian Society—an honour well deserved, and which he highly appreciated. So recently as October last Mr. Foulis received the congratulations of his many friends on the completion of his fiftieth year of service at Fordel, at a complimentary dinner given in Edinburgh, when he was also presented with a gold watch and a purse of sovereigns, to commemorate so rare an event.

W. Foulkes



ALLESTREE HALL.



BORDERS AND ARCH IN THE GARDENS AT ALLESTREE HALL.

The Gardens of Sir H. H. Raphael, Bart., M.P., at Allestree Hall, Derbyshire.

ALTHOUGH Allestree Hall, the country-residence of Sir H. H. Raphael, M.P., is only a few miles from Derby, it has all the advantages of complete tranquility. The mansion itself is massive rather than handsome in appearance, but it is situated in the heart of beautiful scenery, and is surrounded by a stately park of one hundred and forty acres in extent, and charming pleasure grounds, including fourteen acres of water, maintained in a state of high efficiency. Lady Raphael takes the keenest interest in the gardens, and has originated many improvements since Sir Herbert made his home at Allestree. They are in charge of Mr. W. Foulkes, who, soon after my arrival, showed me round, beginning with the flower beds in front of the Hall.

Here, in the early days of autumn, dwarf Antirrhinums were in great force as an edging.

"We use them," said Mr. Foulkes, "in this way, in a bed containing Geraniums John Gibbons, and a bed of Fuchsias Scarcity; the variety is White Queen. A combination of seedling pink Antirrhinums and white Stocks is edged with Fire King, one of the most effective of Antirrhinums."

"Heliotropes are also strongly in evidence."

"Yes, there are quite four hundred bush plants of Madame de Buzzy, as well as four dozen standards of Lord Roberts, in the largest of the beds, dotted with Lobelia cardinalis and Queen Victoria, white Nicotiana affinis, and pink Geraniums Beauty of Castle Hill. Not the least striking character of this bed is the edging of white Marguerites, which runs completely round it."

"What is the size of the bed?"

"It is fourteen feet wide by thirty-three feet long. A smaller bed is made up of scarlet Begonias Sutton's Crimson Bedder, Alyssum minimum with Lobelia cardinalis for dot plants, red and white; and in the long bed beyond Geraniums are a feature. The standards are John Gibbons, and the dot plants West Brighton Gem. Fuchsias are intermixed, and here again Antirrhinums form the edging—in this instance, White Queen and Fire King mixed. Yet another bed consists of Geranium Vesuvius and Flower of Spring edged with Alyssums; while a corner is decorated with a mixture of Marguerites, Stocks, Pentstemons, white and pink Cosmos, and Eucalyptus. The last, I think, does much to make the combination a success.

SPRING COMBINATIONS.

"In spring the combinations of terrace bedding include red, white, and blue Hyacinths, with Myosotis as groundwork; Tulips Duchesse de Parma, with a groundwork of Polyanthus; Narcissus Trumpet Major, and Wallflowers Blood Red. Below the bedding are the tennis and croquet courts. The border underneath the drawing-room and library windows is filled with Eucalyptus and Gunnera, edged with Lobelia and Alyssum. On one side is a bed of bush Roses La France, twelve years old, and on the other a bed of Caroline Testout eight years old, both doing as well as ever.

"There is nothing permanent in the conservatory, and the occupants of the pots change according to the seasons. Just now Salvia splendens, Sutton's Seedling Begonia (red and white), and pink Geraniums supply most of the colour. Baskets of Asparagus suspended from the roof, and Palms in tubs, constitute the needful element of green. But every thing can be removed, and the system has many advantages."

"You do little in the shape of bedding in the front approached by the carriage drive?"

"Only Fuchsias and Calceolarias Golden Gem, with a border of Echeverias, which face huge clumps of Rhododendron ponticum. The climbers on the house are Clematis Traveller's Joy, and Ivy, notably the golden variety. On the north side, opposite the collection of silver pheasants, a hobby of Sir Herbert's, is a real old sun-dial, dating from 1812. There are also some fine specimen trees north of the mansion, such as a very venerable Wellingtonia gigantea, Cupressus Lawsoniana, Hollies in variety, and pink and white Thorns. Scotch Pines, Elms, Oaks, and Beeches thrive in the soil, and we naturalise a great many bulbs in the spring, chiefly Crocuses, Jonquils, Narcissi, and Snowdrops."

THE ROSE PERGOLA.

Returning to the south front, the latest addition to the pleasure grounds, a rockery of considerable size, is approached by a walk through a Rose pergola.

"The bed of mixed Roses on the way to the rockery," continued Mr. Foulkes, "was made three years ago, and is composed of Hybrid Teas, the varieties being Lady Pirrie, Lyons, Marquise de Sinety, Madame Ravary, Liberty, La Passion, and the Polyantha Rose. The life of a Rose is very uncertain, and depends so much upon pruning, soil, and locality. But my experience is that Roses, if judiciously pruned and well looked after, will last for many years. The pergola, which was made six years ago, and has lately been lengthened with grass steps, should be seen when the Roses are at their best. The varieties used are Hiawatha, Wedding Bells, Philadelphia, American Pillar, Lady Godiva, Goldfinch, Blush Rambler, and Tausendschon. You will notice that in this part of the garden Oranges are growing in the open.

"The rockery is well stocked, with all its plants naturalised. There are a great many varieties growing in all the nooks and corners. A few of the most conspicuous are Saxifrages, Sedums, Alpine Phloxes, Heaths in variety, Heucheras, Primula japonica, Aubrietias, Potentillas, Veronicas, Verbascums, Campanulas, and Spiræas Anthony Waterer and Thunbergia. There are also many excellent varieties of flowering and ornamental shrubs, principally Kalmias, Daphne Cneorum major, Cistus

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corbariensis, Cistus laurifolius, and Osmanthus Delavayi. The whole of the details of the rockery were planned by Lady Raphael, and it has greatly added to the attractiveness of the pleasure grounds.

"The Rose garden, as you see, lies on the other side of the mansion in close proximity to the kitchen garden. We have a certain number of beds of one variety, such as Lyons, Mrs. John Laing, Earl of Warwick, Frau Karl Druschki, and Joseph Hill. Most of these are mixed, and they are chiefly small beds with bushes and standards combined. Other varieties are Marquise de Sinety, Mrs. A. Tate, Viscountess Folkestone, Lady Pirrie, Lady Ashtown, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Madame Ravary, Catherine Mermet, Papa Gontier, Marquise de Salisbury, Prince de Bulgarie, Richmond, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Killarney, Gloire Lyonnaise, and Augusta Rodrigues."

FEATURES OF THE HERBACEOUS BORDERS.

"The herbaceous borders are on a very extensive scale. Amongst the most conspicuous of the varieties are Lychnis chalcedonica, Veronicas, Verbascums, Pæonies (of which there are some excellent varieties), Lupins, Dracocephalum virginicum and virginicum album, Phloxes of sorts, Helenium autumnale, grandicephalum striatum, H. cupreum, H. pumilum magnificum, Gypsophila paniculata, Echinops ritro, and Chelone barbata. A few of the taller varieties are Delphiniums, Solidagos, Helianthus sparsifolius, H. tomentosus, Galega Hartlandi, Spiræa gigantea, Hollyhocks and Rudbeckias, and many varieties of the Michaelmas Asters, which are very showy when in bloom. The tall growing varieties are arranged behind according to height and order, Hollyhocks and Rudbeckias running up sixteen feet on the wall. The wall itself is adorned with Magnolias, Rambler Roses, and various kinds of Clematis.

"Beyond the principal herbaceous border, which extends for more than two hundred yards, is another pergola of great age, and very picturesque with Traveller's Joy and Rambler Roses growing over it. Facing this is a narrow border with an old English orchard behind it, and then we come to another part of the garden, with a bed of named Rhododendrons, John Waterer, Doncaster, and W. Foster; new herbaceous borders, one containing a tremendous number of Michaelmas Daisies; and many corners made to look as bright as possible. The plant and fruit houses can next be most conveniently inspected."

FRUIT TREES IN POTS.

"Pot-grown fruit is, perhaps, our most special feature. About one hundred trees are grown in pots, and they all do exceedingly well. As soon as the fruiting season is over they are plunged outside on a south border, so as to get all the sun and light possible, and to ensure the wood being well ripened. This means a great advantage to them for another year's crop. They remain here until late in the autumn, when they are taken up and examined. If any of them require potting the work is then carried out at once. Others are top-dressed, and the drainage is put in order before they are taken inside again. This is done about the first week in January."

"In view of the extremely healthy appearance of these fruit trees, I should like you, please, to give me the names of the varieties."

"The Peaches are Albatross, Alexandra, Amsden's June, Barrington, Dr. Hogg, Duke of York, Dymond, Early Rivers, Golden Eagle, Hale's Early, Prince of Wales, and Royal George. The Nectarines are Lord Napier, Pine Apple, Cardinal, Humboldt, Rivers' Orange, Pitmaston Orange, Spencer, and Dryden.

"There are nine varieties of Apples—Beauty of Bath, Coronation, Cox's Orange Pippin, Gascoigne's Scarlet, King of Tomkins County, Lady Sudeley, Mr. Gladstone, American Mother, and Early Peach. The six varieties of Pears are Charles Ernest, Dr. Hogg, Doyenne du Comice, Fondante d'Automne, Glou Morceau, and Souvenir du Congres. Lastly, there are the Plums, of which seven varieties are grown, namely, Coe's Golden Drop, Denniston's Superb, Early Transparent, Jefferson, Brandy Gage, Golden Esperen, and Green Gage. I am glad to say that they are all well set for buds for 1914. The first of the trees to bloom are the Peaches, which flower at the end of February, and fruit the third week in June. The earliest of the Apples, Lady Sudeley, Beauty of Bath, and Mr. Gladstone, fruit the third week in June."

THE CROP OF A NECTARINE TREE.

"Can you tell me anything about the number of fruits grown in a single pot?"

"This year one Nectarine, Lord Napier, bore seventy-five fruits, and you can see for yourself that the Doyenne du Comice Pears are very large. Each fruit is in a net, because of its great weight. Of course, we feed well with different kinds of artificial manure.

"As to other features, there are several trees of Persimmon, which I believe is regarded as a great luxury in Japan. There are three vineries, and the Grape season lasts until the end of January. In the Fig house we get an excellent crop of Brown Turkey. I grow Melons wherever I can, and I have cut seventy-five fruits out of three houses this season. The earliest varieties are Sutton's A1 and Best of All, which are followed by Sutton's Scarlet, Paris Cantalupe, Triumph, and Superlative.

"In the plant houses Gloire de Lorraine Begonias, Tree Carnations (about thirty in variety), and Primula stellata are specialities. Then there is a fine collection of Callas, about two hundred and fifty in number, which flower at the end of October; a batch of Coleus Thyrsoideus, which we use for conservatory decoration, a number of Cyclamen, and we grow quite six hundred Chrysanthemums, going in chiefly for the bush varieties. F. S. Vallis, Norman Davis, and Mrs. A. T. Miller are particular favourites."

"Judging by the plants facing the Peach house, you will have a fine show of blooms this year. Have you any special feature outside in the kitchen garden?"

FRENCH GARDENING.

"There are flower borders on each side of the principal walk, and a pergola of Roses with water-basin in the centre. As to the hardy fruit, Apples and Pears, espalier trained on wire, usually do well, but this year they are below the average. A certain amount of French gardening is done, and we find that the cloches give us earlier Lettuces, Carrots, Cauliflowers, and Turnips. They also start the Strawberry season a little earlier. We force about five hundred Royal Sovereign, growing it outside, and also Sir Joseph Paxton and Waterloo.

"Peas are sown outside in a warm border in January, and we begin to pick them the first week in June. Broad Beans are treated in the same manner. The subsoil is clay, and suits the root crops, but not the Peas so well."

"How long have you been in charge of the gardens, Mr. Foulkes?"

"For two years and a half. This is my first appointment as head gardener. I came from Cobham Park, Surrey, where I was foreman for three years and a half. I was previously at Warter Priory, Yorkshire, in the gardens of Lord Nunburnholme, for three years and a half. Since I came to Allestree numerous alterations have been carried out, and neither pains nor expense are spared to keep things up to the highest standard. Every year on August Bank Holiday, Sir Herbert Raphael throws open the gardens and allows the local flower show to be held here, a privilege which is much appreciated." Alfred Wilcox.

Next week: Description of a Beautiful Garden on Bushey Heath.

THE CIMICIFUGAS.

Graceful, Feathery Blossoms above Finely-cut Foliage.

There are so many fine herbaceous plants that fail to come up to expectations unless given a border in full sun, and soil of the very best, that one which really does better with a little shade, and will grow in any sort of soil that has been properly dug, surely deserves mention. Such a plant is the Cimicifuga, or Black Snakeroot, whose tall spikes of feathery blooms are a great attraction in late summer and autumn. The foliage resembles the Spiræas, in being finely cut, and the slender, erect flower-stems rise up clear, carrying a mass of white blossoms. The height ranges from three to four feet.

A truly handsome species is C. cordifolia, the beauty of the blooms enhanced by graceful, shining black stems. Another fine form is C. racemosa, which is the earliest to flower; C. americana comes into bloom a little later, and is not quite so tall, but its blossoms are equally effective; while still another useful species is C. simplex, which brings up the rear with its snowy-white flowers in September and October.

The plant is propagated by seed, and by division of the roots. It may be put in place in autumn and spring, and seeing how mild the weather is, the work might well be done during the next few days, to give the plants a better start for the ensuing season.

Look over hardy annuals sown some time ago, and if it has not been already done, thin them out where they are at all crowded. They will stand the winter better, and make stronger plants.

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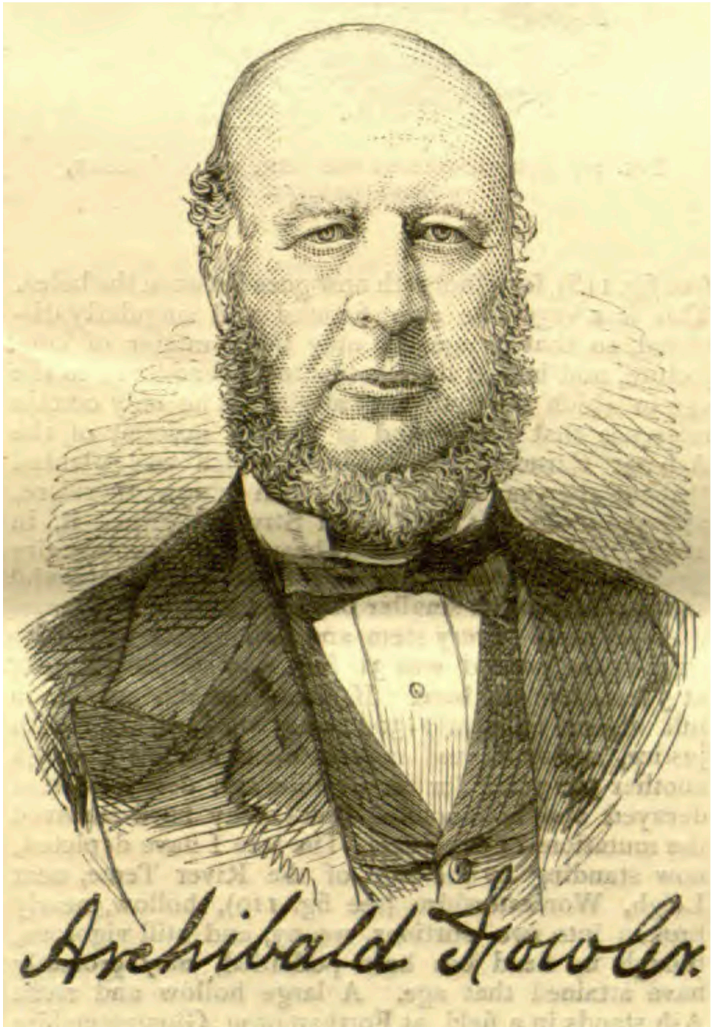


Archibald Fowler

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1874 n.s. 2

Mr. Archibald Fowler, of Castle Kennedy, was born towards the close of 1816, at Gilmore Hill, near Glasgow, then a gentleman's place— the property of Robert Bogle, Esq., now the site of the magnificent new college. There his father worked the small farm for nearly half a century. Gilmore Hill was then and for long afterwards considered one of the prettiest and best kept places about Glasgow, famed for its well-planned, well-kept, and productive gardens; and the early association with this place had, in all probability, something to do with Mr. Fowler's choice of gardening as a profession.

After attending the parish school at Partick for about seven years, and afterwards a higher class school for one year, Mr. Fowler commenced his horticultural career in the Royal Botanic Garden, Glasgow, in November, 1832, under the late able and accomplished curator, Mr. Stewart Murray, Soon after he commenced work the worthy curator presented him, in common with all the other apprentices, with a large ruled book, which he was given to understand he would be expected to fill with names of plants, during the currency of his apprenticeship. The first page presented a set of rather stringent rules, one of which was to the effect that he was to enter in this book as many names as he could remember every month and to be examined as to his knowledge of them on pay nights, and if the examination did not prove satisfactory he was to receive no pay. The former part of the rule was occasionally, and the latter never, carried out; but when the examinations did take place, pungent remarks were generally appended to the lists of plants— either complimentary or the reverse, as the students merited, and their progress in writing was also freely criticised. All this had a favourable tendency on the young men, and induced them to study well at a time which, if left to themselves, would in most cases have been misspent. At this period, too, Mr. Fowler had an opportunity of acquiring some knowledge of the propagation of plants, and their culture both under glass and out-of-doors. The apprentices had also the great privilege of attending every alternate day Dr., afterwards Sir William Hooker's annual course of extremely popular botanical lectures, which he delivered to crowded classes in the hall of the Botanic Garden.

At that time the Glasgow Botanic Garden was much celebrated for its rich and extensive collection of plants. Its indefatigable curator, as well as Sir William Hooker's connection with it, had doubtless much to do with this. Seeds and new and unknown plants poured into it from all parts of the world then open to Europeans. Douglas and Drummond had shortly before been collecting and sending home from the New World — which had then only been partially explored — many of its richest vegetable treasures. Not a few of these and other new plants flowered for the first time in the Glasgow Botanic Garden. Watching these novelties during all their stages of growth, up to the period of inflorescence, gave a zest to the study of plants which can never be forgotten.

In the winter evenings a night school was generally organised for three nights in the week. Practical geometry, plant and plan drawing, mathematics, land surveying, &c., were taught. The apprentices had to pay ten guineas for apprentice fee, and had 5s. per of wages the first year, 6s. per week the second, and 7s. per week the third. The journeymen had 8s. per week, with bothy and firing.

A few months after finishing his apprenticeship (in the spring of 1836) Mr. Fowler entered on an engagement at Cadden House, near Glasgow, as a journeyman gardener, for nearly one year, in the latter part of which he was promoted to the charge of the forcing houses. Mr. William Gowens was the head gardener, and he had the reputation of being a good Grape grower.

“Early in the following spring (1837),” writes Mr. Fowler, “I made an engagement with Mr. Duncan M'Naughten to act under him as foreman, in the gardens of Lord Cloncurry, at Lyons, Co. Kildare, Ireland, Mr. M'Naughten was then in the prime of life, but has long since passed away. He had received his early training in Scotland, and afterwards had

lived in some of the best places in England. He was a most enthusiastic horticulturist, full of energy, and had only been a few years at Lyons when I entered on my engagement with him. In the interval he had metamorphosed the place, bringing it up to and surpassing most of the places in the vicinity. Pines, Vines, Peaches, and Melons, were all well grown; vegetables and flowers were largely forced during the winter and spring months; stove and greenhouse plants were also grown to a moderate extent; a flower gardening was done in first-class style for period. I am not sure but that I there and then saw about 2 acres of a flower-garden as rich in colour as I have ever seen since; doubtless the materials were different from those generally used now-a-days- somewhat coarser it may be— less dressy, less uniform, but not less pleasing and effective.

Mr. M'Naughten was great as a fruit-grower; the soil of his garden was composed of a strong loam, indifferently drained; its tendency was to produce strong growths of wood, but indifferent fruit crops. Root pruning, thorough draining, keeping the roots near the surface, and fresh soil, we never-failing remedies.

At this period of my life I felt it a matter of considerable importance to be under the training of such a man, but there was at least one serious drawback – if not to my happiness, at least to my personal comfort—the bothy; and I shall ever remember the short coughs and ''stikit" apologies with which my worthy master introduced me to it. It was a lean to, the north side of the north wall of the kitchen garden, 10 or 12 feet in length by about 8 feet in breadth, with an earthen floor below and only the slates above, the inside walls unplastered; a small window without a frame, set in lime, let in some light; the door was low and narrow, minus about 1 foot at the bottom, which in the course of several generations had gradually decayed. The table was formed of a few pieces of deal board, nailed together by two cross bars of the same material, hinged to the back wall on one side, and when in use supported by one foot, also moving on a hinge; the seats were stumps of trees, a fire-place near one corner, but no grate in it, the remainder of the scant furniture made to correspond. I very soon gave free expression to my dissatisfaction with it; I protested — I threatened to leave, but none of the powers that be could understand me, except my master, who was powerless. 'They said it was as good as any in the neighbourhood; nobody had ever complained of it before.' Men were plenty, good places were scarce. I submitted, and occupied it till November, 1S3S, when I left it as I found it.

My next engagement was with Mr. John McNaughten, father of my late worthy chief, to go as foreman to Edmonstone House, near Edinburgh. Mr. McNaughten was well-known amongst Scotch gardeners about half a century ago, and at one time stood high in his profession. At the time I entered on my engagement with him he was far advanced in life, and had the charge of the farm as well as the garden. Under these circumstances, I was allowed to do very much as I liked with the garden, and for the first time had an opportunity of acting very much on my own judgment.

In former years my master had been a keen and very successful competitor at the Edinburgh shows, which were then famous. The old spirit was still in him, but younger men had arisen and occupied his place, notwithstanding which he liked to 'fight his battles o'er again,' which, he often did, in my hearing, with great gusto and undiminished enjoyment. Long, however, before my connection with Edmonstone, the gardens, although still good, had somewhat 'fallen from their former high estate,' and consequently were 'less known to fame.' While I was there, if anything really good was produced, "try and keep it for the show" was my invariable instruction.

On one occasion, either in the autumn of 1839 or 1840, if I remember right, a special prize was offered for the best dish of Mushrooms, and as Edmonstone once had some reputation for its fine Mushrooms, the fire of competition was once more kindled in the

old man's breast. An unusual number of beds were set going in the Mushroom-house, to be in at the proper time; dung was prepared, and a number of large frames were made up with it outside, and in due course spawned, soiled, and covered with hay-bands, &c., each of the young gardeners being told off to take a special charge, and a premium promised to the most successful. As the period of the show approached, all was anxiety, but when it came round the result was, to say the least, disappointing.

The Melon-pits at Edmonstone were in those days neat and model pits. They were partly sunk beneath the ground, and so planned that the linings were entirely out of sight. They stood on brick pillars, which carried large freestone flags, fermenting material was placed betwixt the pillars and below the flags, and a thin layer of dung above the flags, and covered with soil to grow the Melons. The crop had been early ripe, the dung above the flags was spawned, the soil reduced, but the result in the Melon-pit was as described above. A day or two before the show, however, some of the men had been employed removing the linings and clearing out the old fermenting materials below the pits, which had shrunk into small space. In doing so, the men discovered that the roof or underside of the flagstones was covered at the joints with large Mushrooms, growing head down, and in the greatest perfection for exhibition. They were of extraordinary size, the equal of which I have not since seen. A dish of the best was in due course selected. I often recal to memory the lively gesticulations and happy face of the old veteran when his attention was first directed to them. Of course, at the show they had the 1st Prize awarded to them, but Mr. McNaughten did not that day, nor for long after, communicate their history to his inquisitive rivals. At Martinmas, 1840, I left Edmonstone, and immediately entered on my present charge.

A few months before, General Sir John Dalrymple, Bart., of Oxenford Castle, had succeeded to the Earldom of Stair and the Wigtonshire estates. The previous Earl was mostly non-resident, and took little interest the place; consequently, the gardens and grounds were for a long period literally allowed to run wild. Soon after arriving here, on walking round I found the gardens crowded with old standard fruit trees, mostly unhealthy; the wall trees had grown from the walls like standards, the walls carried a fine crop of Ferns on the sides and on the top, while numerous Ash and other seedling forest trees, some of which were as thick as a man’s leg, had established themselves. What had once been a fine range of forcing-houses stood with half the glass out, and were otherwise very much dilapidated. The Vines inside had been grown without fire, and were tied up to the roof like sheaves of Wheat.

The pleasure-grounds of Castle Kennedy, then extending to about 70 acres, had been laid out by Marshal Stair, about a century before, in the ancient style of gardening. Most of the old trees had lately been cut down and sold; the quaint old grass terraces all but destroyed by cattle being allowed to graze on them; the fine lawns and avenues were grown over with Whins, Broom, and seedling forest trees; in short, a line could scarcely anywhere be traced, and neglect was everywhere apparent. This was a state of things which could not be long tolerated by the new proprietor. I was at once instructed to begin by putting the gardens in good order, and immediately set about getting the hothouses and walls repaired, and the fruit trees thinned out and gradually renewed, &c. In a year or two I discovered that the Vines were in a most unsatisfactory state, and that they had long been the bane of my predecessors, and that although mulched and manured liberally and otherwise properly attended to, the clusters of berries continued small, and shanking invariably set in as the fruit approached maturity. There was a considerable demand for fruit, which I was expected to supply, and this made me cautious about destroying the old Vines, the more so as, new houses were contemplated. I commenced by lifting the roots inside the one year and outside the next, adding a portion of new soil, which told favourably while they remained in it, but I found they soon left it, and penetrated into the subsoil, and shanking once more set in.

After a series of experiments with Vine roots about this time, I was much struck with the tendency which they exhibited to leave the surface soil, however good, and in considerable numbers penetrate the subsoil when left to the freedom of their own will, and thus sinning against themselves by absorbing unwholesome food, as seen in its effects upon the fruit. I was also surprised to observe that when Vines were planted inside a vinery, with perfect freedom to go out, they were soon found outside in the proportion of six to one; plainly teaching that Vines grown under glass, and ripening crops at ordinary seasons, when planted inside, which should generally be done, ought to be allowed to run outside — I presume because the soil is sweeter than inside, on account of shade and drip from the Vines. All this means, that to grow Vines for any length of time successfully, where the subsoil is uncongenial, the borders should be concreted or otherwise paved, so as to keep the Vine roots inside the made border, and that a deep border is preferable to a broad one, because less liable to suffer from drought.

I also observed that in a thoroughly well-drained border, neither under nor over done, other conditions being favourable, the Vine grew with great vigour during the warmest period of the season, and that root-action started earlier and continued later than in an imperfectly drained border. I also noted that the Vines did best in very wet seasons in such borders, particularly if the rain fell in abundance during the time the wood was forming and the fruit swelling. Moreover, I could not help reflecting that there was something seriously at fault in our management, seeing the great difference of temperature that we caused to exist betwixt the root climate outside and the climate inside which surrounds the leaves and branches. In wet northern localities this is much more apparent than in more southern and warmer districts.

Unfortunately, this problem has not yet been satisfactorily solved, although it has arrested the attention of many; but some progress has been made. Heated chambers, hot-water pipes, flues, &c., have been introduced in connection with the outside borders but with doubtful results, owing to counteracting causes. What I have found to answer best, and what I have long recommended, is a moderately-drained, deep border, with openings outside, communicating with the surface inside, and so placed as to cause a slow current to pass through the draining material, where it parts with some of its caloric; and this raises the temperature of the border a few degrees during the growing season. This I first tried on the old vineries at Castle Kennedy in 1844, and again on the new ones, which commenced to be erected in 1858, and have since adopted at numerous other places. The advantage does not appear to me to lie so much in the slightly increased temperature during the warmest part of the summer, as in the earlier and later parts of our short growing season, inducing, from increased temperature at these periods, root action at the time it is so much wanted to support and carry on the growths at the early part of the season, and mature the wood and fruit buds at the latter part of it, which cannot be done unless the roots are kept active.

In 1841, the year after my connection with this place commenced, it was decided by the then Earl of Stair, after much consideration, to remodel Castle Kennedy, keeping up all the old quaint grass terraces, and continuing the ancient style of gardening — modifying it to a limited extent to suit modern ideas as far as the peninsula or old Castle Kennedy was concerned, and to form a park beyond the lake which surround Castle Kennedy. The late Mr. J. C. Loudon was at this time consulted; but only made one visit, which extended over nearly a fortnight, when I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of this remarkable man, and hear him at great length expound his views as to the capabilities of the place, and what should be done to improve it. He had a plan for part of the grounds made when here, which has not since been put in execution.

Although at first engaged only to manage the gardens, I was soon called upon to extend my sphere of labour, and for nearly the last thirty-four years have, under the direction

of, and in conjunction with the former and present Earls of Stair, taken an active part in remodelling Castle Kennedy, planning, forming, and planting the Pinetum, laying-out the park, approaches, ground-work, flower gardens, &c, in connection with the new mansion-house — Lochinchwhich — which stands to the north of Castle Kennedy, and near the centre of the park. I have had during that long period the privilege to serve two noblemen, alike distinguished for their urbanity, liberality, and love of gardening.

I have occasionally been consulted about similar works elsewhere, and sometimes have undertaken the laying-out of new gardens, the most important of which is Glamis Castle Gardens, Forfar, for which, at the request of the Earl of Strathmore, I prepared plans of the forcing, fruit, kitchen, and flower gardens, as also the Pinetum and surroundings, and superintended their execution.

At a period when almost every authority on the subject was condemning grafted Conifers, we had nearly 20 acres of ground to till, and a limited allowance to purchase plants with, which would not go far in purchasing when most of the newer sorts cost a guinea or upwards each. Unless I propagated the finer and rarer sorts by grafting — for I could not propagate many of them any other way — much of the ground must remain unplanted. Reasoning from analogy, I could not discover, if a suitable stock was chosen, and the operation properly performed, how a grafted Conifer would not grow as well as a grafted fruit or ornamental tree. I persevered in the face of much opposition, and grafted and planted by the thousand. Now, many of the finest specimens are grafted plants, from 30 to 40 feet in height. I would say to all who possess a rare Conifer, which they cannot get seed of, graft by all means; and by-and-by these grafted trees, if adapted to our climate, will ripen seeds in abundance, as not a few of the grafted Conifers here are now doing. This leads me to give my experience of a still more important matter — seedling Conifers, raised from home-grown seed; which I think, without sufficient experience, has been unjustly condemned.

My own observation has long since led me to conclude that, if the seeds are saved from healthy trees, it will be impossible to discover from the seedlings whether the seed has been got from home-grown or foreign trees. One thing can now be demonstrated that seedling Conifers, of numerous species, raised here and elsewhere from home-grown seed, are as healthy as it is possible for seedlings to be, not a few of which are surpassing for vigour the common forest trees amongst which they are planted, and to all appearance are as much at home as our native species."

We cannot allow this notice of so worthy and estimable a man to close without thanking him for his many valuable contributions to our columns, the last of which was the excellent series of articles on Conifers which we published in 1872. Nor can we omit to mention that to Mr. Fowler is due the credit of inventing, about 1843, the travelling apparatus for delivering the grass from mowing machines, the right to patent and use which he many years afterwards made over to Messrs. Shanks, of Arbroath. The forcing houses at Glamis, to which allusion has been made above, are, it is only fair to state, some of the most perfect and complete we have ever fallen in with. Mr. Fowler has, on several occasions, exhibited clusters of Grapes of remarkable size, amongst them White Nice, weighing 17 lb, 2 oz., exhibited in Edinburgh in 1867.

THE GRANGE, CO. LIMERICK.

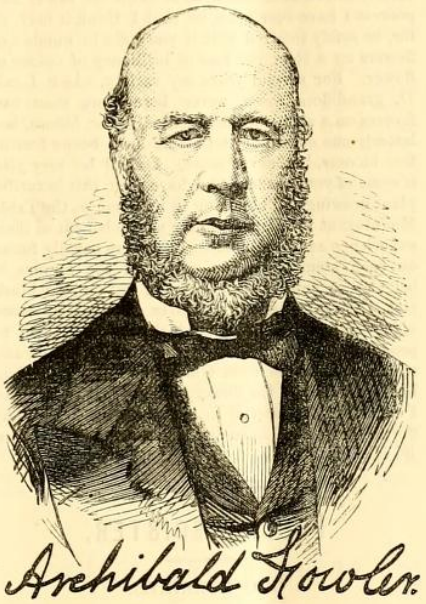
Situated nine miles from Limerick, close to the old coach road from Limerick to Cork, stands the imposing residence of Captain E. Croker. The mansion, which is approached by a short drive from the main road, is beautifully situated on the banks of the river Camage, famous for its salmon; but as our visit was chiefly to see the specimen plants that have for so many years held the post of honour against all comers at the Limerick shows, we proceeded by a winding path to the garden, or rather gardens, for there are three of them. The first on entering is the flower garden, which is chiefly composed of Pelargoniums of various kinds, some splendid beds of Begonias, Asters, Iresines, and, what greatly pleased us, two beds of Clematis Jackmanni, perfectly trained about 2 feet from the ground. At the north end of this garden is a range of houses, consisting of a conservatory, stove, and vinery. In the conservatory was a well-grown collection of Tree Ferns, Oranges, Fuchsias, Tuberoses, Carnations, Celosias, Begonias, and Vallotas, while the entire structure is draped with Bignonia Chirire, Tecoma Rose de Flora, Tacsonia Volxemii, and Roses. The vinery, with the exception of one Vine of Buckland Sweetwater, is planted with Black Hamburgh, all of which are carrying a heavy crop of medium-sized bunches. The back wall is covered with a large plant of Bignonia grandiflora flowering profusely, the border being outside. The centre of the house contains a miscellaneous collection of plants; on a stage along the front of the house are some nice plants of Odontoglossum Alexandræ, Cypripediums, and Lycaste Skinneri; one piece of the latter imported three years ago has each year produced two flowers on each spike, one spike of which is now carrying two large seed-pods almost attained maturity. We next entered the stove, where we discover the objects of our search. The first to attract attention are some grand plants of Eucharis amazonica, many of them 4 feet through, with foliage of a substance that it has seldom been my pleasure to behold. Some grand examples of Allamandas, Rondeletia speciosa, Bougainvillea glabra, Anthuriums, Asparagus plumosus, and a varied collection of small stuff for decorative purposes; at the further end are the specimen Ferns, consisting of Davallia Mooreana, measuring 12 feet through; two plants each of Adiantum gracillimum and A. Farleyense, of 4 feet in diameter; A. tinctum, 5 feet; A. concinnum latum, 8 feet; and a fine example of Gymnogramma chrysophylla. Amongst the Ferns are arranged some good plants of Cattleya crispa, one spike of which we noticed that had a double flower, while the others were all single; a second spike was also commencing to open in the same sheath—is this a usual occurrence? One plant of Oncidium flexuosum had twenty-four spikes. The front stage was devoted entirely to Orchids, embracing good specimens of Vanda teres, Aërides affine, Dendrobium nobile, and a host of others too numerous to mention, all looking the pink of health and cleanliness. Suspended from the roof are some good plants of Stanhopea, one having eleven spikes, with sixty-five flowers on them.

Passing from the stove into the second garden we enter a Peach-house 85 feet long, the trees bearing an enormously heavy crop, comprising such varieties as Barrington, Royal George, and other old kinds. Leaving here we pass into the third garden where the early vineries, pits, and frames are situated. One vinery is planted with Black Hamburghs; the Vines are thirty years of age, and until three years ago were in what is now the stove. It was deemed advisable to take them from that house, so by way of an experiment Mr. Wilmot prepared a border and planted them in the house they now occupy. They are pruned on the long spur system, and are carrying—as we were informed they have done each year since their removal—a good crop of fruit. The other vinery is planted with Buckland Sweetwater. The pits are filled with Cucumbers, Tomatos, and Melons. In passing, I may say that I have never before observed so heavy a crop of Melons. Nine plants were carrying fifteen fruits each, many of which would weigh 3 lb. each—the variety was Hero of Lockinge. The frames were well filled with Roses, Primulas, and other useful plants for winter flowering. A collection of 130 of the leading varieties of Chrysanthemums are grown.

The kitchen garden crops were—considering the dry weather we have had—looking very well. Mr. Wilmot informed me that Strawberries of all kinds have been a failure this year. Raspberries and Currants of all kinds have been very good. Pears, Apples, and Plums are very abundant. I must not omit mentioning that the grounds contain some splendid specimen Beech trees. The owner takes a deep interest in the gardens, over which his gardener, Mr. Wilmot, has presided for so many years with marked ability. *Richard Weller, The Gardens, Glenstal Castle.*

ARCHIBALD FOWLER.

It is with great concern that we have to announce the death of this well-known gardener. Fowler of Castle Kennedy was, indeed, a name held in general



repute among gardeners all over the kingdom. It appears that Mr. Fowler died suddenly on Sunday night last about 11 o'clock. He had been in his usual health up to the moment of his death—had, indeed, attended two services at the church at Stranraer during the day, and walked through the grounds with his employer, the Earl of Stair, the same evening. A long and very interesting autobiographical notice was contributed by him to our columns on November 7, 1874, from which we may now make some abstract. Beginning his career at the Glasgow Botanic Garden he had the advantage of attending the lectures of Dr. (afterwards Sir William) Hooker. The Glasgow garden then was in the height of its usefulness as a botanic garden, the zeal of Hooker causing an afflux of new plants from the New World and elsewhere, the study and culture of which stimulated the interest of Fowler. The night-school in the gardens, and what was done therein, supply hints which might be very serviceable in many a place nowadays. From Glasgow he proceeded, after a short interval, to the garden of Lord Cloncurry at Lyons, Co. Kildare, where his account of the bothy may read as an illustration of what should not be at any time. In 1840, Fowler entered the service of the Earl of Stair at Castle Kennedy, and there he has continued since. His first efforts were directed towards the reorganisation and remodelling of the gardens, which had been much neglected. His account of his mode of dealing with old Vines, which developed a constant tendency to shank, may be read by all Vine growers with interest. It must suffice here to say that Mr. Fowler advocated the formation of a moderately drained, deep border, with openings outside communicating with the surface inside, and so placed as to cause a slow current to pass through the draining material where it parts with some of its heat and thus raises the temperature of the border a few degrees during the growing season.

Extensive alterations at Castle Kennedy were carried out by Fowler under the directions of two successive Earls of Stair—alterations so well carried out that Fowler's services were sought by other planters, as for instance, by the Earl of Strathmore, at Glamis Castle. In both the places named a pinetum was formed, and Fowler speedily became an authority on the plantation and management of these trees. In spite of the prejudice against grafted Conifers, Fowler adopted the practice with great success—indeed, the number of plants he required was so great that it would not have been possible for him to have obtained them otherwise. Fowler also advocated the use of home-grown Conifer seed, provided it was good and well ripened, maintaining that the seedlings were as healthy as those derived from foreign seed. In 1872, Mr. Fowler, at our request, contributed a series of articles on cultivated Conifers to our columns, which embodied the results of his extensive experience with these trees, and which remain the best cultural articles on the subject within our knowledge. It will be seen that Fowler was an excellent specimen of the "all-round gardener," and as such his memory will be cherished by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

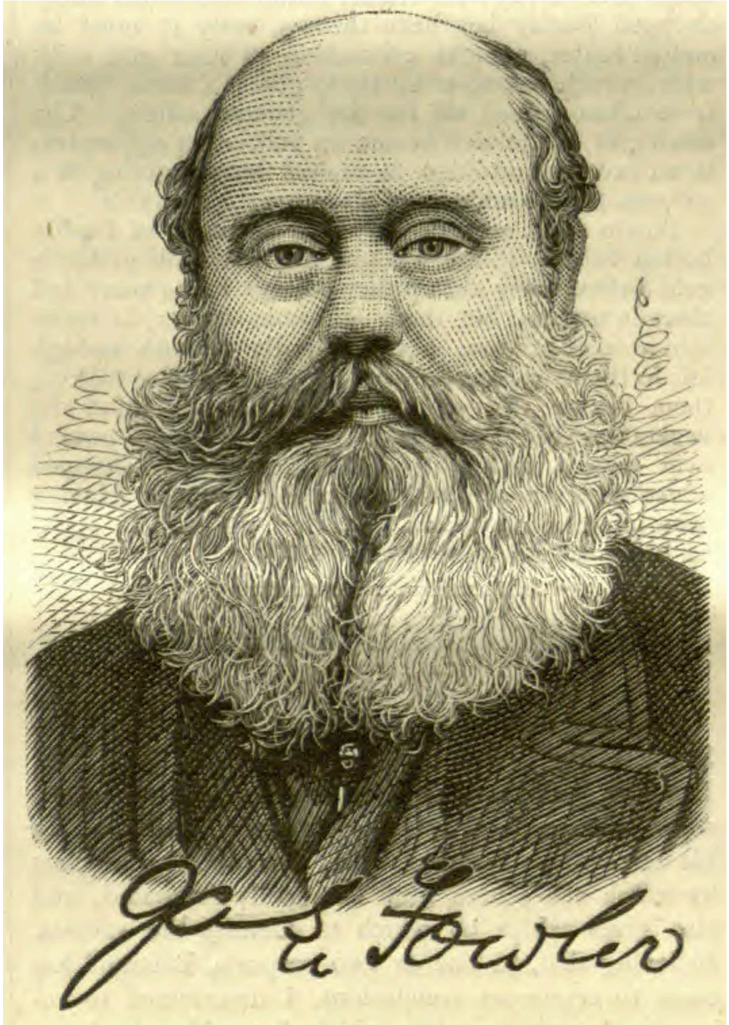
AGAVE GLAUCESCENS.

The illustration at p. 223, for which we are indebted to Professor Henriquez of Coimbra, shows a view in the Coimbra Botanic Garden with a group of Musa Ensete, Cocos Romanzoviana, and Agave glaucescens. The latter plant was planted in the open ground some ten years since, and began to flower in October, 1886, the flowering not ending until January, 1887, when the last flowers were killed by the frost. The length of the inflorescence was 2 metres 10 cm. (6 feet 8 inches) in height, the stem supporting it being 1·20 (3 feet 10 in.). Two flowers are shown of their natural size at fig. 53, and the elegantly netted pollen-grain as seen highly magnified.

ORCHID NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

CATTLEYA MOSSIÆ AUREA GRANDIFLORA.

This "resembles the typical plant in habit of growth, but its flowers are larger, more highly coloured, and altogether superior; they are of good form and substance, and measure 8 inches across, whilst frequently four of these magnificent blooms are borne on one spike. The sepals and petals are blush, lip large marked with a bar, and a few broken lines of violet-rose, very much stained with orange at the base, both in the throat and on the upper margin, lower part bordered with rose colour. It should be potted in good fibrous peat, from which all the fine particles have been shaken, to which add some living sphagnum moss and some nodules of charcoal, to keep it open and porous. The pots must be drained well, for drainage is one of the most essential points in the management of Orchids, and with Cattleyas in particular; for although they like abundance of water when growing, it must pass rapidly away, or they quickly decline in health." *Orchid Album*, t. 289.



James Fowler

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1875 n.s. 4

Mr. James Fowler was born in Edinburgh in 1830, and educated at the parish school, Drumelzier, Peebleshire, his father having been employed for fifty-two years in the Naysmith family, of Dalwich, Peebleshire. His first taste for gardening, he tells us, was formed during his school-days, when he had the advantage of the instructions of Sir John Naysmith, whose abilities as a landscape gardener are well-known. After leaving school he was employed by Sir John for a considerable time, and afterwards, in 1847, was engaged as apprentice for three years under Mr. Anderson, gardener to Sir Graham Montgomery, Stobo Castle, Peeblesshire, having during the last year of his term the charge of the houses. Mr. Anderson was a good fruit and kitchen gardener, and Mr. Fowler acknowledges having reason to for his kindness and instruction.

"In November," he writes, "I went as foreman under Mr. Cruickshank, gardener to Mr. Colquhoun, of Killermont, Dumbartonshire. Mr. Cruickshank was considered one of the best practical gardeners in the West of Scotland. My next move was in November, 1851, as foreman under Mr. Murray, gardener, Ardurroch, Argyleshire, plants fruit were well managed, Mr. Murray being a well-known exhibitor at the Glasgow shows.

In November, 1852, through Sir John Naysmith's kindness, I got employment at Kew Gardens, but through some misunderstanding I did not remain long. After leaving there I went to Mr. W. Thomson, gardener, Wrotham Park, near Barnet. Mr. Thomson's kindness of manner to those employed under him, and his abilities as a gardener have been so frequently noted that I need not make any comment on these points. In the spring of 1854 Messrs. Veitch & Sons sent me as foreman to the late John Ireland Blackburne, Esq., Hale Hall, Lancashire, under Mr. Nixon, the gardener, whose time was fully occupied in the farm and woods, so that, having gained his confidence, as well as that of the family, he left the responsibility of carrying on the gardens almost wholly in my hands. This proved eventually of great service to me in giving me confidence to undertake my present position. After having spent six months in Messrs. Veitch & Sons' nursery, I was engaged in 1856 as gardener to the Earl of Harewood, at Harewood House, Yorkshire, where, through the kindness of my employer, I have remained ever since."

A description of the gardens at Harewood House will be found in our volume for 1863, p. 919, from which it will be seen that amongst the horticultural attractions of the place is an old Tokay Vine, which at that time filled a house 64 feet long and 20 feet wide. This Vine was planted in 1783. It would appear that about 1856 it had got into bad health, but by carefully lifting the roots and renewing the border Mr. Fowler succeeded in restoring it to health, and in inducing it to finish off well excellent crops of grapes.

FOWLER Charles Bayly.

Effects under £5,000

1 November. The Will with a Codicil of Charles Bayly Fowler late of Langford in the County of **Bedford** Farmer who died 2 September 1872 at Langford was proved at **Northampton** by Francis Fowler of Henlow in the said County Farmer and Maltster the Brother John Henry Whitaker of Henlow Farmer and Brewer and Sarah Fowler of Langford Widow the Relict the Executors.

FOWLER Daniel Gaches.

Effects under £450.

6 May. Administration (with the Will) of the effects of Daniel Gaches Fowler late of Warmington in the County of **Northampton** Farmer who died 30 October 1851 at Warmington left unadministered by Elizabeth Fowler Widow the Relict and Thomas Southwell the Executors was granted at the **Principal Registry** to John Fowler of Papley in the Parish of Warmington in the said County Farmer the Son the Residuary Legatee substituted. **Former Grant** Prerogative Court of Canterbury February 1852.

FOWLER David.

Effects under £300.

8 March. Administration of the effects of David Fowler late of 12 St. John-street-road Clerkenwell in the County of **Middlesex** Builder who died 25 October 1865 at 12 St. John-street-road left unadministered by Margaret Fowler Widow the Relict was granted at the **Principal Registry** to John Theodore Fowler of 17 Duke's-road St. Pancras in the said County Builder the Administrator of the effects of David Cox Fowler the Son and only Next of Kin. **Former Grant** Principal Registry November 1865.

FOWLER Edward.

Effects under £100.

24 February. The Will of Edward Fowler late of Brindle in the County of **Lancaster** Shopkeeper who died 8 September 1871 at Brindle was proved at **Lancaster** by Oliver Fowler of Withnell in the said County Farmer and Thomas Fowler of Brindle Labourer the Son the Executors.

FOWLER Eliza.

Effects under £100.

27 April. Administration of the effects of Eliza Fowler (Wife of John Fowler) late of Marsh-street Longton in the County of **Stafford** who died 27 November 1867 at Marsh-street was granted at the **Principal Registry** to the said John Fowler of Longton Butcher.

FOWLER Frances Elizabeth.

Effects under £3,000.

3 June. The Will of Frances Elizabeth Fowler late of 5 North-Bailey in the City of **Durham** Widow who died 5 April 1872 at 5 North-Bailey was proved at **Durham** by Charles Hodgson Fowler of 5 North-Bailey Esquire the Son one of the Executors.

FOWLER Hannah.

Effects under £600.

29 January. The Will of Hannah Fowler late of Belton in the County of **Lincoln** Widow who died 29 December 1871 at Belton was proved at **Lincoln** by James Jackson of Rotherham in the County of York Carpenter the Nephew one of the Executors.

FOWLER James.

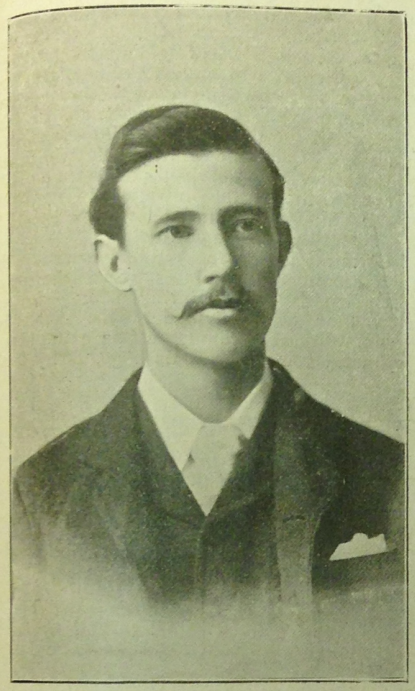
Effects under £2,000.

7 October. The Will of James Fowler late of Elleray Villa Falsgrave in the Parish of Scarborough in the County of **York** Gentleman who died 9 September 1872 at Elleray Villa was proved at **York** by Martha Fowler of Elleray Villa Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

be not to allow it any resting period this year, but to keep it growing during the winter in a forcing temperature. Even so, there would be no flowers next year, but they would be finer in the following year than under any other treatment.

The Celery Fly.

August 30th.—The Celery fly is a very great nuisance, especially when the soil and the season are dry. It does not confine itself to



MR. H. FRENCH.

Celery, but attacks, also, Parsnips and Thistles. Unfortunately, it has a long period of activity, starting its operations as early as April, and often continuing them, unless stopped by frost, until November. The fly is very small, about an eighth of an inch in length and half an inch across the iridescent, brown-spotted wings. The colour of the body is brown, lighter underneath. The eggs are always deposited on the upper sides of the leaves, a fact which is of some assistance to the gardener in keeping the flies away. About a week later the grubs are hatched. They immediately begin to bore their way into the centre of the leaves, where they live for a time, travelling to and fro. At this stage they may be easily detected, and should be crushed between the finger and thumb. Unless this is done, they enter the pupa state in the course of a fortnight or so, and a little later the flies emerge, brood following brood during the summer. It will be seen that the mischief is not done once and then over; it may be repeated again and again, each time very much worse than before. Dusting the plants when damp with soot or lime, and spraying them with weak paraffin emulsion, are the ordinary methods employed of deterring the flies from laying their eggs, the latter being the more effectual. But at the same time growth should be encouraged by the application of some artificial fertiliser, such as nitrate of soda.

The New Shasta Daisies.

August 31st.—I have been growing some of the new Shasta Daisies. They were obtained by crossing Chrysanthemum maximum with American and Japanese varieties, and though they much resemble the former, the flowers are larger, have petals slightly reflexed at the tips, and are decidedly better. They also begin quite a fortnight earlier—in June—and continue, I believe, until November. In water they last for several weeks, an unusualy long time.

September 1st.—The illustration shows a very effective specimen of bedding. I am not one of those who care for bedding, but if it is done at all, I like to see it well done. Here, of course, the situation offers exceptional advantages, but it must be said that they have been utilised.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 244.—MR. H. FRENCH, AT THE GARDENS, FORTHAMPTON COURT, TEWKESBURY.

BOTH the gardens and the gardener at Forthampton Court are exceptionally interesting. The Court is the country residence of Mr. J. R. Yorke, and is a short distance from the historic town of Tewkesbury, and in order to reach Forthampton the best way is to cross the Severn at the mouth of the mill Avon. The operation of getting the horse and trap to the other side occupies a few minutes, but this route saves several miles. The Court is supposed to have been built in the reign of Edward I., and has been the home of several successive Abbots, the last of whom was Abbot Wakeman. It was subsequently owned by the Earl of Leicester, the Duke of Dorset, the Dowdeswells, and Bishop Madox of Worcester, passing over, in the eighteenth century, to the Yorkes, by the marriage of Bishop Yorke, of Ely, youngest son of the first Lord Hardwicke, to the daughter and heiress of Bishop Madox. In 1891 the present Mr. Yorke had it thoroughly restored and enlarged, under the auspices of the well-known architect, Mr. Philip Webb. Subsequently, Mr. Yorke, who is very fond of his garden, was influenced in extending it by his friend, Lord Redesdale, a high authority on landscape gardening, as well as Bamboos, who has given valuable advice in all improvements made. The late Mrs. Yorke was devoted to flowers, and keenly interested in all matters relating to the garden.

Mr. French's Career.

Of Mr. French, the gardener, it is difficult to say much, because he is very reticent in speaking about himself; but he is one of the younger of the many able men who have gained experience at Kew. Brought up in a garden, his father being gardener and bailiff to the late Sir Warwick Morshead, his first start was in a London nursery, and then he was at Craig Ard Gardens, Sydenham; Wellfield, Streatham; and Danesfield, Marlow, in succession. From Danesfield he went to the Royal Gardens at Kew, where he remained four years and a half, during three of which he acted as deputy-foreman. In November, 1894, he was appointed head gardener at Forthampton, with about thirteen acres under his charge, and a staff of nine.

The House Beautiful.

On my arrival, early one morning in the first week in July, we first turned our attention to the Court itself, which is beautified with suitable climbers. Near the front door is a fine specimen of William Allen Richardson Rose, which, as Mr. French informed me, always gives two displays during the season. The Climbing Devoniensis, which reaches the top of the tower room, gives magnificent blooms early in the season; and conspicuous on the other side of the house are Clematis, Vitis Veitchii, Honeysuckle, Ivies, and Magnolia grandiflora.

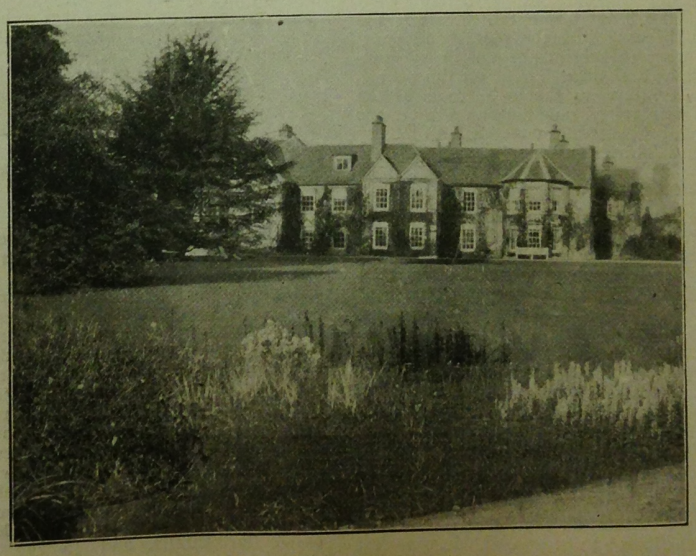
Ornamental Trees and Shrubs.

"You have a good specimen of Araucaria imbricata," I said, glancing west from the front door.

"Yes, and two finely-balanced trees of Sequoia gigantea, while overhanging the drive is a notable old Lime, with huge clusters of Mistletoe."

"Does Mistletoe thrive here?"

"Particularly well on the Apple, Lime, and Black Poplar trees."



FORTHAMPTON COURT, WITH THE BOG GARDEN IN THE FOREGROUND.

"I see that you have a bed of Berberis Thunbergii facing the west front. How many plants does it contain?"

"About five hundred. The effect of the

scarlet-tinted foliage in the autumn is gorgeous. The bed was planted four years ago, and there is now a thick mass, two and a half feet high, which will be kept to this limit by pruning. As a rule, Berberis thrives best on a well-drained subsoil. Here it is very gravelly."

An Interesting Monument.

"What is the length of the terrace on the south front?"

"It is a hundred and eighty yards long by eight broad. The cenotaph of Lord de la Zouch at the west end was formerly in the Lady Chapel of Tewkesbury Abbey, and is supposed to have been removed by Abbot Wakeman after the dispersion of the monks."

"How should you describe the design of your charming little formal garden?"

"The design is a Maltese cross, the centre bed consisting of Erica vulgaris Alportii, and the other four of Erica vagares alba. These are clipped in the early spring, and present a beautiful harmonious effect with the combinations of green when not in flower. They are in bloom from late July until the frost comes, and this is the period when Mr. Yorke and the family return from their London house. Some of the specimen trees of English and Irish Yews close by are clipped as tall pyramids thirty feet high."

Cratægus pyracantha.

Passing by the Court, I noticed a fine Clematis Anderson Henryi, and Roses Reve d'Or, W. A. Richardson, Reine Olga de Wurtemberg, and Gloire de Dijon, Mr. French pointing out a Cratægus pyracantha, which he regards as one of the best of subjects, taking the season through, to adorn a house; and a Clematis flammula, which is allowed to ramble in its natural way up an ancient-looking gable. Then, looking eastward, to obtain a splendid view of Tewkesbury Abbey, with the Bredon hills beyond, a few trees having been felled for the purpose of exposing it, we strolled on to the north side of the terrace.

"The flatness of the border," said Mr. French, "which is about a hundred and twenty yards long, by eight feet broad, is relieved by specimen Cypress from twenty to thirty feet high, and pyramid Yews. These rob the border of much of its nourishment, but, by suitable subjects, a display is well maintained, while the trees are in keeping with the place, and show off to advantage the various groups in the foreground. Being a shallow border on the gravel, and to avoid injury to the main roots of the Cypress, it was raised one foot on the terrace side, the bank being well covered with Mossy Saxifrage and Stonecrop."

Contents of the Border.

"How do you treat the front of the border?"

"With plants which are at their best in summer and autumn; the back consists of spring and early summer plants, such as Tulips, Iris, Pæonies, and Oriental Poppies. The wall parallel with this border, but separated by a gravel path with Box edging, is adorned with various climbing plants, including Cydonias in different colours, Jasminum, Magnolia conspicua and M. grandiflora, as well as numerous Roses."

"You have a fine Wistaria sinensis trained along the top."

"Yes, it travels eighty yards, besides covering a gable of the house over the dining-room, which has a window to view this path. By the way, the large Ceanothus papillosus on the wall adjoining is allowed to grow eight or nine feet above the top in a natural way. Few things are more effective than this in June, when it is at its prime, especially when its dark blue flowers are backed with a pale blue sky; while on the herbaceous border is a bold mass of Anchusa italica, which is followed by Delphiniums, Eryngium Olivieranum, E. tripartitum, E. amethystinum, and E. planum, Echinops ritro, and Salvia patens."

"What are the varieties of Yucca on the lawn side of the border?"

"Y. gloriosa, Y. recurva, and Y. filamentosa. On that side, also, are Hollyhocks, Gaillardias, Rudbeckias, Kniphofias, Bergamot, Lavender, Zauschnerias, Anemone japonica alba, Eschscholtzias, Statices, a fine group of Silver Cloud, and Montbretias, with many others."

Here, looking across the lawn, which is a large one sloping to the south, I observed, in a meadow close by, a magnificent Oak, and Mr. French informed me that forethought had taken care to preserve this character for generations, two successional Oaks having been planted to replace the existing giant in future years.

A Bog Garden and its Construction.

The feature of the flower garden in this direction is a well-constructed bog garden, adapted for semi-bog plants.

"Where this garden commences was at one time the bottom of the lawn," continued Mr. French, "and my first task here was to set to work on it."

"You might tell me how you proceeded."

"Perhaps you may remember that the winter of 1894 (when I entered upon my duties at Forthampton) was memorable for its severity and its floods. The advantage of a swampy ditch was seen to be a favourable site to convert what was then a corner of a grazing paddock into a garden of interest for appropriate plants. The front was excavated three feet. Half of this (the subsoil), being fairly good, was used to throw up a gentle mound, which was well enriched with leaf-soil, burnt refuse, and sand, to get it into proper condition. The top eighteen inches was preserved to replace in the bog, being likewise liberally supplied. From the lawn, as you may have observed, are two sloping banks, in the form of a curve, broken by a portion of the divisional sunk well which parted the lawn and the paddock. At the source of the spring, here, overhangs Cotoneaster horizontalis, and to the right of the sloping bank are planted, in bold groups, hybrid Wichurian Roses, Alberic Barbier, Francis Foucard, René André, and Edward Proust."

Nettles for Harmony.

"I see that under a Fir tree you have the variegated form of purple Dead Nettle?"

"Yes, because on that very dry, sharp bank few things would grow, and in the spring the Nettles tone well in harmony with the large double Caltha in the bog. The opposite bank on the lawn side is treated with a Wichurian Rose, which sends forth its welcome fragrance, and is a pleasing contrast with the subjects below."

Principal Features.

"Which do you consider the principal subjects?"

"Primula japonica, in various colours, is just passing out of flower, with a groundwork of the creeping Loosestrife (Lysimachia nummularia). Of Lobelia cardinalis and L. fulgens there are some two hundred plants, also many of Sutton's perennial hybrids, and a large group of Lobelia syphilitica are here at home. Cardinalis and its varieties are lifted and stored in frames during the winter, although in mild winters they have survived unharmed on higher ground, with a little protection."

"Do you advise that seedlings should be raised every year in quantity?"

"Certainly I do, for my experience is that from seedlings the plants resist the fungus which causes decay during winter—at least, better than older divided plants. For a bog garden, Chrysanthemum maxima grandiflora is a splendid subject, with its huge, Daisy heads, so valuable for cutting. Then, there are Mimulus cardinalis, three feet high, and the brilliant Coquelicot Phlox, while Rudbeckia speciosa, which, in ordinary borders, is the first to cry out with thirst, flourishes here exceedingly, but resents too much moisture in winter, and it is, therefore, advisable to remove it for that period, and replace it in spring. Myosotis palustris, Helenium pumilum magnificum, Lythrum roseum superba, and the various moisture-loving Iris favour these positions."

"What about Ferns?"

"The Osmunda and Onoclea Ferns do remarkably well. Then there is the Rudbeckia Golden Glow; anyone who has not tried it in partial bog would value it, growing from seven to nine feet, and, when lightly supported, it is very graceful. Senecio clivorum is a charming plant, and useful for a group of orange, which harmonises with the bright improved Lythrum. Astilbe Davidi, which was introduced by Messrs. Veitch, promises well. Spiræa palmata alba flowers vigorously, and also one which originated here as a natural seedling. I consider that it is a cross between S. palmata

Borders in the Early Summer.
Irises and Pæonies.

and the British Meadowsweet. A graceful plant of Phyllostachys nigra is very prominent, and on the margin of the mound are Gunneras, Saxifraga peltata, Bamboos, and Polygonum amplexicaulis var. oxyphyllum. On the top are six specimen plants of Lawson's erect Cypress, which are placed there in order to represent a break from a larger group planted on the south-east side of the lawn. Between these, on the mound, are planted Hyacinthus candicans."

A Plantation of Conifers.

"You have, extending from the bog garden, a large plantation of Conifers and flowering shrubs."

"Among the most conspicuous of these are some large specimens of Veronica Traversii, which I propagated from cuttings in 1895. This shows how admirably the position suits them. It may also be said of the Choisya ternata, which survived two floods in winter, with frost, that it supplies an illustration of the hardiness of this once supposed tender plant. It was planted here as an experiment."

We next inspected the marsh garden, the name given to a piece of ground of a heavy character, and subject to four and five feet of water in a bad flood. It has a striking background of Yews, and Thuja Lobbi show up in sunshine to advantage. The Golden and Red Willows and Dogwood, which are severely pruned each spring, masses of Bamboos, and the Spindle-tree, with its coral-pink berries, are also attractive.

On the Margin of the Moat.

"What plants thrive most on the margin of the old moat at the end of the lawn?" I asked.

"The Reed Mace, Iris, Lythrums, Alismas, Butomus, Spiræas, and Epilobiums. In the moat itself are Nuphars and Nymphæas. The sloping bank on the path side is planted with two dozen of the large Sea Buckthorn, which is not only appreciated in autumn for its bright orange-scarlet berries, but also for its distinct shade of green foliage. The sloping bank at the end of the moat is planted with perennial Asters, Salvia patens, the newer variety of Nigella Miss Jekyll, Convolvulus minor, Larkspurs, and the delightful Phacelia campanularia, now a mass of gentian-blue."

"Then, there is the peninsula formed by the moat."

"It is treated with the small, star-like Aster, multiflorus, so highly appreciated for its late flowering, when other flowers are waning. Last autumn some Lord Penzance hybrid Roses were removed to overhang the banks of the moat, which, when well established, will be a pleasing feature. The colony of Cypress, in view from the house, planted for the sake of giving a vivid green mass in the landscape, assists to illuminate a neighbouring plantation of other tints."

The Wild Garden.

"What are the most notable plants in the wild garden, which is divided from the peninsula by a grass path?"

"Foxgloves, Verbascums, Poppies (French and Shirley), Lupins (Tree and herbaceous), and Roses (in numerous forms, including Polyantha, Rugosas, Noisettes, Chinas, and Weeping Wichuriana hybrids, Moss, and a group of the fragrant Brier). Alister Stella Gray is freely planted, being one of the best for the autumn display."

From here we proceeded, by the path at the back of an ornamental plantation, which is clothed on each side with thousands of Montbretias, to the east side of the croquet lawn, where I commented on the number of fine Scotch Firs.

"This portion was added ten years ago," said Mr. French, "and at that time the bark of the Firs was hidden by dense Ivy, which was accordingly removed. The Golden Yews, Cupressus Lawsoniana lutea, and C. macrocarpa lutea (a fine specimen), Golden Retinosporas, and Elæagnus, Cornus, Acer negundo variegata, Prunus Pissardi, Sumach, Berberis Darwinii and B. stenophylla, Spiræa prunifolia, and dwarf Japanese Acers help to make this a striking display at all seasons."

"Your Rose garden is, practically, a border?"

"Yes, and it is about eighty yards long by three wide. It was specially made and planted with all dwarfs, the Teas and Hybrid Teas favouring the warmest end, which lies somewhat drier in winter. The colours are mostly mixed, and the cream of reliable old varieties, with many of the newer, are well represented."

Fine Old Elms.

"While we are on the lawn, mention should be made of the Elms."

"They tower a hundred and fifty feet high, with a girth of twenty-eight and thirty feet. One, a grand old relic of the past, which was broken off in a gale, has a remaining trunk of about twenty-five feet, which is completely hidden with Ivy. Over this rambles Vitis coignetiæ, which is effective in autumn with its massive coloured leaves. I propose to cover another trench with Clematis flammula."

"Do Elms predominate?"

"Elms and Oaks. Planes do well, notably a spreading specimen on the south-west end of the moat. The Ash and the Beech are not happy, and the latter is short-lived, owing to its being attacked with the Tinder fungus. Conifers flourish, and also the Aspen and Black Poplars."

The Kitchen Garden.

The kitchen garden now claimed attention. It is enclosed with a high wall, on which are fruit trees, according to the aspect. I inquired how they fared.

"Peaches and Nectarines in favourable seasons give a daily supply three months in the year. Apricots, Gages, Cherries, Plums, and Doyenné du Comice Pears are on the walls, the north and east sides being devoted to late Currants and Morella Cherries."

"Did you get a good crop from the low wall with glass coping?"

"Yes, of both Peaches and Apricots—a fact which, I think, illustrates the advantage, in a trying season like this, of using the coping, especially as on the walls outside, notwithstanding three thicknesses of netting, fruit was lost in the frost of April 27th."

Favourite Vegetables.

"I suppose that, like other gardeners, you have favourite vegetables?"

"I cannot plead not guilty. In Onions I select Sutton's A1, always sowing it in heat and transplanting it. For a first crop of Peas I prefer Sutton's Harbinger, the best late one being Veitch's Autocrat, as it resists the mildew better than many. My favourite Brussels Sprouts are Sutton's Exhibition and Matchless. Of Runner Beans, Sutton's Prizewinner is worthy of all praise for quality and quantity. One great advantage in cultivation is that in the centre of the kitchen garden is a spring which supplies the establishment with water, and is pumped by a windmill and an oil engine."

The Vineries.

Entering the range, which consists of two Vineries, and a central show-house, erected three years ago by Messrs. Foster and Pearson, I asked the names of the Grapes preferred.

"One Vinery," rejoined Mr. French, "contains Black Hamburgh and Muscats carrying good crops. The other, a later house, is filled with Alicantes, Madresfield Court, Lady Downes's Seedling, and Mrs. Pearson."

"They all look well, and Madresfield Court appears to be a marked success?"

"I think that much of the splitting of Madresfield Court, about which we often hear, is owing to deficiency of water at its root at the swelling time. Then, when water is suddenly applied, it causes the pulp to swell more quickly than the skin. The laterals of Madresfield Court should be allowed to extend more than they generally are."

"Do you grow many varieties of Tomatoes?"

"Carter's Sunrise bears out all the good things said about it of late. Queen Alexandra is also a fine-quality fruit. Sutton's Cascade is a novelty, and valuable for decoration."

"You go in rather largely for Carnations."

"They are special favourites. We already grow in pots about a thousand Malmaisons and Trees, and I intend to work up the American winter-flowering varieties. Violets are also appreciated in the winter months. Seventy feet of framing by six are devoted to them, Princess of Wales being considered the best. It is more free with us than La France. We grow about two hundred Chrysanthemums, mainly for the decoration of the house, and in the shooting season they are most valuable."

Finally, we repaired to the lower garden, which extends over nearly an acre. Here the gardener's house is pleasantly situated, and Potatoes and Apples are features.

"We grow Potatoes for early and mid-season supplies," said Mr. French.

Scotch Potato Seed.

"And which varieties do the best?"

"Well, it is worthy of mention that the appearance of the majority of Potatoes from Dumfries this season is much more vigorous than those from English seed of the same variety, fresh to the ground. In the upper portion of this garden, bush and pyramid Apple trees are the feature."

"They look uncommonly well. What are the principal varieties?"

"We have all the best, both of dessert and of cooking varieties. This ground was formerly a wilderness, and a plantation of Ash poles, while the surface soil was infested with Ground Elder and Nettles. I burnt the top spit in slow fires, and trenched the whole over two feet six inches deep, freely working in the burnt ballast, which reduced the tenacious clay. Now, we can always rely upon excellent crops."

Alfred Wilcox.

The Blue Winter-Flowering Coleus.

To those readers of Garden Life, who are faced with the task of rendering the greenhouse and conservatory bright during the winter, I would advocate the merits of Coleus thyrsoides, which is one of the most useful plants for greenhouse decoration during the dull days.

It is of comparatively recent introduction, and comes from Central Africa, and has already proved its value for our English glasshouses. It is somewhat slow in attaining popularity, but perhaps this may be taken as a guarantee that its success may be of long duration.

A Good Constitution.

My experience of the blue Coleus is that it is of more robust constitution than the majority of Coleus, and is readily rooted from cuttings, which were inserted in an unheated (save by sun heat) greenhouse during May, June, and July. My cuttings of that period (this year) are now strong, well-foliaged plants, in "forty-eight" and "thirty-two"-sized pots, which give splendid promise for a good display of blossom this winter.

Last winter the stock was represented by a rather decrepit-looking specimen, which was obtained from a culturist who had allowed the plant to get partially frozen, and the large batch of young plants which we have at present owe their origin to this one specimen.

THE GARDENS AT ALBURY HALL, HADHAM.

Interview with Mr. James Friend.

COLOUR combinations are a striking feature of the gardening operations at Albury Hall, the seat of Mr. G. C. Glyn, at Hadham, in Hertfordshire. This was very apparent to me on the occasion of my visit in April, and this conclusion was confirmed by Mr. James Friend, who has charge of the estate as well as the gardens, when we strolled from his house towards the hall. At the outset of the walk, I was impressed by the beauty of the naturalised spring flowers on the grassy slopes, and under the trees, but my attention was momentarily diverted even from these by a charming border of flowering shrubs, with Ribes atropurpureum in its most brilliant attire.

"The border began its flowering season with Ribes, Berberis stenophylla, Forsythia suspensa, and Magnolia conspicua, and goes on for quite a long period. The same remark applies to the beds of shrubs which are dotted about on the slopes, one of Forsythias, another of Magnolias, and so forth. To get the combination of blue and yellow in one of the shrub beds, we planted Grape Hyacinths for groundwork under Forsythias."

A Favourite Combination.

"Judging by the splendid masses of those colours on the slopes, blue and yellow are a favourite combination?"

"With green as a background. This is only the third year we have had the Daffodils and Grape Hyacinths naturalised and intermingled, using also a considerable proportion of Scillas, which contribute to the mass of blue. The Grape Hyacinths, like the Scillas, were planted in a little prepared soil, and they have not since needed any attention. Daffodils, such as Golden Spur, Barri conspicuus, Emperor, and Empress, are planted in large clumps; in some places mixed, and in others one variety only. There are many thousands of Daffodils in different parts of the slopes.

"The Rosery is also on the rising ground?"

"Yes, and considering that it was only made two years ago, we think there is cause for satisfaction. The standard weeping Roses are chiefly Wichuriana varieties, and at the back of them is a hedge of Sweet Briers. The varieties of the former include Hiawatha, Carmine and American Pillar, and Gardenia. The nine beds are filled with nine varieties, a variety in each bed. They include Frau Karl Druschki, Papa Gontier, Madame Abel Chatenay, Killarney, Maman Cochet, Warrior, etc., and are chosen for their colour as well as for their excellent blooming qualities. All this part of the gardens, with the grass walk leading to the church, was taken out of the park six years ago. The Yew hedge, with its border of Mrs. Sinkins Pink, and Yew arches leading to the Rosery, were planted then."

"Did you re-lift the croquet and tennis lawn?"

"It has never been re-lifted since it was laid down, with a ha-ha wall at the end to separate it from the park."

The Terrace Bedding.

"What is the aspect of the extensive terrace bedding?"

"The beds face east. They are sixteen in number. The large centre beds are filled with dark Wallflowers, the general scheme for spring being masses of yellow and scarlet, with a groundwork of blue. The darker shades of colour are represented by Wallflower Cliveden Red; the yellow by Tulip retroflexa and Gesneriana; and the blue by Myosotis. For summer we are using for dotting standard Fuchsia Charming, a good old variety; Heliotrope, a seedling grown for several years; and for groundwork yellow Begonias, Calceolarias amplexicaulis, and Nepeta pale heliotrope. You will form an idea of the number of plants required, when I say that there are eight thousand Tulips in the beds. The stonework, with York stone edgings, harmonises with the mansion; and the two figure pedestals, with the clipped Yews on either side of the terrace walks, tend to its embellishment."

"The effect is also augmented greatly by the manner in which the slopes have been treated. How much are the slopes above sea level?"

"About three hundred and fifty feet. The other slope faces south, and the Daffodils most conspicuous in masses are D. Horsfieldii and D. Victoria, with their white wings and faces set towards the south. Of course, the beauty of the place on this side is enhanced by the fine specimens of Oaks, Beeches, Elms, and Cedars; shrubs such as Hollies; and a few Bamboos."

Retracing our steps, and crossing the flagstones round the wall, which are in time to have their crevices adorned with Sedums and Saxifrages, I asked about the creepers on the walls.

"On one side Roses, Jasminum, and Clematis; and on the other Vitis in variety. The entrance faces west, and the house is approached by an annexe of Pleached Limes, cut into a shape inside the handsome gates of wrought iron. On the terrace garden wall are Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles and Veitchii, Pernettyas, Loniceras, and white Jasminums. There is also a border of Lilacs with clumps of white and pink Daphnes."

"How are the vases of the terraces made up?"

"With herbaceous plants in clumps, such as Pæonies, Delphiniums, Helianthus, Hollyhocks, and dwarf varieties in front, from which we get a succession of flower. The idea is to fill in all the space with as much yellow as possible, which, with the deep red brick of the Georgian mansion, is pleasing to the eye."

ALBURY HALL, EAST FRONT.

Orchard Fruit.

"But," continued Mr. Friend, "the principal herbaceous border is outside the kitchen garden, in what we call the orchard, sheltered by the walls on one side, and by fruit trees on the other. The fruit consists chiefly of Apples, Pears, and Plums. The older cooking varieties of Apples include Warner's King, Lord Suffield, Bramley's Seedling, Gascoigne Scarlet, Striped Beefing, and Domino (a wonderful keeper); the newer, Edward VII. and William Crump. For dessert purposes, they are chiefly Cox's Orange Pippin, King of the Pippins, Blenheim Orange, and Ribston Pippin; for earlier work, Worcester 'Pearmain and Beauty of Bath. The Pears include, especially, Williams's Bon Chretien, Beurre d'Amanlis, Princess of Wales, Marie Louise, and Doyenne du Comice. The Plums are Belgian Purple, Czar, Diamond, and Victoria for cooking purposes; and for dessert, Orleans, Transparent Gage, Coe's Golden Drop, Bryanston Gage, and Jefferson. There are also on the wall behind the long herbaceous border, Apricots Moor Park and Enaskirk."

"What is the length of the border"

"Three hundred feet. It is planted at the base of the walls with English and Spanish Irises, which are used for cutting purposes, with grass on either side, a sundial dividing it in the centre, and containing about one thousand six hundred different plants. The principle followed has been to plant in masses of each variety, the taller behind and the dwarf in front. They are also arranged in colours obliquely, and in the flowering season the colours conspicuous are mauve, purple, white, red, yellow, and blue. In blues, Anchusa is very strongly represented."

"You have not said anything about the border devoted to Irises, immediately under the wall?"

"That is an ideal border for Irises, which are planted in clumps of named varieties. Iris stylosa grown in a small border, supplied us between Christmas and the end of March, with hundreds of flowers. For decorating the table,

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we cut the stems so that they open in the vases, and the soft shades of blue are very ornamental."

"When was the wall behind the herbaceous border planted with cordon Pears?"

"Four years ago, the varieties including Marie Benoist, Beurre Bachelier, Conference, Beurre Diel, Doyenne du Comice, Pitmaston Duchess, Marguerite Marillac, Le Lectier, Josephine de Malines, Louise Bonne of Jersey, and Glou Morceau. I may explain with regard to the trees in the orchard, that we are gradually replanting with new stock. On the wall facing the frames are dessert Cherries and stewing Pears, and under it are clumps of Aquilegias, Sweet Williams, Canterbury Bells, and Pinks."

The System with Annuals.

"How do you fill the two borders backed up by festoons of Roses?"

"With favourite annuals. The Roses festooned are Dorothy Perkins, Hiawatha, Lady Gay, Snowdrift, Mrs. F. W. Flight, Wedding Bells, etc. With regard to annuals, here, as elsewhere, we study colour right through. Pink, white, and blue are the chief colours. The varieties are sown in boxes and frames, afterwards pricked off, and finally transplanted to the borders in May, the colours being rigidly adhered to in each kind. Stocks, Asters, Nigella Miss Jekyll, Nemesias, Thalictrums, Viscarias, Clarkias, Whitlavias, Candytuft, Larkspurs, and Delphiniums Butterfly, are amongst the more prominent of the contents. Behind the Roses are the Sweet Peas."

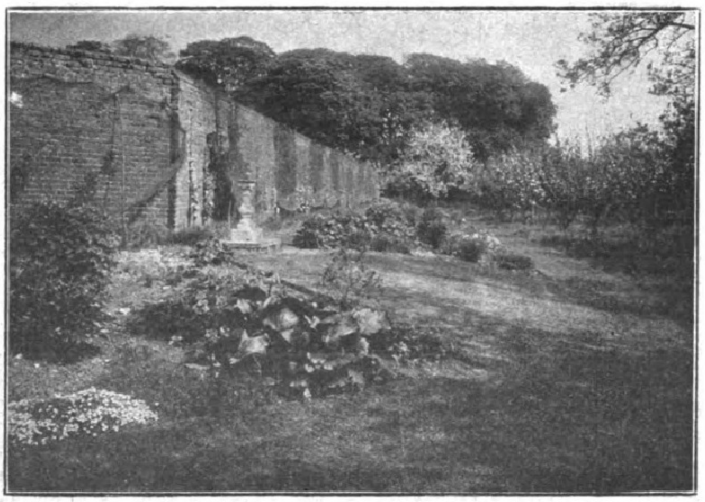
"Tell me what is your system, please?"

"There are three sowings. First of all, in January in pots, then in March outside, and again at the end of April outside. They are grown both in clumps and rows, and we have a very large number of varieties. The borders adjacent to this are filled with May-flowering Tulips, and under a north wall, planted with Morello Cherries, are Lilies of the Valley, Fortin's Giant. This does remarkably well in the position, with good dressings of cow manure in the soil. Here is another border in which yellow is the only colour. At the back are clumps of yellow Antirrhinums and Abutilons, with Calceolarias and dwarf yellow Antirrhinums in front."

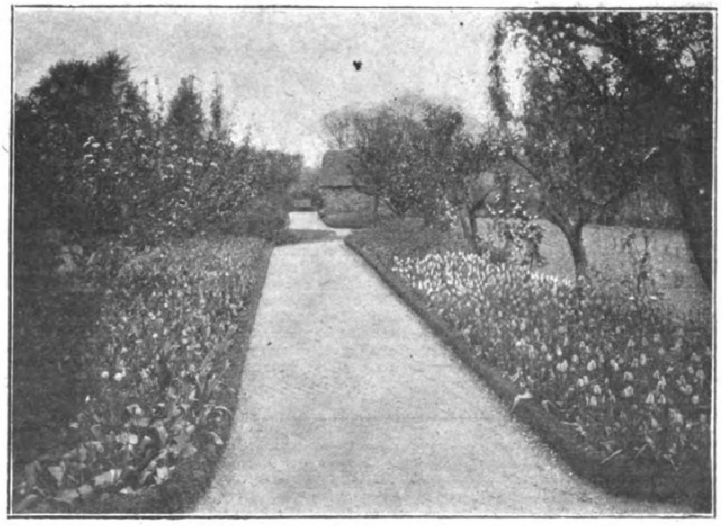
Beautifying the Kitchen Garden.

"The kitchen garden seems to be divided into sections?"

"There are three divisions, each division having its own walls and an archway at the entrance. At each archway is a short pergola covered with Roses and Ceanothus. The trelliswork at the side of the first division is covered with Roses, which hide the vegetables behind. On the wall facing it is the Rose Fortune's Yellow, which flowers in profusion, and underneath it is a border of May-flowering Tulips, chosen for colour. In the border under the trelliswork is the York and Lancaster Rose, which is only lightly pruned back, and from which we get a wealth of blooms. On the main walls of this division dessert Plums, Pears, Gooseberries, and Currants are grown, the last being on the north wall in order to extend the season. All fruit is netted."



HERBACEOUS BORDERS AT ALBURY HALL.



A TULIP BORDER IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

"There are more Roses in the next division, I observe."

"The flower wall is covered with the Rose Bardou Job, and the bed under the wall is filled entirely with herbs."

Herbs in Quantity.

"What are the names of the herbs?"

"Thyme, Tarragon, Balm, Horehound, Pennyroyal, Chives, Marjoram, Sage, Rue, Wormwood, Bergamot, and Camomile. Facing the herb bed is a border of Parsley, divided into six rows. The main walls include one devoted to Peaches, which was planted five years ago, and promises a splendid crop this year. Underneath are early vegetables, chiefly Cauliflowers and Lettuce. Another wall is devoted entirely to Plums — late cooking varieties. Roses, you see, cover one wall in the third division. The variety being Ards Rover. Underneath is a bed of salmon-pink Antirrhinums. They have stood out all the winter, with the result that the flowers are greatly in excess of those you cut from seedlings. Opposite these is a collection of flowering and other shrubs from Japan, which were given to Mr. Glyn by Lord Aldenham: They consist of Berberis, Spiræas, Clematis, Vitis, etc., but so far none of them has flowered. On the main walls of this division are cooking Plums. I had forgotten to mention that Figs are grown largely on the walls, and do remarkably well. The varieties are chiefly Black Ischia and Negro Largo. They have been here for a great many years, and the only points in their cultivation are root restriction and ample space for development. The only two varieties of Strawberries are Royal Sovereign and Givon's Late Prolific, both being reliable croppers of good quality."

Near the first of the three divisions is the range of glasshouses, and in these we spent as much time as we could spare.

"Winter-flowering Carnations," said Mr. Friend, "are grown on a large scale, I suppose about two thousand, and we cut all the year round. The next is an intermediate house, with a collection of mixed plants, such as Gardenias, Begonia Gloire de Sceaux, Palms, Ferns, and Caladiums. Then we come to a range of five fruit houses.

"With a good many trees in pots?"

"Apples, Pears, and Plums are grown in pots, and Peaches all along the wall. In this house are also a number of flowering plants, such as Cyclamen, which for fourteen years I have grown from seed saved. Here, too, we bring on gently varieties of Gladiolus and Spanish Iris, and force Lilacs and other shrubs for decorative work. The varieties of Peaches are Bellegarde, Sea Eagle, Early Alexander, and Dymond; and Nectarines, Early Rivers, Elruge, and Pineapple. In one

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of the houses, Deutzias and Schizanthus are a feature; the latter is Galloway's strain."

"Your Clivias must also have been very fine?"

"The seed was brought from the Transvaal by the late Colonel Tufnall, and flowered seven years after it was sown at Rook's Nest in Surrey, when I was with the present Mr. Glyn's father. Two houses are devoted to Grapes, one to Muscats—in which you see we have some fine bunches—and in the other the varieties are Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, and Buckland's Sweetwater. In the last house is a collection of Arum Lilies, Spiræas, Azaleas, Genistas, and Rhododendrons Pink Pearl, all of which are forced."

An Autumn Border.

"You have not mentioned Chrysanthemums?"

"Several hundred are grown in the different sections, including most of the best large-flowering Japanese varieties, for decoration and cutting purposes. Between four and five hundred of the border varieties are planted out, for cut flowers from August until the frost cuts them down. Two hundred of the late varieties, struck in April, are grown for dwarf plants; and a large batch of the late varieties in pots for cutting, during Christmas and January. Outside is an autumn border consisting of hardy Chrysanthemums and Michaelmas Daisies. These are arranged in batches of one variety, and to form masses of colour. The Chrysanthemums are mainly Polly, Marie Masse, Merstham Bronze, Le Pastole, Jason, and Goacher's Pink. The Michaelmas Daisies are China, E. Beckett, Perfection, King Edward, Attraction, and ericoides. Then there are Border Carnations in the beds, edged with Box, one variety being Cecilia, and the other a seedling, which we saved, and named after the family. On the margin of the little pond are Iris Kæmpferi, Primulas japonica and integrifolia, and in the water a few Water Lilies. We have no conservatory, but there is a large demand for plants and cut flowers at the Hall—also for the town residence—the whole year round. For instance, I hang up about forty baskets of Begonia Marie Bouchet, a dark pink variety. They trail down four or five feet, and flower from June until the end of September. I grow them in turfy loam, and give them cow manure."

Mr. Friend's Career.

"I should be glad to make other enquiries, but in view of the seven miles' drive to Bishop Stortford, I must be content with adding your own experiences."

"A big slice of my gardening career, some thirty-four years, has been spent in the service of the same family. After I had started at Hart's Hall, Croxteth, Liverpool, and gained experience in the gardens at Quorn Lodge, Leicestershire, and Luton Hoo, Bedfordshire, I went as foreman in Iwerne Minster gardens, when Mr. Glyn's uncle, the late Lord Wolverton, was the owner. Then, for nearly twenty years I was gardener at Rook's Nest, Surrey, with Mr. Glyn's father, and seven years ago I came with Mr. Glyn to Albury Hall. In Surrey I did a great deal of showing, and here we have continued on the same lines, exhibiting groups of fruit and vegetables at Bishop's Stortford, with gratifying results. Both Mr. and Mrs. Glyn take a keen interest in the gardens; every encouragement is given to make it successful, and I depend a good deal upon Mr. Bradley, who also has been in the gardens for several years."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week, a charming garden in Wyre Forest, Worcestershire, made and planted by the owner personally, will be described.

THE Rhodanthes are annuals bearing charming "everlasting" flowers, of various shades of rose. They can be sown now out of doors.

MY WEEK-END GARDENING.

BY "A TOWN-WORKER."

MY Sweet Peas were planted out on April 27th, exactly five weeks from the date of sowing. They were then scarcely more than three inches high, but their roots had already commenced to run round the pots, so that every day of delay in turning them out into the ground would have increased the difficulty of doing so without damage. For those who are interested, I may add that the roots were three times the length of the top growth, with in each case a good mass of branching fibres.

In planting them, I first worked a shallow drill along the back of the border, and then, as the soil is very light, merely thrust in the spade, worked it backwards and forwards once or twice, withdrew it carefully, inserted a plant in the hole, and finished the operation with my fingers. After this I put some small twigs to each plant, and concluded by giving the row a good soaking. To-day—a week later—I have no losses to report, but rather that every plant is growing well, and some already clinging to the twigs. Ordinary Pea sticks will be used for staking, but those who take into consideration the æsthetic aspect of this matter should certainly adopt Mr. T. Stevenson's wire and bamboo method.

The Roses.

This time I have to report that the bush that had its roots soaked for a week before planting, and went ahead so fast in comparison with that not so treated, is not now the best-looking plant. It certainly has the finer promise of flowers, but the frost cut the foliage about badly, much of it dropped, and the rest is very yellow. The other is not so forward in growth, has only a few buds, but is the picture of health. I have just subjected the new shoots on each to a slight thinning.

Even in my small garden there is a rockery. I must confess it was not constructed so much with a view to growing rock plants as to getting rid of builders' refuse and stones. The plants it contains are Aubrietia purpurea, Auricula Celtic King, Alyssum saxatile compactum, double Arabis, unknown Heucheras and Saxifrages, Sedums, Stonecrop, London Pride, Thrift, and Ajuga purpurea. To-day I have been thinning out the Arabis, which was spreading too far afield; also, as the winter rains had washed away a good deal of soil, I have been adding a top-dressing here and there, which the plants will doubtless appreciate, as their corner gets quite sun-baked during the middle of the day.

The Perennial Border.

Except for a few odds and ends, my planting for this season is now finished. Of the things transplanted as mentioned some weeks ago, not one has failed, while everything purchased this season is growing splendidly. It will be interesting to one reader, at any rate, to know that the Dropmore Anchusas, although they were small plants, are rapidly advancing into bloom. The Helenium Riverton Gem—my ninepenny extravagance—is also progressing satisfactorily. It will make a fine clump, which I shall be able to split up either in the autumn or next spring. The Pyrethrums—another investment this season—are on the point of blooming.

Staking and tying are the more important duties in the immediate future. Many subjects require this alteration already. So far as possible, I shall use green bamboos, as being the most unobtrusive form of stake obtainable. Then there will be an occasional weeding and watering. But such little details as these are really pleasures, so that for the present season my week-end gardening operations have come to an end; and I have now but to rest from my labours and enjoy the fruits thereof, as each plant and flower comes to perfection, and all combine to make my garden beautiful.

INJURIOUS INSECT PESTS.

(Continued from page 27.)

THE CELERY-FLY (ACIDIA HERACLEI).

MANY persons appreciate good Celery, and they would appreciate it far more than they do if they only had to grow it, and to fight against the Celery-fly, which often destroys fine crops in a single night. The larva makes passages in the leaves, where it feeds upon the soft, juicy substances contained therein; the leaves then assume a blistered appearance, which may be noticed quite easily by the brown patches which are formed upon the under sides. Contained in these blistered patches may be found the larvæ. The leaves eventually shrivel up and become utterly useless to the plants.

Where infestation has taken place, and immediately the Celery has been removed off the ground, the soil should be deeply and thoroughly worked, and plenty of quicklime dug in. If any leaves are seen lying about which have been affected, they must be burnt immediately, and not carted away to the rubbish heap. If plants are sprayed with paraffin emulsion, there will be little fear of an attack.

The Carrot-fly (Psila rosæ).

Carrots are frequently injured by attacks of the larvæ or maggots of this fly, which cause them to become brown or rusty, and finally to rot away. The attack is made by the maggots boring into the roots, and feeding upon them. We very seldom see early Carrots attacked, because they are pulled and bunched before the fly makes its appearance.

The Carrot-fly is of a shiny black and dark green colour, measuring about a fifth of an inch in length. The maggot is of a yellowish appearance, without legs, and is about a quarter of an inch long.

Usually, when the plants become attacked by the Carrot-fly, the tops change colour prematurely. When this is seen, the roots should be examined, and any infested ones should be immediately destroyed. Paraffin emulsion, or Pyrethrum insecticide, sprayed over the beds or rows, will invariably check any further spread of the pest.

Red-spider.

The greenhouse is usually the haunt of red-spider, where it causes a considerable amount of damage. Fruit trees also are often attacked, and great losses follow unless its presence is discovered in time to prevent it from laying its eggs in the grooves of the tree. The eggs are laid in large numbers, and can easily be discovered on account of their large size, round shape, and white colour, which gradually darkens. The mites emerge from the eggs, and then feed upon the juices of the plants. The leaves become mottled and yellow, and upon the undersides numbers of spiders may often be seen.

I find that sulphuring is by far the best method of exterminating them. It is easily performed by purchasing the fumigating cones, which are sold by nearly all seedsmen, and placing them in the greenhouse. Set fire to the cones by means of a match, and leave the greenhouse at once, remembering to close the door behind you. To those who wish to make their own fumigator, I can recommend the following method:—Mix together equal parts of sublimed sulphur and potassium nitrate (pure); place about a teaspoonful of the mixture upon an iron plate, and remove to the greenhouse, and apply a match. When well alight, leave the greenhouse.

E. A. PARKER.

(To be continued.)

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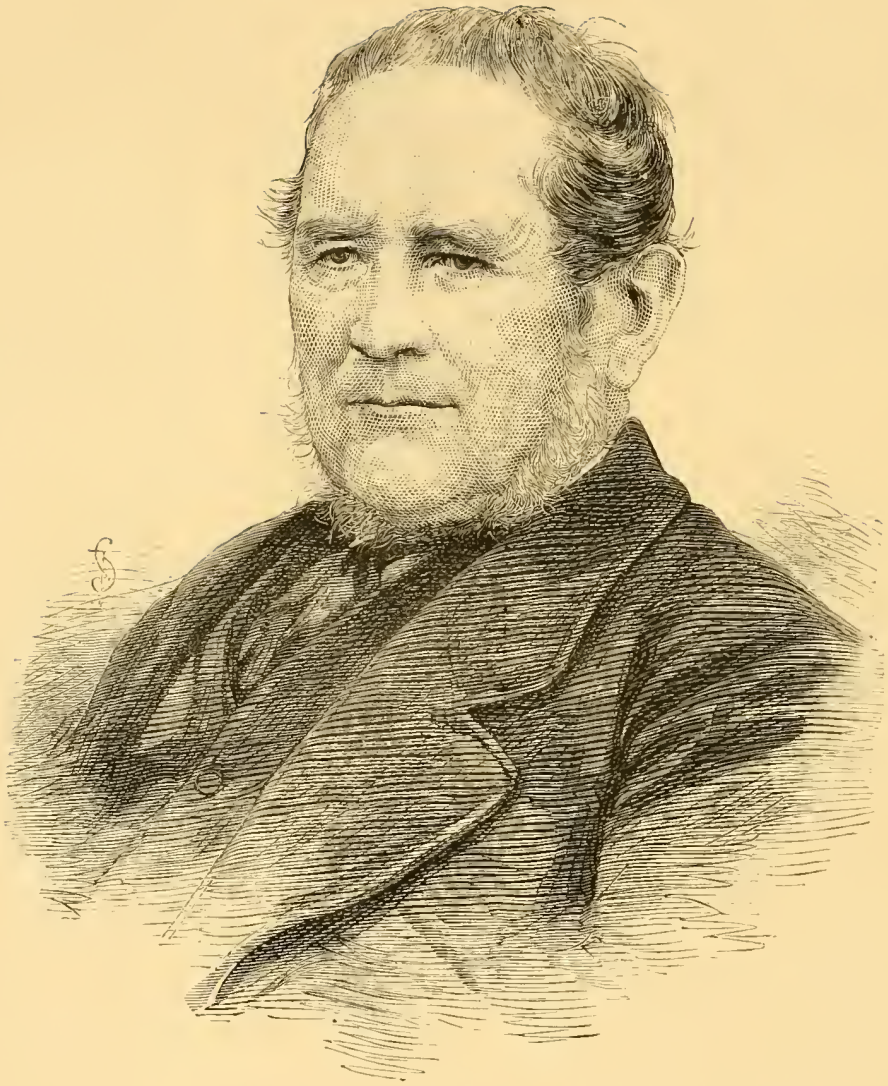


Philip Frost

Philip Frost

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1875 n.s. 3

The British gardener whom we introduce to our readers this week—Mr. Philip Frost, of Dropmore— was born at Moreton Hampstead, in Devonshire, on July 10, 1804. His father, who was a farmer's son, became in 1807-8 gamekeeper and park-keeper to Lord Grenville, at Boconnoc, in Cornwall, and about the year 1817 the son became employed, under the forester, Mr. William Pond, in the shrubberies, plantations, and nursery grounds, in the winter months planting on waste lands, in summer chiefly in the nursery, and in early autumn in the young plantations, clearing Brambles and removing superfluous leaders from young trees.

"On November 29, 1822," writes Mr. Frost, "I started from home for Dropmore, where I was first put in the flower-garden, which was not then of so much note as it is now. I soon moved into the frame-ground, where I thought there was more to be learnt. In 1826 I left Dropmore and went to Colonel Howard's, Ashtead Park, near Epsom, under Mr. Hislop. Lady Grenville objected very much to my leaving, and desired me to write and state how I liked it. I found I was rated and treated as a common labourer, but I thought I deserved something better, and soon obeyed her ladyship's request, the result being an intimation to return to Dropmore immediately and resume my old place. In 1827 I was made foreman of the frame-ground, and at that time we had a vinery to force, which is still producing excellent crops. We had also Melon and Cucumber frames, in very great extent, and it was a fight who should excel. The neighbourhood of Windsor stood prominent in Cucumber-growing, and Gould, Weedon, Patrick, and many others strongly competed for the lead. In the year 1828 I wished to go, for improvement, into a kitchen-garden, and accordingly left on March 20 for Caen Wood, making a sacrifice of 6s. per week by so doing. In a short time the foreman, John Milne (a nephew of Mr. Milne, of the Fulham Nurseries), left, and I was promoted to the position of foreman of Caen Wood garden. In June, 1829, I had the offer of a situation in Derbyshire, but went, in preference, to the Botanic Garden, Chelsea, as foreman under Mr. Anderson. I soon gained his confidence, and the improvement I made in the plants was noticed by Sweet, Haworth, and others, who were in the habit of visiting the garden. I raised a new stock from cuttings, which had not been done for years. In the autumn of 1832, Lord Grenville had reasons for dismissing Mr. Baillie, my old master, and told me that he would take me in preference to any one he knew. I must here add that Lord Grenville offered me a botanical work before I left in 1828, and accordingly gave me Sprengel's System of Vegetables, and Schultes' Mantissa in Volumen Tertium, Systematis Vegetabilius, Caroli a Linne. I was much interested in English botany, and at that time knew most of the wild plants of this neighbourhood. Lord Grenville had each volume put in two parts, and bound, interleaved, with my name printed on the cover. I took charge of the garden here in January, 1833. In October, 1834, I planted the first trees here—five Deodar Cedars. The largest is now 60 feet high, and measures in diameter of branches 52 feet, the girth of the trunk at 3 feet from the ground being 9 feet 7 inches. From a note of Lord Grenville's, I learn that the seed of the finest Ahies Douglasii was sent here in December, 1827, which settles a point I was not clear about. A gentleman from Whiteknights measured it a short time since, and made it 106 feet high. The finest Araucaria is 60 feet high (see Gardeners' Chronicle, 1872). There were three A. Douglasii plants raised from seed sent here from the Horticultural Society's garden. One has been cut down, and there are now two growing, but the tree that has had the most attention is a long way the finest— a proof of the method of top-dressing I have adopted being beneficial. There has not been much glass erected since I have had charge—in fact, only a range of Peach-houses 150 feet long, which has produced magnificent fruit. There are two vineries; one here when I came, still going on, the other, planted in 1825, producing excellent fruit and splendid crops. The trees I have planted since 1833 will bear inspection, especially when the nature of the soil— a sterile gravel—is taken into account."

Our readers will remember that in December, 1872, the friends and admirers of Mr. Frost presented him with a handsome silver cup, of the value of £25, on which were

engraved the portraits of two of his more remarkable nursings—Araucaria imbricata and Abies Douglasii, together with an annuity purchased with the sum of about £200. Long may he live to enjoy it, and to care for the wants of the magnificent trees at Dropmore.

Death of Philip Frost.—We regret to announce the death on the 10th inst., at the age of 83, of Mr. Philip Frost, who has worked so long and honourably at Dropmore, and rendered the place famous for the magnificent collection of Conifers growing there. Sixty-five years have now elapsed since he first went to work in the gardens there. He was born at Moreton, in Devonshire, in 1804. At the age of 14 he was employed on Lord Grenville's estate at Boconnoc, in Cornwall, where his father also was. In 1822 he came to Dropmore, where he remained until 1826, when he left for Ashtead Park. In the following year, however, he returned to Dropmore, but again, in 1827, he removed to Caen Wood, the seat of Lord Mansfied at Hampstead. Here he remained only a short time, as we learn that he went to the Botanic Gardens at Chelsea, then under the curatorship of Mr. Anderson. In 1832 he returned to Dropmore as head gardener, where he has remained ever since. Mr. Frost has been very successful in the cultivation of Coniferæ, as the noble specimens, notably those of Abies Douglasi (measuring in 1886 124 feet high) and Araucaria imbricata (measuring in 1886 63 feet high), testify. In 1872, on his completing his fiftieth year of service, some 200 of his friends presented him with a handsome silver cup, on which were engraved the portraits of the Douglas Fir and Araucaria. Accompanying the cup was a purse containing £210, which was invested as a life annuity.

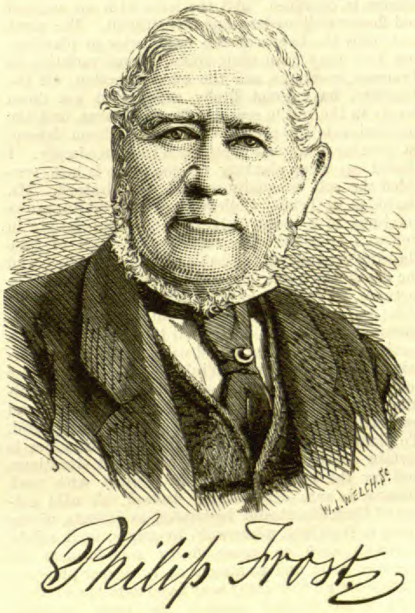
PHILIP FROST.

Philip Frost, whose death on May 10, in his eighty-third year, it is our duty to chronicle, was, in more ways than one, a man of marked individuality. Physically, he was one of those "evergreens" that seemed almost to defy the assaults of time. Any time during the last quarter of a century he has been called "old Frost," but in some senses he seemed to us no older when we saw him last—only a few weeks since—than when we first made his acquaintance.

Robust in health, hearty in manner, as dogmatic in assertion as positive in his convictions, so devoted to his work and to the beloved trees he had planted, and over whose growth he had watched for so many years that he almost seemed part and parcel of them—Frost seemed as if he might have been "old Frost" for years to come. He was ever ready to pour out long stories of byegone days—ever eager to tell us what "my lady" said to him, and what he said to "my lady;" ever ready to detail the history of those noble trees for which Dropmore is so famous, and what means he adopted in planting them, and in subsequently caring for them. These trees can never be dissociated in the minds of the horticulturists from the name of Philip Frost. His career, as told in his own words, was uneventful enough; there was nothing thrilling or startling about it. By some men the life he led would be considered dull; but the strongly marked character of the man, and his intense love of his work, were quite incompatible with any feeling of monotony; and so to the last Frost maintained an amount of zeal and energy that a grandson might envy. We have mentioned the trees because they are the glory of Dropmore; but Frost was a good all-round gardener, taking justifiable pride in his kitchen garden, cultivating herbaceous plants well when other people had discarded them, and displaying characteristic originality in his selection and arrangement of bedding-plants in the flower garden.

Mr. Philip Frost, of Dropmore, was born at Moreton Hampstead, in Devonshire, on July 10, 1804. His father, who was a farmer's son, became in 1807-8 gamekeeper and park-keeper to Lord Grenville, at Boconnoc, in Cornwall, and about the year 1817 the son became employed, under the forester, Mr. William Pond, in the shrubberies, plantations, and nursery grounds, in the winter months planting on waste lands, in summer chiefly in the nursery, and in early autumn in the young plantations, clearing Brambles and removing superfluous leaders from young trees. What follows is from Frost's own pen:—

"On November 29, 1822," writes Mr. Frost, "I started from home for Dropmore, where I was first put in the flower garden, which was not then of so much note as it is now. I soon moved into the frame-ground, where I thought there was more to be learnt. In 1826 I left Dropmore and went to Colonel Howard's, Ashtead Park, near Epsom, under Mr. Hislop. Lady Grenville objected very much to my leaving, and desired me to write and state how I liked it. I found I was rated and treated as a common labourer, but I thought I deserved something better, and soon obeyed her ladyship's request, the result being an intimation to return to Dropmore immediately and resume my old place. In 1827 I was made foreman of the frame-ground, and at that time we had a vinery to force, which is still (1875) producing excellent crops. We had also Melon and Cucumber frames in very great extent, and it was a fight who should excel. The neighbourhood of Windsor stood prominent in Cucumber growing, and Gould, Weedon, Patrick, and many others strongly competed for the lead. In the year 1828 I wished to go, for improvement, into a kitchen garden, and accordingly left on March 20 for Caen Wood, making a sacrifice of 6s. per week by so doing. In a short time the foreman, John Milne (a nephew of Mr. Milne, of the Fulham Nurseries), left, and I was promoted to the position of foreman of Caen Wood garden. In June, 1829, I had the offer of a situation in Derbyshire, but went, in preference, to the Botanic Garden, Chelsea, as foreman under Mr. Anderson. I soon gained his confidence, and the improvement I made in the plants was noticed by Sweet, Haworth, and others, who were in the habit of visiting the garden. I raised a new stock from cuttings, which had not been done for years. In the autumn of 1832, Lord Grenville had reasons for dismissing Mr. Baillie, my old master, and told me that he would take me in preference to any one he knew. I must here add that Lord Grenville offered me a botanical work before I left in 1828, and accordingly gave me Sprengel's *System of Vegetables*, and Schultze's *Mantissa in Volumen Tertium, Sytematis Vegetabilium Caroli a Linné*. I was much interested in English botany, and at that time knew most of the wild plants of this neighbourhood. Lord Grenville had each volume put in two parts, and bound, interleaved, with my name printed on the cover. I took charge of the garden here in January, 1833. In October, 1834, I planted the first trees here—fine Deodar Cedars. The largest is now 60 feet high, and measures in diameter of branches 52 feet, the girth of the trunk at



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HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

CRINUM CAPENSE OR AMARYLLIS LONGIFLORA.—Although I am unable to agree with your correspondent, W. Nanscawen, who writes in such laudatory terms about the abovenamed Amaryllid on p. 554 of your last issue, as to either its beauty or desirableness—as I do not consider it worth either pot or house-room—I am at least able to partly answer the question he asks at the end of his communication, to the extent that this Crinum is one of the parents of the beautiful and free blooming hybrid raised by M. J. B. A. Deleuil, of Marseilles, France, and named by him C. revolutum, I fancy from its long twisted foliage, of which, unfortunately, the slugs are so fond that they will come almost from any distance to eat its leaves. *W. E. Gumbleton.*

RED-SPIDER ON VINES.—Mr. Douglas inquires at p. 620 if any correspondent can suggest a safe plan to destroy red-spider other than that he mentioned. In my opinion the sponging of the leaves with soft-soap and water is the most effectual and the safest way. The sponging should be carefully and thoroughly done, sponging the upper and lower surfaces of every Vine leaf in the vinery. All Beans and Strawberry plants should be removed from the vineries when such are grown there, as the dry atmosphere maintained whilst the Vines are flowering is almost certain to lead to the spread of spider from these to the Vines. The sponging process is somewhat tedious, but the result amply repays the labour thereby incurred. With regard to the practice of sulphuring the hot-water pipes Mr. Douglas says:—"It should be done when the temperature has been raised in the afternoon to 90°, and that the house ought to be shut up with this temperature, and that the pipes must be sufficiently heated to cause a slight mist in the house from the fumes." Is not afternoon a misprint for evening? I notice this because I fear that disastrous results would follow the action of the sun on the leaves and Grapes while in such an atmospheric temperature as that indicated above. Sulphur should be applied to the hot-water pipes in the evening only. No moisture should be distributed in the house that afternoon. The fire should be started early, so as to get the pipes well heated by the time the sun had gone completely off the houses, leaving air on till then, when the flowers of sulphur, at the thickness of paint, should be put on the heated pipes with a brush, keeping the temperature at between 85° and 90° for about three hours, at which time a little top air should be given, and the fire banked up. The house should be ventilated more freely than usual for two or three days afterwards However, I have a great objection to the red-spider "remedy" of painting the highly-heated hot-water pipes with flowers of sulphur, inasmuch as the fumes arising therefrom, in my opinion, destroys the freshness of both leaves and Grapes, and also leaves a musty, ungenial smell in the house for several weeks afterwards. *H. W. Ward.*

—— Your correspondent, Mr. Douglas, asks for remedies found serviceable in preventing the ravages of red-spider infesting Vines. I have found passing a soft dusting brush on the under side of the leaves with a little flowers of sulphur and water, to be efficacious — syringing the under sides of the leaves with clean, cold, soft water, taking care not to wet the Grapes, which can be easily done by a practised person using a syringe with a nozzle. The operation should be done about 6 o'clock in the evening, when it will act as a cold bath to the red-spider for the remainder of the night—a treatment which they dislike. When red-spider infest Vines badly it is the result of a dry ungenial atmosphere in the vinery. *R. Maher. Tattendon Court.*

A FROST REPORT.—The following figures show the amount of frost each month and the number of days on which frosts occurred. Commencing with November 8, 1886, there were seven occasions in that month with a total of 31°; in December there were twenty-two frosty days or nights, with a total of 201°; January figures with 183°, on twenty-one occasions; February with seventeen, and 134° of frost; March has the highest total, both as to the number of times that frost occurred and the aggregate of degrees being 204°, on twenty-five different days; in April there were fifteen frosts and 59°, and 9° on May 1. In spite of the length and severity of the winter and the prolongation of the cold season into the months usually recorded as spring, Apples, Pears

FROST James.

Personal Estate £993 5s. 6d.

3 March. The Will of James Frost late of Tenterfield-cottages Maldon in the County of **Essex** who died 11 December 1886 at Maldon was proved at the **Principal Registry** by John Charles Frost of Maldon Blacksmith and Ironmonger the Son one of the Executors.

FROST John.

Personal Estate £1,084 8s.

7 January. The Will of John Frost late of Clapton in the County of **Middlesex** Baker who died 24 October 1886 at Clapton was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Hannah Frost of High-road Lower Clapton in the said County Spinster the Daughter the sole Executrix.

FROST John.

Personal Estate £72 5s.

20 June. The Will of John Frost late of Kniveton in the County of **Derby** Labourer who died 4 May 1887 at Kniveton was proved at **Derby** by Charles Udale of Bradbourne in the said County Labourer one of the Executors.

FROST John.

Personal Estate £1,696 0s. 2d.

29 July. The Will of John Frost late of Cullompton in the County of **Devon** Gentleman who died 9 April 1887 at Cullompton was proved at **Exeter** by Frederick Magar Granger of Tale Farm Payhembury in the said County the Nephew and Benjamin Rogers Hawkins of Pirzwell Farm Kentisbeare in the said County Farmers the Executors.

FROST The Reverend John.

Personal Estate £2,690 18s. 7d.

19 August. The Will of the Reverend John Frost late of Bingham in the County of **Nottingham** Clerk who died 10 July 1887 at Bingham was proved at **Nottingham** by Mary Jane Frost of 17 Park-terrace in the Town of Nottingham Widow the Relict and Francis John Burton of Nottingham Solicitor the Executors.

FROST Joseph.

Personal Estate £6,304 4s. 3d.

17 October. The Will with two Codicils of Joseph Frost late of 110 Linaker-street Southport in the County of **Lancaster** Gentleman who died 15 September 1887 at 110 Linaker-street was proved at **Liverpool** by Elias Frost of Lily-street Urmston in the said County Cashier and William Frost of 213A Broad-street Pendleton Salford in the said County Cigar Merchant the Sons two of the Executors.

FROST Philip.

Personal Estate £1,000 17s. 8d.

24 May. The Will of Philip Frost late of Dropmore Burnham in the County of **Buckingham** Gardener who died 10 May 1887 at Dropmore was proved at **Oxford** by Daniel Frost of Slough in the said County Fruiterer the Son and John Gedge of Penryn in the County of Cornwall Manager to Chemical Manure Works the Executors.

FROST Richard Kay.

Personal Estate £2,355 3s. 3d.

21 March. The Will of Richard Kay Frost late of Bakewell in the County of **Derby** Painter who died 11 August 1886 at Bakewell was proved at **Derby** by George Buchan of Bakewell Wood Steward to the Duke of Rutland and William Clark of Castle-street Bakewell Surveyor to the Duke of Rutland the Executors.

MR. THOMAS FROST, of the Bower Nursery, Maidstone, died on the 11th ult., aged fifty-nine. He had been in ill-health for a long time, but it appears from details published in the *Kent Messenger* that on the morning of the 11th, accompanied by his wife, he came to London on business. While walking down the Strand in the afternoon he was seized with an apoplectic fit, and was at once removed to one of the hospitals, where he so far recovered as to be able to attempt his return journey to Maidstone, but on reaching Aylesford station he expired. He was for many years gardener at Preston Hall, and commenced business as a nurseryman in 1863. He was brother to that well-known horticulturist, Mr. Frost, of Dropmore, and was widely known and much respected.

The Garden, 1882

FROST Robert.

Personal Estate £45.

19 June. Administration of the Personal Estate of Robert Frost late of 3 Winchester-buildings Homer-row St. Marylebone in the County of **Middlesex** Wire Worker a Bachelor who died 29 July 1864 at 3 Winchester-buildings was granted at the **Principal Registry** to George Bentinck Frost of 18 Pilgrim-street in the Town and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Wire Worker the Administrator of the Personal Estate of William Frost the Father and Next of Kin.

FROST Samuel.

Personal Estate £83 0s. 4d.

13 March. The Will of Samuel Frost late of Outwoods near Gnosall in the County of **Stafford** Yeoman who died 4 December 1881 at Outwoods was proved at the **Principal Registry** by John Childs of Wolverhampton in the said County Salt Merchant one of the Executors.

FROST Samuel.

Personal Estate £57 15s. 9d.

21 October. The Will with a Codicil of Samuel Frost late of the "Foaming Quart" Inn Bedford-street in the Borough of Hanley in the County of **Stafford** Publican who died 5 April 1882 at the "Foaming Quart" was proved at **Lichfield** by Mary Frost of the "Foaming Quart" Widow the Relict and Eli Frost of Albion-street in the said Borough Architect and Surveyor the Son the Executors.

FROST Thomas.

Personal Estate £47 2s. 6d.

12 April. The Will of Thomas Frost late of Adderley Green near Longton in the County of **Stafford** Plumber and Glazier who died 18 November 1881 at Adderley Green was proved at **Lichfield** by Elizabeth Frost of Adderley Green Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

FROST Thomas.

Personal Estate £771 19s. 4d.

4 August. The Will of Thomas Frost late of 9 Harmood-street Chalk-Farm-road in the County of **Middlesex** Toy Dealer who died 19 June 1882 at 9 Harmood-street was proved at the **Principal Registry** by John Boyce of 9 Harmood-street Bootmaker and Kate Frost of 40 Long-Acre in the said County Spinster the Niece the Executors.

FROST Thomas.

Personal Estate £951 10s.

18 December. The Will of Thomas Frost late of Maidstone in the County of **Kent** Nurseryman who died 11 November 1882 at Aylesford in the said County was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Rachel Frost Widow the Relict and William Thomas Frost Nurseryman the Son both of Maidstone the Executors.

FROST William.

Personal Estate £65.

15 March. The Will of William Frost late of Chapel-street East Stonehouse in the County of **Devon** Beer Retailer who died 23 December 1881 at 43 Chapel-street was proved at **Exeter** by George Perkins of High-street East Stonehouse Mason and Thomas Northam of Duke-street Devonport in the said County Labourer in Her Majesty's Dockyard there the Executors.

FROST William.

Personal Estate £45.

7 June. Administration of the Personal Estate of William Frost late of 3 Winchester-buildings Homer-row St. Marylebone in the County of **Middlesex** who died 14 January 1868 at 3 Winchester-buildings was granted at the **Principal Registry** to George Bentinck Frost of 18 Pilgrim-street in the Town and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Wire Worker the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

THE GARDENS AT EASTBURY MANOR, GUILDFORD.

Interview with Mr. Noah Fullegar.

THE gardens at Eastbury Manor, which I visited in April, are interesting both because of their beauty, and because since 1879 they have been under the charge of Mr. Noah Fullegar, one of the most observant, best informed, and most successful of Surrey gardeners, whose scientific knowledge is as unquestionable as his practical experience. The nearest station to Eastbury is Farncombe, and the drive of three miles is through very pleasant country. Mr. Fullegar has a charming house of his own, with a pretty garden in front, conveniently situated both in respect to the pleasure grounds, glass ranges, and fruit garden on one side of the main road, and the new vegetable garden on the other side. Soon after my arrival we made our way to the front of the mansion, which is approached by a short carriage drive. There are fine specimens of Sweet Chestnut, Cupressus, and Elm, but quite the feature in the way of trees is the magnificent collection of Cedars, which alone would suffice to give distinction to the lawn. On one side are four of these in a row, and a fifth stands by itself, while on the other side there is also one in solitary grandeur. I asked Mr. Fullegar to give me their dimensions, and he said:

The Circumference of the Cedars.

"The biggest is seventeen feet nine inches in circumference, at about four feet from the ground. The other four measure respectively fifteen feet four inches, fourteen feet ten inches, fourteen feet four inches, and thirteen feet five inches; while the tree on the other side of the house is between fourteen and fifteen feet round. You will notice that though all have lost some of their limbs under the stress of bad weather, their height and handsome appearance have not been impaired. The Sweet Chestnut tree is fifteen and a half feet in circumference."

"Can you tell me the date of the original mansion, which I gather from the ancient appearance of the adjacent church must go back many centuries?"

"It dates from 1300, when the Sweet Chestnut was planted; and the old part was encased in its present covering thirty-one years ago, when I came here, and, with the help of the landscape gardener, made the existing pleasure grounds."

"Where did you begin your gardening career?"

"As a boy I started at Linton Park, Maidstone, noted for its fine Pinetum; and there I assisted, about the year 1866, in planting the Wellingtonia avenue. At the end of seven years I went to Colworth Hall, in Bedfordshire; from Colworth to Luton Hoo; from Luton Hoo to Harewood House, Yorkshire; from Harewood House to Possingworth, Sussex. I was at Harewood House for four years, and in each of the other gardens for two years. From Sussex I came here."

"So that before you took up your important duties at Eastbury, you had enjoyed experience in four other counties, and five other very representative gardens. It must have been a pleasure to you to plan and watch the developments here."

"Yes, it has been a pleasure, especially as I have always had every encouragement and facility afforded to me. But now you will like to talk about the terrace garden."

"I see that the flower beds are of geometrical design."

"As to the details, each bed for spring has a distinct colour of Tulips, with Crocuses for edging, the latter flowering first, but the former being the principal feature. The curved walks through the centre divide the next design, which embraces Arabis (single and double), Myosotis, yellow Alyssum. Aubrietias, yellow Polyanthus, with mixed Tulips in between, and Wallflowers Blood-red and Belvoir Castle Improved. On

MR. N. FULLEGAR.

one side of the terrace there is also a quantity of Narcissus Horsfieldii. The spring bedding is at its best about the end of April."

"And in summer?"

"For summer we bed principally Geraniums, colours of separate kinds in each bed, edged with the dwarf white Alyssum, which flower the whole season. I have some very fine Agave americana variegata, which are raised in the centre of each diamond bed, Geraniums forming the groundwork. In certain beds I also use Calceolaria Golden Gem, and Heliotropes, with double Lobelias as edging. The large square bed consists of Cannas of one colour, selected from a packet of seed, and it is edged with Ten-week Stocks, both Cannas and Stocks continuing to flower until the frost cuts them off."

"Then there is the border by the conservatory?"

"It is filled with sub-tropical plants, chiefly Ricinus, Daturas, Solanum robustum, Abutilons, Grevillea robusta, Melianthus major (the Honey-flower), Wigandia caracasana, and Zea variegata."

A Notable Herbaceous Border.

Walking down the gentle slopes to the lake, tenanted by wild ducks, which heighten the beauty of the hills on either side of the mansion, my attention was attracted by a remarkable herbaceous border on the far side of the water.

"It is a hundred yards long, and the leading features are Irises of various colours—a good batch of Japanese, with large, flat flowers; Pæonies, Delphiniums, Nemophila, Oriental Poppies, Senecios, Phlox in variety, Michaelmas Daisies—anything, in short, that will withstand the damp by the water's edge. Hanging down are Alyssums, Aubrietias, and Cerastiums, which look very beautiful in the water. On the top, near the grass edge, are annuals, such as Mignonette, Larkspurs, Candytuft, Linums, Lupins, and Godetias. But I find it desirable to replant every third year, so that every year I do a part, trenching two spits deep, and dividing up old stools. I begin as early as possible in the autumn, so that the plants may get hold of the soil before severe frost sets in.

"On the other side," continued Mr. Fullegar, as we retraced our steps, "is the Rambler walk, Crimson Ramblers and Penzance Briers being a feature."

"The growth appears to be exceptionally good. What is the nature of the soil?"

"Heavy loam, resting on clay. The varieties include Mrs. W. J. Grant, Gloire de Dijon, Caroline Testout, La France, General Jacqueminot, Lady Battersea, Irene Watts, Viscountess Folkestone, and Zephirine Drouhin, a thornless Rose, but most excellent for cutting. It blooms in June, and you can go on cutting without intermission until the frosts set in. Every one who goes in for Roses at all should grow it."

How to Grow Clivias.

"I do not need to inquire the features of the fine conservatory, with such splendid shows of Clivias and Cinerarias staring me in the face. Let me know, please, how much space the Clivias cover, and the average number of blooms on a spike."

"They cover sixty square feet, and some of the spikes have twenty flowers. The average of the fifty plants is sixteen. Most of the plants are seedlings of my own raising, which I crossed respectively with Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Laing, and Netida. The crossing was done twenty years ago."

"What is your treatment of Clivias?"

"They are grown in an intermediate house. The greatest peril is too much water in the resting season. Clivias will bear any amount of drought, but an excess of water is fatal. This conservatory is quite cool, and the pots containing the Clivias will stand on the stone floor."

"How long does the flowering season last?"

"From the middle of March to the end of April, about six weeks."

"Their foliage is not less attractive than the flower, and the same observation applies to the Cinerarias, whose height, variety of colour, and general brilliance, would make them notable anywhere."

"I think that all shades of colour are represented. The blue and blue-grey are the most effective. Among the varieties are Feltham Beauty and many of the stellata section. Some of the medium-size plants are my own seedlings, and others are French dwarfs. Several plants are three feet high, some four feet, and as much through. The Cinerarias keep in flower

from Christmas until the end of April. Two hundred are grown."

"How do you manage to keep the foliage so clean?"

"I syringe them with soft soap and quassia water, but seldom fumigate. There is no departure from the ordinary cool treatment in cultivation. For cutting, Schizanthus are much more useful than Cinerarias."

"Yes, I observe that you have a nice show of Schizanthus."

Pelargoniums and Fuchsias.

"They are about four feet high, and three feet through, one plant in each pot. We grow about two dozen, and the shades of colour include pink, white, purple, and yellow. The group of Clivias is succeeded by a group of Pelargoniums, the four best varieties being Areete, one of the Madame Thibaut type, Mrs. Perkins, Fire King, and a pure white, which we call Thibaut White. Arums are grown in clumps. In fact, to make any kind of show in the conservatory, it is essential to have quantity and size."

"How often does the Datura Brugmansia flower?"

"Three times a year. Then I cut it down to quite an old stump about December. You see that Oranges and Citrons fruit here, and that Myrtles and Mignonette—Milo's Spiral and Golden Market—in pots are very much at home. For cutting purposes we grow Diosma ericoides, now in flower, and the Oak-leaf and Lemon-scented Geraniums. The latter is better than any kind of Fern for using with cut flowers. The Roses on the roof give us a good supply until we can cut from outside. The standard Fuchsias are Avalanche, Lord Beaconsfield, Ballet Girl, and Arabella—these we use largely for summer bedding—and in the vases on the steps, as well as on the pedestal, are Aloes, which are not injured by the south-west winds."

"You have not mentioned Primulas, and Daffodils which I see coming on outside."

"Primula kewensis flowers tier after tier, and is particularly good for cutting. The stems are eighteen inches high. All the Daffodils are growing for cutting in beds easily accessible."

"What about Chrysanthemums?"

"The best early varieties for bush plants—I do not disbud—are Lady Selborne, White Ivory, Mons. Freeman (a very old sort, but the best for cutting, and it grows dwarf), Source d'Or, Stanstead White, Glow, and Soleil d'Octobre. Two or three other singles are planted out and taken up late in September or early in October. I also grow a number of others, and a few for large blooms."

The Best Sweet Peas.

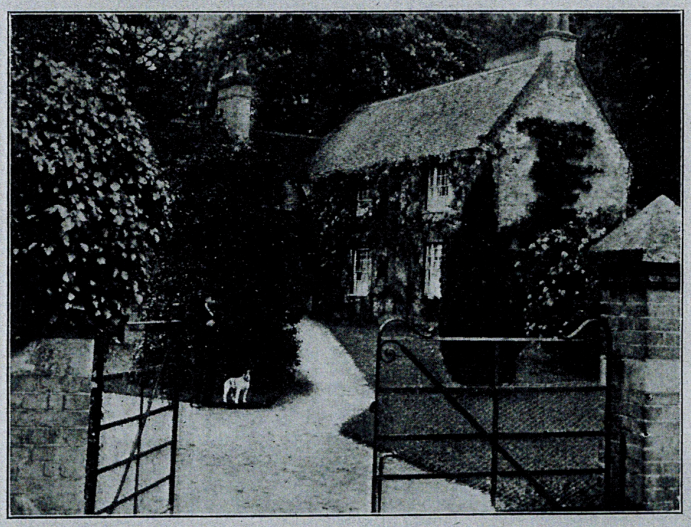
"Are Sweet Peas grown in clumps?"

"Both in round clumps, and in short rows by the side of the path in the fruit garden, each row being a separate colour. The varieties are King Edward, Nora Unwin, Lord Nelson, Countess Spencer, Mrs. Collier, Evelyn Hemus, Helen Pierce, Helen Lewis, Frank Dolby, Jessie Cuthbertson, Asta Ohn, Queen Alexandra, Miss Willmott, Black Michael, Navy Blue, Scarlet Gem, Flora Norton, Doris Burt, and John Ingman. Before we discuss fruit, we might go into the lean-to house."

EASTBURY MANOR, GUILDFORD.

"Of which the feature seems to be Fortune's Yellow?"

"The roof of the house is thirty-one feet long by sixteen feet deep, and Fortune's Yellow—also known as Beauty of Glazengwood Rose—covers it entirely. It flowers from Easter, and I cut hundreds of blooms from it, but they should be cut in the bud. In other houses we have Tomatoes Invicta, Hastings, and Perfection, all in pots; Maidenhair Ferns, some plants two and three feet through; a fine batch of Pancratiums, which flower about the end of July, with splendid foliage; Cucumbers, Telegraph; and a number of Melons, Veitch's America and Scarlet Gem."



THE GARDENER'S HOUSE, EASTBURY MANOR, GUILDFORD.

Apples in April.

Looking into the fruit-room before we inspected the fruit garden, I was surprised to see a considerable number of Apples, of both dessert and cooking varieties, in excellent condition.

"These," said Mr. Fullegar, "include a number of French Crabs, which are the last to be used before Apples come in again. Most of the Apples, as you will see, are orchard trees, but some are pyramids and bushes."

"Which do you consider the best dessert varieties?"

"For exhibition purposes it is difficult to beat Adam's Pearmain, Allington Pippin, King of the Pippins, Cox's Orange Pippin, Cornish Aromatic, and Blenheim Orange."

"You have shown Apples, I think?"

"Yes, I have taken first honours with these six varieties, and naturally I am inclined to swear by them. Charles Ross is very handsome when well coloured. Cockle Pippin and Ribston Pearmain are in use for dessert at Easter, and always keep a long time."

"But has not the keeping of the Apples a good deal to do with the treatment and general management of the fruit-room?"

"Undoubtedly it has. The great thing is to keep the fruit-room clear and cool. Light is not particularly required, but there should always be a slight current of air passing through it, except when there is a severe frost. Our trees are very subject to canker, for which I think lime dusted on when the trees are damp is one of the oldest and best preventives."

"I should like to add the names of some of your best cooking Apples?"

"Newtown Wonder is one of the best. On a large tree of Royal Russet we grow as many as ten bushels at a time. Golden Noble is good, but cankers very much. Lane's Prince Albert is excellent, but no use at Easter. Other good varieties are Alexander, Alfriston, Beauty of Kent, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Bedfordshire Foundling, Dumelow's Seedling, Deux Ans, Hoary Morning, Mere de Menage, Norfolk Beefing, Tyler's Kernel, Warner's King, Bismarck, and Sandringham."

Apricots and Plums.

"You seem to go in rather largely for Apricots."

"The Apricot border is about fifty yards long. For protecting the trees on the wall, I use hexagon netting, which is excellent for warding off cold winds and frosts. As a rule, Apricots fruit well here, and the varieties are Moor Park and Large Red. Plums occupy another part of the wall, the varieties being Coe's Golden Drop, Coe's Late Red, Diamond, and Greengage. On the opposite side of the wall are Sweet Cherries, Frogmore Early, Bigarreau, Black Tartarian, May Duke, Knight's Early, and Early Red Bigarreau. The border underneath the Cherries is always used for growing Violets, such as Lady Hume Campbell and Marie Louise. These are taken up and put into frames for winter use.

Other Violets used are La France and Californian Improved. Peaches on the wall joining the conservatory crop well outside, but Nectarines are not successful."

"Do you force several varieties of Strawberries?"

"Royal Sovereign, Viscountess, and Sir J. Paxton. After these have done fruiting in pots, I generally plant them out in well-trenched ground, and they yield a full crop the ensuing two years. We also grow Givon's Late Prolific, President, British Queen, Noble, and Leader."

Gooseberries on the Gridiron System.

"You appear to have a striking collection of Gooseberries trained on the gridiron system."

"These plants were purchased about fifteen years ago, and five to seven branches trained on one tree to a simple wire fence six feet high, with five wires strained through two iron posts, there being intermediate standards. I consider that the two best varieties for all purposes are Whitesmith and Red Warrington; but, of course, we grow others. Grown on the gridiron system, Gooseberries are easy to pick and also to protect from thrushes and blackbirds. Our mode of protection is to get some disused gas-pipes seven feet long, place them in a line each side of the fence, and add a piece of iron bar small enough to go into the top of the pipe, which holds them together. Then, running a line [illegible]ar string from post to post, the whole lengt[illegible] we throw the net over, and peg it down at the bottom. Perfect security is thus obtained."

"You have a very useful stretch of vegetable garden, and I should like to know something about your principal kinds."

"Peas are generally plentiful, and we commence to pick the first week in June, from the border under the wall, the varieties being Langley Gem and Chelsea Gem. William I. does well for early use in our sandy soil, and other varieties are Gradus, Veitch's Main Crop, Duke of Albany, and Ne Plus Ultra. Our winter supply of Potatoes is grown on the farm, but for early use we have Improved Ashleaf, Duke of York, and Early Puritan."

Onions Two and a Half Pounds in Weight.

"I believe you have been very successful in showing Onions?"

"Yes, I have done very well at the local shows, and we invariably have a good crop, growing Ailsa Craig Onions to about two and a half pounds in weight. My treatment is to trench the ground two spits deep early in the autumn, turn it up rough so as to get the weather into it, working in soot, mixed with any garden refuse, such as grass from the lawns, sweepings from the paths, or old vegetables, all mixed together. These I allow to remain for twelve months, burn the rubbish in the shrubberies, and dig it in the [illegible]m spit, eighteen inches to two feet deep. [illegible]nions glory in this sort of thing, but during the growing period the Dutch hoe must be kept going between the rows at every opportunity. With regard to showing, there is a great tendency to rub off too much of the skin of the Onion, making it look bare. This is no improvement to the bulb. Neither do I approve of cutting off the roots. If they dry off and break away, well and good; otherwise all the roots should be left that are at all fresh, and ripened off in an airy shed. On no account should heavy rain be allowed to come on them after they are pulled up, because it invariably starts them growing."

Flowers by Parcel Post.

"You have given so many useful hints in the course of our talk that I will only trouble you with one more question. As I know that you send a good many flowers away by parcel post, any suggestions for preserving them will be acceptable."

"I always pack them tightly enough to prevent them from moving about. That is indispensable. You may put Roses in quite firmly, and if they are sprinkled with a little water over their heads when they come out, they will soon recover from their confinement."

ALFRED WILCOX.

The Barberry.

FEW shrubs can equal the Barberry or Berberis in usefulness and adaptability for all purposes of the gardener. The species are numerous, and include both evergreen and deciduous forms. All are bearers of highly ornamental foliage, and most of them carry racemes of bright-coloured flowers, followed in some cases by brilliant berries, which give them an additional attractiveness in late summer. In habit of growth they show great variation, some species being dwarf, and suitable for rockeries and small beds; others make handsome bushes, and reach a height of ten to eighteen feet, so that whether grown as single specimens, as on a lawn, or in plantations, they are always effective.

A Fine Hybrid Form.

One of the finest forms is that given in our illustration, B. stenophylla. It is reputed to be a hybrid between B. Darwinii and B. empetrifolia, so that plants raised from seed frequently show a leaning towards one of the parents. It is an evergreen, with pretty, dark green leaves, oblong and rather narrow, and slightly toothed. About this time (May) it bears racemes of orange flowers in the axils of the leaves, and these are succeeded later by rich purple berries. It is of very vigorous habit, and easy to cultivate, enjoying a fully-exposed situation, where it can get plenty of air and sunshine around its leathery foliage. In height it ranges from three to five feet.

Another evergreen form which reaches about the same height as the foregoing is B. japonica. This is an early-flowering species, the canary-yellow blossoms often appearing in February, when their fragrance is very grateful. The leaves are large and glossy, and furnished with sharp spines, and the whole habit of the plant is upright and sturdy.

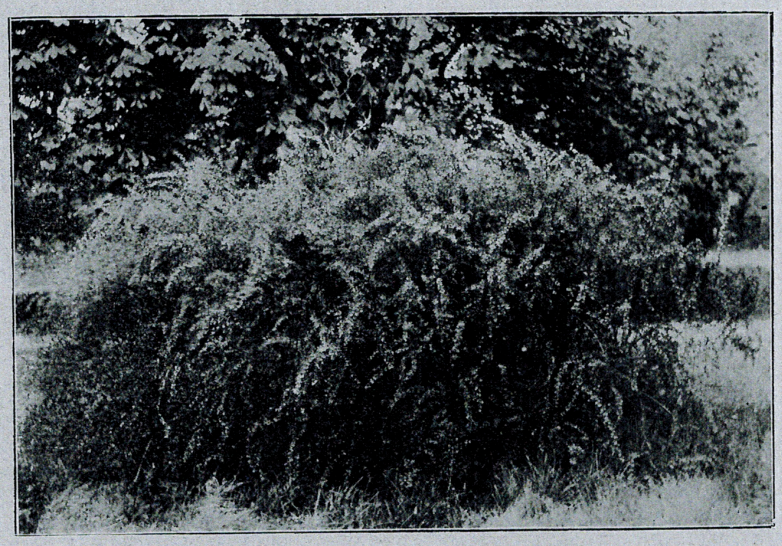
Somewhat taller than these is B. dulcis, also known as B. buxifolia, which attains a height of eight feet. This, too, is evergreen, and makes a fine and compact bush of erect habit. The bright yellow flowers appear about March. There is a dwarf form of this, B. dulcis nana, which is especially commendable for the rock garden.

A Noticeable Species.

A species to which there are several varieties, B. aquifolium, claims particular mention. Evergreen, like the preceding, it is if anything even more vigorous, and less exacting in its requirements. It flowers in early spring, the yellow blossoms later giving rise to dark purple berries. The variety B. a. rotundifolia Hervei, with its prettily-rounded leaves, is also noticeable. Six feet is the average height of this species.

B. Darwinii, already referred to as one of the parents of B. stenophylla, occasionally reaches ten feet in height. It is well worth a place in any garden, its glossy, evergreen foliage alone ensuring it a welcome. The yellow clusters of blossom make it very charming at the present time.

Among deciduous species, pride of place unquestionably belongs to the well-known B. vulgaris, a form of which is indigenous in this country. This reaches a height of about ten feet, and, like the rest, bears yellow flowers. The berries give this shrub a distinctive appearance. In the type they are orange-scarlet; but among the varieties other colours are to be obtained, including purple, yellow, deep violet, and white. A pretty contrast is afforded by planting with the type the variety purpurea, whose purple leaves and fruit make an effective setting to the brighter hues of the other. The fruits of this species have an acid flavour, and are sometimes used for preserving.



A HANDSOME HYBRID BARBERRY—BERBERIS STENOPHYLLA.

Soil and Propagation.

All the foregoing species are quite hardy, and may be safely planted in any situation—indeed, they flourish best where they have full exposure to wind and sun. They need no special soil, any good staple suiting them; but if too heavy, it will be improved by being drained. If it is desired to keep them within certain limits they may be cut back a little after flowering, but this will, of course, prevent the berries appearing later on. They may be propagated by cuttings of ripened wood, which should be taken off with a heel, and inserted in sandy soil in a cold frame—this is best done in autumn. Seeds, also, may be sown, but much patience is required in raising the plants. The easiest method of increasing the stock is to remove the suckers in autumn; these, especially if a few roots are attached to them, soon start growing away and make fine bushes. Layering is another easy method of propagation.

ACER.

NEXT week the gardens of Miss Wyburn, at Hadley Manor, High Barnet, will be described.

berry, and requiring very similar culture, though it is dwarfer than either. As the roots are inclined to ramble, throwing up new stems in all directions, it should be kept by itself, for it is rather a nuisance among other plants. The base of a hedge facing south is a good position for it, especially as it forms an excellent thickening down below, being armed with such strong

Mr. James Fulton.

prickles that few animals care to attempt to pass through.

August 20th.—Rabbits are a great nuisance here, in spite of the dogs, which are always hunting them about the place. Lettuces, so largely given to them in confinement, from the idea that it is their favourite food, they seldom touch, but they eat down my young Cabbage plants by the score. I caught one the other day. It had got inside the net covering the Strawberry bed, and could not get out again. The persistence with which they return again and again to some spot which they have fixed upon as suitable for a nest, is remarkable. Six times a pair undermined a Black Currant bush, and six times the hole was filled up. They like to burrow under roots, which, I suppose, act as stays to their dwellings, and give them a sense of security. It is where there are young fruit trees that they do most mischief—by gnawing off the bark. If wire-netting is used to keep them off, it should be examined at intervals, to see that it is not too tight. I have seen trees almost strangled by it. They had expanded in the course of years, and the netting placed round them when they were first planted had not been removed. Tar, though sometimes used, is a dangerous remedy, being very apt to kill the trees. I believe that a wet paste of clay, mixed with a little assafœtida, is excellent. It should be painted on the trunks in the beginning of December, or even earlier, and, if it shows any sign of losing its efficacy, should be renewed during the winter.

August 21st.—Everybody who has a garden must have been struck with the fact that, in spite of the infinite diversity of foliage, the cotyledons—the first pair of leaves which a seedling makes—are very much alike in nearly all plants. I see that Lord Avebury, among others, considers them "a survival of the universal foliage of deciduous trees in older geological days, before ever time had differentiated them into their present varied forms." This adds greatly to the interest with which we must regard them. The idea that they belong to the far-off ages before man was—when the earth was covered with strange plants and inhabited by strange beasts—has a singular fascination. It is also more than likely, for it is in the earliest stages of existence, whether animal or vegetable, that such survivals are most frequently detected. The reason why the leaves of different plants should differ widely, though the cotyledons resemble one another, is not hard to suggest. Cotyledon and leaf each has its own work to do, and it is not until the task of the former is finished that the struggle for existence really begins. It is not, therefore, until then that the need for differentiation arises. So the cotyledons continue to grow in the form in which they were fashioned when vegetation began, while the leaves have been compelled to assume new shapes, and adapt themselves to new circumstances, in order to compete on fair terms with the strenuous and incessant fight for life. They are types of modernity, but the cotyledons carry us back to the pterodactyl and the mammoth.

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 99.—Mr. James Fulton, at the Gardens, Grim's Dyke, Harrow Weald.

No one who has the privilege of seeing Grim's Dyke can be surprised that Mr. W. S. Gilbert spends as much time as he can at Harrow Weald. His house and grounds, several hundred feet above sea level, the highest point in Middlesex, have special and numerous attractions. Here the house may be lightly dismissed. It was built from designs by Mr. Norman Shaw, R.A., and its architecture is admirable. But the visit which, by the courtesy of Mr. Gilbert, I paid to Grim's Dyke, was for the purpose of exploring the features of the gardens, which are famous for their natural beauty. This, indeed, as Mr. Fulton, the head gardener, explained, soon after my arrival, is the object specially aimed at; and there is no doubt as to the successful result. But there has been careful attention to the more practical side of gardening, and the glasshouses, which we first inspected, prove that Mr. Fulton is a many-sided man, who understands the importance of keeping all departments under his charge up to the mark. We did not linger long in the Peach houses, which, however, contain some of the best varieties. In the second house, Humboldt, Walburton Admirable, Violette Hative, and Stirling Castle are grown, and also the Victoria Nectarine. The crops in the early house, which include the Early Rivers' Nectarine, Pitmaston Orange, and Lord Napier, as well as the Royal George and the Diamond Peach, were, Mr. Fulton informed me, all good. Then we came to the Melons, and I asked the names of the varieties preferred.

"We only grow Blenheim Orange, Royal Jubilee, and Ringleader, which are all of good flavour and good croppers."

"This," continued Mr. Fulton, as we passed into another house, "is devoted to a general supply of flowers. A few Carnations are grown on the rough system, such as Baldwin, Prime Minister, Churchwarden, Princess May, and The Blush. There are also Princess of Wales, John Coles, Mrs. Saunders, Cecilia (the yellow), Julietta, and Monica."

"I see that you have the new Verbena."

"Yes, the Ellen Willmott, which is most excellent for pot work. The culture is very simple. A little heat should be given in the spring, and it is an advantage not to disbud for the smaller flower. Among stove plants, I think that the old Scutellaria Mocciniana, with its beautiful combination of colour, yellow and salmon-red, is very handsome."

"How often does it flower?"

"Continually. That is to say, these plants flowered at the end of May, in the middle of July, and will probably flower again in the winter. We have about a dozen and a-half. They should be struck in the spring, and kept in a temperature of sixty to sixty-five degrees until they show colour."

"You have a number of Cannas?"

"I believe that the collection includes all the best seedlings. At any rate, here are the names:—Aurore, Auguste Chantin, Burbank (the best yellow), Comte de Bouchard, Conquerant (very fine yellow), Duke of Marlborough, Elizabeth Hoss, Florence Vaughan, Hesperida, Italia, Madame Crozy, Mrs. F. Deer, Mrs. G. A. Strohlein, Oscar Dannecker, R. Wallace, Souvenir de President Carnot, and Secretaire Chabanne. Ixoras do very well with us, particularly the new Prince of Orange, sent out by the Royal Horticultural Society to the Fellows.

Grim's Dyke, from the Yew Walk.

One of the oldest varieties is Duffii, which is stronger and bigger in the leaf, and distinct from the others. Williamsii has flowered twice; the trusses were rather smaller the second time. The plants are really worth growing because they are so effective for decorative purposes."

"What Grapes do you grow in the Vineries?"

"Two kinds of Muscat, and Black Hamburgh. The latter have only been planted two years. Spider troubles us a good deal in respect to Grapes if the weather is dry. Wet, cool weather suits us better than any other. In the Tomato house we grow Royal Chester, Royal Sovereign, and Sutton's Perfection, two scarlet and a yellow. I do not think that Sutton's Perfection can be surpassed. Also in this house we grow Gloxinias, for decorative purposes; these are all Sutton's Seedlings."

"Do you force any Strawberries?"

"Yes, about seventeen hundred plants, in the houses which now contain Melons. We have two thousand three hundred for potting and planting. They only last two years, because of the gravelly soil, but, no matter what the season may be like, we get good crops of fine fruit. We only force Royal Sovereign, which, in my opinion, is the best for forcing."

"What varieties do you grow in the Peach case?"

"Early Rivers, Barrington, Stirling Castle, and Lord Napier Nectarine. In the late Peach house we have also a number of Carnations."

Outside the house, four arches attracted my attention, and Mr. Fulton said:—

"We grow Pears and Apples, and a few Plums on these, but this year, unfortunately, there is no fruit."

"You might name the principal kinds of Pears?"

"There is Doyenné du Comice, of course, but the fruit is much finer and of better colour on the wall. The others include Louise Bonne of Jersey, Beurré Hardy, Josephine de Malines, Beurré Fouqueray, Emile d'Heyst, Jersey Gratioli, Beurré d'Amanlis, Jargonelle, Beurré Superfin, Durondeau, and Fondante d'Automne. These are all dessert varieties. Most of the Apples are also the dessert kinds, and they include Cox's Orange Pippin, Blenheim Orange, which does better in a large tree, King of the Pippins, Sturmer Pippins, Lady Henniker, and Beauty of Bath."

"You have a fine lot of Raspberries. Which do you consider the best?"

"Superlative, which is closely followed by Norwich Wonder. We grow Raspberries about twelve feet high, and have had them fifteen feet. But in the latter case they are rather difficult to net. These rows have been planted about four years. We picked seventy pounds of fruit off them in three days during July. Blackberries are grown on the same principle. They are all thinned out as they show, and trained up about eighteen inches apart. The Raspberries have been planted about four years; the Blackberries only two."

"I see that you have a fair crop of Peaches on the walls. Do you use nets for protection?"

"No; I do not think that they afford enough shelter, either against insects, or against wind. We use the ordinary blinds."

"You go in for several varieties of Strawberries outside. Which is your favourite?"

"Leader is running Royal Sovereign very closely, but both are good. I can also recommend President, Monarch, Mentmore, Auguste Nicaise, Vicomtesse Hericart de Thury, British Queen, and Fillbasket."

"Your Peas look so well that I should like to have a few names."

"There are none better than Sutton's Duke of Albany, Sutton's Centenary Marrowfat, and Fertility."

"Do you mind telling me to what cause you attribute your success in the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, particularly Raspberries and Peas"

"Whether in respect to Raspberries and Peas, or other kitchen garden crops, I attribute much of my success to a system of deep cultivation and a liberal application of good farmyard manure. Since I took up the management of these gardens, nearly five years ago, I have had the kitchen garden trenched four feet deep from end to end, and a good portion of it turned over to that depth a second time."

"The subsoil, I gather, is naturally poor?"

"None could be poorer. But I am not one of those who consider that should the subsoil be of a poor description it should not be brought up to the surface. We brought the bottom to the top, and placed the top spit at the bottom, upon a layer of rubbish of every kind, with two other good layers of farmyard manure. As the work proceeded, the ground presented the appearance of an old gravel-pit levelled over. Of course, it could not be expected that seeds or plants would grow on such soil. The land was prepared specially for each crop before it was put in, another good dressing of very rotten manure was spread over the surface, also gaslime, burnt ashes, leaf-soil, and waste soil, such as old hotbeds, potting-soil, etc.; and, in all cases afterwards, before planting or sowing seed, deep drills were taken out and filled with a mixture of good soil.

For Strawberry planting, deep holes were taken out, and filled up with a mixture of this kind, and I can assure you that better crops of fruit could not be desired."

"What about trenching?"

"It was carried on through every month of the year, as the land became vacant; otherwise, it could not have been completed in such a short time. A piece of ground, thirty yards by fifteen, was so trenched in July, 1900, and planted with forced plants of Royal Sovereign. I had never seen a finer crop of fruit than they produced the following year. Each plant had as many as twenty spikes of flowers, and from twenty to twenty-four fruits on each spike. They were planted three feet apart every way, and the foliage quite overlapped. Quantities of the fruit turned the scales at two ounces."

"Now, before we leave the kitchen garden, I should be glad to know the names of some of the plants in your beautiful herbaceous border, which you grow for cut flowers."

"I will give you those that occur to me:—Achillea (The Pearl, and varieties), Aconitum bicolor (and varieties), Alstrœmerias, Anemones, Arnebia echioides, Asphodelus, Asters in variety, Astrantia major, Baptisias (several varieties), Bocconias, Bupthalmum salicifolium, Campanulas (many varieties), Catananches cœrulea and bicolor, Chelone barbata, Chrysanthemums (several varieties), Chrysogonum virginianum, Coreopsis grandiflora, Coronilla varia, Delphiniums, Dictamnus fraxinella, Doronicums, Echinops, Erigerons, Gaillardias, Gaura Lindheimeri, Grancinus argentinum (and varieties), Galega officinalis, Gillenia trifoliata, Gnaphalium Leontopodium, Helianthus Miss Mellish (and varieties), Hemerocallis flava (and varieties), Hypericums, Iris in many varieties, Libertia, Liliums in many varieties, Lychnis, Lysimachias, and so on."

The Fruit Archway at Grim's Dyke.

Proceeding from the kitchen garden, which, at the end, has a plantation of Wellingtonias, we came to the old Dyke, which is said to have run its course for more than two thousand years, and then to one of the croquet lawns, close to the west side of the house. Here, Tea Roses, including Madame Lambard, Caroline Testout, La France, Abel Carriere, Prince Arthur, Mrs. W. Grant, Mavourneen, Isabella Sprunt, and Maman Cochet are grown, and flourish. Noticing a very beautiful specimen of Tropæolum speciosum, which, Mr. Fulton mentioned, should be transplanted every two years, and grown in a perfectly shady place, with a north aspect, if possible, we arrived at the small flower garden in front of the mansion."

"Practically all the bedding of an artificial character is here," observed Mr. Fulton. "It consists, just now, of Geraniums (Henry Jacoby and Madame Crousse), the variegated Veronicas, and so on, with several beds of Calceolarias, which, however, die off."

"I much admire your fine specimens of Golden Yews on the west side of the large croquet lawn. Have they been planted many years?"

"A great many, I believe. There are fourteen specimens. We keep them clipped, and they are no larger now than they were five years ago."

"You have Rhododendrons on the south front?"

"Yes, named varieties, some twelve and others fourteen feet high. We have also under the plantation of Wellingtonias a fine collection of named Rhododendrons. When planted, some twenty years since, they were the cream of the market."

Near to a very handsome Egyptian tent (bought by Mr. Gilbert on the occasion of his visit to Egypt), at the end of the large croquet lawn, is the Rose walk, and this was planted with Delphiniums, quite seven feet high, the contrast of colours being remarkably effective. Continuing our walk, we paused again at a fine piece of artificial water, made four years ago, but looking perfectly natural, with a collection of all the best Marliac Lilies; at the tennis lawn, and the woods beyond the lake; and at an enormous plantation of Bracken Ferns, many of them six feet high.

The present season is particularly suited to their growth, being wet, and, for the most part, dull, the fronds are of a much deeper green, and taller than they generally are.

These grounds are of the most natural description, and contain many fine trees and shrubs, amongst which I noticed Wellingtonia gigantea, over fifty feet in height, also good specimens of Picea pinsapo, and Noble's glauca, Araucaria imbricata, Cedrus deodara and Libani, and the old Scotch Fir, all seeming quite at home. Of shrubs there were some very fine Azaleas (Ghent and Mollis), Kalmia angustifolia, Andromeda floribunda, Skimmia Foremani, Rhus cotinus, and many other useful and interesting plants.

In the orchard, which is of considerable extent, are some large trees of Apples, Pears, and Plums, but, unfortunately, not a fruit was to be seen. The spring played havoc with all fruit blossom in the neighbourhood.

"The varieties which generally bear well here are," Mr. Fulton said, "Blenheim Orange Pippin, Wadhurst Pippin (a splendid Apple, either for dessert or cooking, and is of good size and high colour), Cox's Orange, Bramley's Seedling, Cellini, Cockle's Pippin, Cornish Gilliflower, Court Pendu Plat, Devonshire Quarrenden, Duchess of Oldenburg, Irish Peach, King of the Pippins, Lane's Prince Albert, Red Astrachan, Ross Nonpariel, Stirling Castle, Syke House Russet, Tower of Glamis, Warner's King, Winter Hawthornden, Yorkshire Greening, and Wellington, etc. Of Plums, the best are Victoria (this year excepted, always good), Pond's Seedling, Archduke, Coe's Golden Drop, Kirke's, Prince Englebert, and Monarch."

When we reached the pretty lodge at the entrance gates, where Mr. Fulton resides, I asked him to tell me a few details about his own career.

"My experience has extended to several parts of the United Kingdom," he replied. "I commenced in County Meath, at Balrath Barry, Kells, and from there I went to Dalkeith Palace, under Mr. Dunn. At the end of two and a-half years I came south to Breakspear House, Middlesex. Then I went back to Ireland."

"What part of Ireland?"

"County Cork. I was foreman for fourteen months at Bessborough Court. My next post was in England, as foreman at Swinton Park, Yorkshire. But, at the end of twelve months, I returned to Ireland, and was general foreman for three years and a-half at St. Ann's, Lord Ardilaun's place, near Dublin."

"And then here?"

"No; I was head gardener for three years at Glenstal Castle, Limerick, before I came here. Glenstal is the seat of Sir Charles Barrington, and the park and gardens are well known. There is a picturesque lake, and much ornamental planting, the avenue containing fine Oaks, Thorns, and magnificent thickets of Rhododendrons."

POT ROSE, "THE BRIDE."

"You must have been foreman at a very early age?"

"Yes; I was only 23 when I had my first place as foreman."

"One more question. Is Mr. or Mrs. Gilbert partial to any particular flower?"

"Mr. Gilbert is most interested in the fruit, and Mrs. Gilbert in the herbaceous plants, and in the Carnations, Roses, and plants grown under glass."

ALFRED WILCOX.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 56.—POT-ROSES.

DEAR KATE,—Why is it that so few amateur gardeners grow pot Roses? I am sure nothing can be more charming than they are, whether in the conservatory in early spring, or later on, when in their second bloom, either in the garden, on the balcony, or in the drawing-room; and we are scarcely ever without a few Roses throughout the winter, even, as those which naturally bloom late continue to do so under glass at that time, and the early-flowering Roses (such as Paul's Early Blush) are easily brought on to blossom in February. Of course you can, if you wish, procure good pot Roses from the horticulturists who make a speciality of growing them, all ready for forcing, in the winter; but this is a lazy and expensive way of going on, unless you only want a few—when you should choose The Bride (white), La France, General Jacqueminot, etc.—and we find that we can supply ourselves with plenty of plants, after we have a few of the best varieties from which to take cuttings year by year; for I have an idea that Nature, after all, knows best, and that there is nothing quite so good as a plant's own roots for its welfare. It is easy to see that by means of budding a new and valuable variety can be propagated much more quickly than by means of cuttings (for each cutting could be made into, perhaps, a dozen "eyes"), but I find that my Roses on their own roots are far more robust than on Manetti or any other stock, and I much prefer them in this way. Her Majesty, for instance, which I bought on the Manetti stock, was a poor, melancholy Rose, always struggling for life against the strong suckers thrown up around it by the Brier-roots, but the cuttings from it have turned out splendidly, and every spring we have fine flowers on these pot-plants in the conservatory. We put in the cuttings (which should be of the current year's wood, of medium size) in September or October, in the kitchen garden, covering them with a hand-glass. Each cutting (or, still better, slip, with a slight heel) is about nine inches long, and all the leaves, except the top ones, are neatly stripped off with a pair of scissors. We then make a hole in the soil (which should be firm, not freshly dug) with a stout skewer from the kitchen, about six or seven inches deep, and into this hole we sprinkle a pinch of powdered charcoal or silver sand. The cutting is then carefully lowered into the hole (without bending or bruising it) till it rests firmly at the bottom; it is then made very firm, after which, when covered with the hand-glass, it may be left alone (except to remove any fading leaves) till March. A good soaking of water will then be good for them, followed by a mulch, three inches deep, of leaf-mould, rich loam, and a little soot; the glass must not be removed until June (for many a cutting which has done well through the winter may droop and die from the effects of a drought, or a bitterly cold wind, in May), and the soil should be soaked once a week in dry weather, using a water-spear to reach the bottom of the cuttings, whose tiny roots are struggling to grow. Such plants, well cared for, often grow two feet high before the autumn, but they are not potted up till the twelve months since they were put in is over. We do not force them the first year, but they stand all the winter in a cold frame, and they bring plenty of blossoms naturally in June. After blooming, they are shifted on (without interfering with their roots much) into pots two inches broader than the last, and then placed out in the full sunshine to ripen their wood. There they stay until the end of the year, when they are brought into a cool greenhouse, and as soon as they show signs of fresh growth we prune them, cutting away all the weak, twiggy wood, and shortening the stouter growths to about four "eyes," with a dormant "eye" on the outer bark at the top. Perhaps this is a puzzling way to put it; I mean that you must cut down to a point where the eye (or place where a shoot will form) has not yet started, and that this dormant "eye" should (for the sake of the shape of the Rose bush) not grow into the middle of it, but to the outside.

Then we top-dress the soil in the pots with a little rich stuff, taking away, before doing so, an inch of the surface soil, but not interfering with any roots, after which the plants are placed at the coolest end of a Vinery, close to the glass, with plenty of air daily from the top ventilators, and they are syringed with tepid water every day, with the Vines. They must not have too much water at their roots until they have made

THE GARDENS OF LORD FOLEY, AT RUXLEY LODGE, CLAYGATE.

Interview with Mr. H. C. Gardner.

COMPARATIVELY few people realise how rapidly the pretty village of Claygate is losing its original character, and becoming an outer suburb of the metropolis. But Ruxley Lodge, the Surrey seat of Lord Foley, still retains its appearance of isolation, and is quite unspoilt in the beauty of its surroundings, though it is less than two miles from Claygate station. Visiting the gardens, by the courtesy of Lord Foley, on a dull wintry morning, I was none the less impressed with their attractive features, which Mr. H. C. Gardner, who is in charge of them, pointed out to me as we made our way on to the terrace in front of the mansion. Here clipped English and Irish Yews and Yuccas help to render the scheme of bedding effective.

"The prevailing colour of the summer bedding," said Mr. Gardner, "is red, and Geraniums are largely used. Paul Crampel is greatly in evidence in the central beds, and other varieties are H. Jacoby, Lady Salisbury, and Harry Hieover. There are two beds filled with Flower of Spring. In the mixed beds, Cannas, Fuchsias (Mrs. Rundle), and Heliotropes (Lord Roberts) are dotted, the outside beds being composed of four varieties of Antirrhinums. The beds adjacent to the sundial, nearly a score in number, but quite small, with Box edgings, are filled entirely by Geraniums, Maid of Kent, a free-flowering variety of a pretty salmon shade."

"And the spring bedding?"

"Wallflowers in variety—Harbinger, Belvoir Castle, and Blood-red—and Myosotis, a dark blue seedling of my own. Underneath the verandah of the mansion I grow a quantity of Crocuses."

Clivias in the Conservatory.

"The conservatory is a very fine building, and, bearing in mind the season of the year, looks extremely bright. I notice a number of Clivias planted out right along one of the borders."

"I planted them out three years ago, and they give a quantity of blooms quite early in the spring. There are only two varieties, miniatum and one of its hybrids. There are also planted out Streptosolen Jamesonii, Abutilon striata, Sparmannia, Eucalyptus, and Plumbago capensis."

"I see that Plumbagos are still flowering luxuriantly."

"Yes, they have been in flower for three months. One plant measures fifteen feet in height and the same in breadth, and is still quite a sheet of blue. The Plumbagos were planted about eight years ago, and have done well from the outset. Then there is Acacia dealbata, and, of course, the Palms, some of which are planted out. They include Kentias, Seaforthia, Latanias, and Raphis Flabellianum. The specimen Tree Ferns include Dicksonia antarctica and Cyathea dealbata, and the planted-out Fuchsias include our original plants of Mrs. Rundle, and Goliath. There are also four varieties of Geranium, Nicholls, Hall Caine, Raspail, and Mary Pelton."

Bird of Paradise.

"You have not mentioned the beautiful flowers in pots."

"The Strelitza Regina, the Bird of Paradise flower. There are seven spikes of flower on one plant, and six on another."

RUXLEY—THE ENTRANCE.

"The Oranges are fruiting, and the Bananas seem to flourish exceedingly."

"The Bananas grow too rapidly, and encroach rather unduly on the space, but at the same time they look handsome for such a large and lofty building. There are four big plants, and ten smaller ones, the varieties being Musa Ensete and japonica. The latter variety we expect to fruit."

Resuming our inspection outside, I asked the height of the Magnolia grandiflora on the mansion.

"Thirty feet. Other climbers are Clematis, Bignonia radicans (which has flowered), Banksian Roses, and white Camellias. Close to the mansion is a tea garden, with Ivy on the arches, and further on some large clumps of Pampas Grass, with a fine specimen of Taxodium distichum. The standard Roses in this vicinity include Mrs. John Laing, Duke of Edinburgh, La France, Victor Hugo, Hon. E. Gifford, and Marie Baumann."

"There are more Roses in the little Dutch garden?"

"Both Roses and Honeysuckles are used as pillar plants in the Dutch garden, but the beds are always filled with one variety. Last summer we filled them with Calceolaria amplexicaulis, which is still flowering."

"There are several trees on the lawns which ought to be noted, the Wellingtonia gigantea for example, for its splendid erectness. Can you tell me its dimensions?"

"It is ninety feet high and eighteen inches in diameter at a yard from the ground. Abies pinsapo, Juniperus, and Araucarias are well represented, and there are good specimens of Hollies, with a wealth of red berries."

A Noble Chestnut Tree.

"The Chestnut tree, which overshadows the Wellingtonia, is remarkably fine, and claims precedence of all."

"It is considered a wonderful specimen, the spread being eighty-one feet long, and seventy-five feet wide. Rooting on its own stock, the branches are now large trees, forming almost a plantation."

"When was the big bed of Yuccas planted on the slope of the lawn?"

"Quite ten years ago. The varieties are gloriosa and recurvifolia. All the attention I give is to clean them, and keep the bed tidy. In the Rose beds opposite are Caroline Testout, Mrs. John Laing, Duke of Edinburgh, and Fellenberg. Then, there is a bed of Senecio Clivorum, with Lavender, Foxgloves, and Berberis stenophylla."

"What about Azaleas and Rhododendrons?"

"Both do well. The Rhododendrons include many of the best old varieties, but they are chiefly hybrids. I put nothing in the soil. They evidently find it congenial without the addition of peat."

"Have you anything special in the herbaceous border under the terrace wall?"

"A big collection of Asters. The named varieties are mainly Mrs. Wright and Milleri. The others are selected seedlings, and we get a good supply of flowers from them. Just now we are adding sand and leaf-mould to the border, with the view of making the soil lighter and easier to work."

The Supersession of Malmaisons.

Pausing at times to note specimens of Cupressus Lawsoniana, Cedar of Lebanon and deodara, Abies Douglassi glauca, and a wide avenue of Chestnuts, we next made our way to the kitchen gardens.

The first of these, which contains an extensive range of glasshouses, is enclosed, and is very tastefully laid out. Beginning with the glass, we turned our attention to the Carnations, and I enquired whether Trees now superseded Malmaisons.

"Practically, they have," replied Mr. Gardner. "We used to have Malmaisons in May and June, a season when flowers are plentiful, but now we only grow a couple of dozen. This is, in effect, a house of Trees. The favourites are Britannia, which will flower till we plant it out in May, and even then it gives a lot of flowers during the summer and autumn; Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild, which we grow for flowering in the early winter (and I find that by removing the centre buds we get a nice spray of four or five flowers); Lady Bountiful, Mrs. H. Burnett, Harlowarden, President Roosevelt, and Duchess of Portland. A few Freesias are grown in this house. Taking the houses in order, the next is devoted to Figs, and we get a good second crop of Brown Turkey."

"And your Vineries?"

"One is primarily a Muscat house, though

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it also contains an Alicante. The Hamburgh house speaks for itself. It is now filled up with single Chrysanthemums, principally Ladysmith, White Ladysmith, Source d'Or, Moneymaker, Lizzie Adcock, Roupell Beauty, Kitty Bourne, Fair Rosamond, and Eureka. The next house is devoted to Peas, followed by Tomatoes."

"When do yo sow the Peas?"

"In January, and stake them in the beds. We gather the latter part of May. The house is quite cool. The varieties are Early Giant, Gradus, and Chelsea Gem. The experiment of running a house for Peas has been very encouraging. As to the Tomatoes, the six varieties are Golden Perfection, Sutton's Perfection and Sunbeam, Winter Beauty, Duke of York, and Carters' Sunrise. Here are the late Chrysanthemums, golden and yellow shades predominating. One of the best is Nagoya, a very rich golden variety, and Princess Victoria is a fine white for flowering early in the New Year. Another favourite is Madame Oberthur."

"You have a Rose house?"

"Yes; with Figs on the wall. The Roses are Gloire de Dijon, Niphetos, and Climbing Mrs. Grant, which gives us baskets of bloom at Easter. There are two more Vineries."

"I observe that there are inside and outside borders."

"An advantage with respect to space. Our Grape season is not very long, from July until March. In one house Lady Downe and Black Alicante are the Grapes, and in the other Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling."

A Promising New Chrysanthemum.

"You are strong here again on yellow Chrysanthemums."

"One of the best of these is Countess of Granard. It promises to surpass the Hon. Mrs. Lopes, of which we have forty plants. We prefer a large number of a few of the best varieties rather than a small number of many. Reginald Vallis is largely represented; also J. W. Molyneux, Mrs. R. H. B. Marsham, Purity, Lady Talbot, Henry Poulter (deep crimson), and F. S. Vallis."

"What varieties do you grow in the Cucumber house?"

"Every Day, Delicacy, Improved Telegraph, and Carters' Model. The next house is full of Orchids, chiefly Cypripedium insigne, some in flower, and Begonia Gloire de Lorraine and Turnford Hall. From one variety of Melons, The Peer, a seedling (from a cross between Best of All and Hero of Lockinge), we have had a second crop. The other varieties are Ringleader and Triumph. In the Peach case are Dr. Hogg and Lord Napier, and in the house with Tomatoes more Chrysanthemums, including D. B. Crane, Mrs. A. T. Miller, Algernon Davis, and Mrs. G. Mileham."

"You are just planting the orchard house?"

"In pots, and training the plants to the roofs. They are all Cherries and Plums for dessert purposes. This house is fifty feet long, and we depend upon it for a large supply of fruit. Most of the best Chrysanthemums are in flower here."

"You must have a large number?"

"Between three and four hundred, several in 7-in. pots. My aim is to represent a number of colours adequately. But it is essential to start with a good yellow. We use clinkers on the floor of this house to draw the water off, and find that they answer the purpose admirably."

"You have more Chrysanthemums outside the houses, yielding a quantity of flowers?"

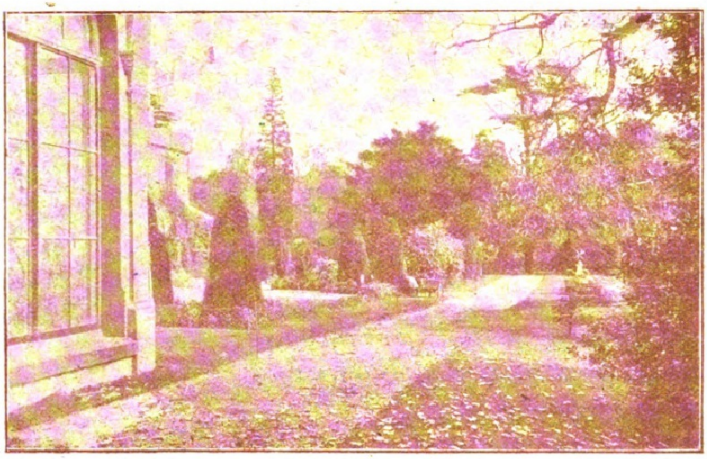
"Many of them, notably Carrie, have been in flower since July. Then there are Horace Martin, Marie Masse, Desgrange, Rosy, Polly, Lily M. Hope, and best of all, Ambrose Thomas."

"Of which, I see, you have still a glorious display."

"It is also a glorious variety, which has not a bad point, and always flowers profusely late in the season. I strongly recommend it. With respect to other outside flowers, the walk in the centre might be mentioned. There is a fountain half way down, with Crimson Rambler Roses round it, a few Roses in the border, Violas on one side of the fountain, and annuals and Dahlias on the other. The Dahlias are chiefly the Cactus section, West Hall Scarlet being conspicuous. There are also herbaceous plants in variety, with Chrysanthemums maximum King Edward VII."

"Then there is the hardy fruit?"

"Pears and Plums are grown on espaliers, and Apples on espaliers and upright cordons. The upright cordons were planted five years ago, twelve varieties being selected, and the result has been very satisfactory."



THE TERRACE, RUXLEY.

Quarters of Bush Fruit.

"You appear to devote a good deal of attention to bush fruit?"

"We have large quarters of Red Currants and Gooseberries. The former are the Comet and the Old Red. Gooseberries include Whinham's Industry, which we grow for both dessert and cooking purposes, and other varieties are Highlander (a great favourite), The Pilot, Alma, and Green Walnut. The Raspberry quarter is rather a feature. It is an advantage, I find, to plant further apart than is usually the case. Raspberries should never be allowed to make too much wood, or to get too strong. We have only one variety, Superlative. Birds trouble us very much, and all fruit has to be netted."

"What varieties do well on your Peach wall?"

"Two years ago I transplanted Princess of Wales, Gladstone, Walburton Admiral, Barrington, Bellegarde, and Waterloo, adding a new border, which was thoroughly drained. The trees have made nice growth, and yielded fair crops."

Early Strawberries.

"I see you grow Strawberries on a border near the Peach wall?"

"Speaking of Strawberries, I had a bed this season on which I put lights in the spring, with the result that I was able to pick fruit a fortnight earlier than I could get it outside. The lights were put on at the beginning of April, and kept on until the Strawberries began to ripen. Our mainstay is Royal Sovereign, which I grew in this way, and I am also trying Louis Gautier under the same conditions. Other varieties outside are Royal Sovereign, Louis Gautier, Waterloo, and Givon's Late Prolific. Vegetables are chiefly grown in the other kitchen garden, but Celery and Lettuces do well here. Celery is grown in large quantities, in four varieties, Superb Pink, Sulham Prize, Giant White, and Solid White."

The Birthplace of Claygate Pearmain.

Entering the other kitchen garden, to which an orchard and frame grounds are attached, the fruit first attracted my attention, Apples, Pears, and Plums all being grown extensively in various forms. Turning aside for a moment, we spent a little time in the orchard, which covers seven acres. I asked when it was planted.

"About twenty years ago, all standards, and no crops underneath. We get some very good fruit from these trees, and I attribute the fact, partly at any rate, to the care taken of them. We put grease-bands round each tree, and spray them well, both in winter and summer."

"Of course, there are many varieties, including Claygate Pearmain?"

"Yes; this orchard is where we grow the Claygate Pearmain, and from these trees we took the fruit which recently won a prize for it, at the Royal Horticultural Show. Blenheim Orange does well in this orchard, and also Ribston Pippin. Other useful varieties are Sandringham, Withington Fillbasket, Wellington, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Keswick Codlin. In what we call the lower orchard, where the soil is heavier, some of the same varieties are grown, and also Lane's Prince Albert, King of the Pippins, and Yorkshire Beauty. Here there are pyramids as well as standards, and a number of Plums and Damsons, the former including Gisborne, a good yellow variety, Victoria, and Greengage. As to fruit in the other part of the kitchen garden, Loganberries and Black Currants do well. I have just transferred the trees of the latter to their present position. Morello Cherries flourish on the stable wall."

Peas for Six Months.

"You might indicate a few of the principal vegetables of which you have very large breadths."

"Peas usually do well, and in 1910 the season lasted from the second week in June until late in November. During the whole of that period we gathered almost daily. Of course, the first month there is a great run on Peas, afterwards fewer are required. The main crop of Potatoes is grown in the field, but here we have The Colleen, May Queen, and Up-to-Date. The Colleen is a very good variety of medium size, with nine or ten Potatoes to the roots. From an Asparagus bed, twenty to thirty years old, we get very good cuttings. In future I am going to grow

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THE GARDENS AT BATSFORD PARK, MORETON-IN-MARSH.

IF only because the gardens at Batsford were largely designed by one of the most distinguished of horticulturists and the greatest living authority on the cultivation of Bamboos, they would be of exceptional interest. But their intrinsic attractions are manifold. The stately mansion, erected under the auspices of Lord Redesdale, in 1889, stands six hundred and eighty feet above sea level, and commands a splendid view of the surrounding country, including the Warwickshire hills, ten miles away; while as to the pleasure grounds, they are two hundred feet higher still. Batsford has been occupied for the last two years by Mr. Granville Farquhar, and the gardens have, since his tenancy, been in charge of Mr. James Gardner, who showed me round on the occasion of my visit just before Easter. Both Mr. and Mrs. Farquhar take a great delight in the gardens.

"There is very little bedding at Batsford," said Mr. Gardner, as we first made our way to the terrace.

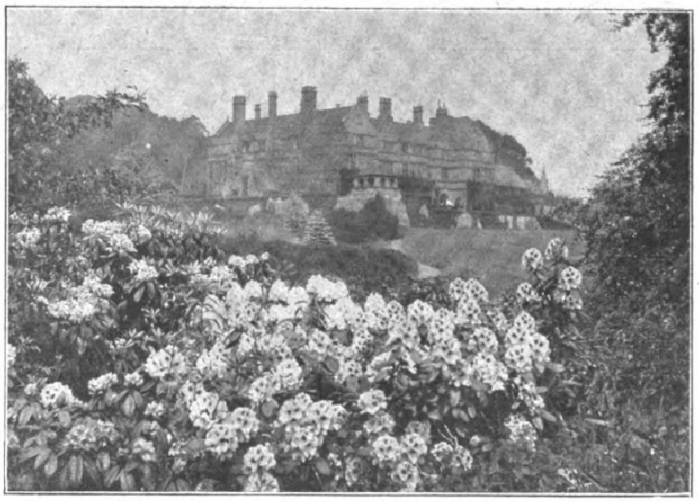
"Practically it is limited to the border in front of the mansion, now full of Wallflowers and Myosotis; while in summer it is planted with Heliotropes, both chosen for their fragrance. On the mansion, the only climbers are Cratægus pyracantha, Pyrus japonica Simonii, Magnolia grandiflora, Clematis Jackmanni, Chimonanthus fragrans, Vitis quinquefolia, and Roses in variety. Beyond the border is more grass, and on the west side of the house we have just put in a number of standard Roses. The tennis-courts are close to the mansion, but the whole of the pleasure grounds are on the ascent behind it."

Flowering and Foliage Shrubs.

"And," I enquired, as we commenced the ascent, "trees with flowering and foliage shrubs are leading features?"

"Very distinctly so. Beginning with some of the latter, Acers are strongly represented by japonicum laciniatum, A. palmatum ampelopsifolium, A. dissectum, A. sanguineum, A. septemlobum elegans, and A. atropurpureum. We have quite two dozen varieties. Buddleia variabilis magnifica is another favourite, and you will note a fine specimen of Catalpa bignoides. For massing purposes, Cytisus is largely used, the varieties being C. scoparius, C. præcox, and C. kewensis, the last on the rockery. There is a vigorous specimen of Davidia involucrata, and shapely trees of Gingko biloba are scattered about. The Sea Buckthorn, Hippophæ rhamnoides, fruits splendidly, and there are many fine specimens. In the autumn the colour effects of several specimens of Liquidambar styraciflua is striking, and Rhus cotinoides and glabra also colour beautifully at the same period of the year. Mention should be made of Hamamelis mollis; Hibiscus syriacus in variety; Kolreuteria paniculata; Prunus pissardi and triloba; Ribes aureum and sanguineum; Nuttallia cerasiformis; Robinia hispida, which flowers profusely; Viburnum opulus, plicatum, and lantana; and Spiræas arguta, confusa, Thunbergii, and Lindleyana. There are several beds of Rubus odoratus and Weigelia rosea. But, of course, at this season, in respect to many, you can only imagine the effect produced.

MR. J. GARDNER.



THE HOUSE—BATSFORD PARK.

"The same," continued Mr. Gardner, "applies to many of the best Conifers. For the stream side, masses of Juniperus are very useful. The varieties of Pinus include excelsa, strobus, and sylvestris nana, and there is a fine specimen of P. cembra. Retinospora filifera and squarrosa do well; there are several handsome trees of Sequoia gigantea, and Thuja orientalis aurea. I name these as they occur to me, because it is impossible for you to see anything like all the occupants of forty acres."

"You have a magnificent show of Ericas."

"There are two acres of E. carnea alone, and several other varieties, including E. mediterranea, vagans, and stricta. We do nothing to the carnea save clipping some of the old plants after they have flowered, and keep them clean. The contrast of the purple to the gold of the Daffodils is worth obtaining."

"You must naturalise many thousands of Daffodils?"

"Yes, they are massed more or less all over the pleasure grounds, and often with Anemone appennina and Scillas."

The Sisters' Pool.

"Do you call the water, guarded by a strange looking animal, by any name?"

"It is called the Sisters' Pool. The animal represented came from Japan, and is a sacred Chinese dog, whose forepaws rest on an inlaid porcelain globe, which is said to have stood out of doors for twelve hundred years, without the brilliance of its colours being subdued. The pool is full of named Lilies, and in the background are clumps of Arundinaria japonica. Numerous large boulders of rock have been embedded in the banks of the stream in various places, giving it a distinctly ornamental and artistic appearance; while here and there vigorous clumps of Spiræa palmata, S. aruncus, Saxifraga peltata, Rodgersia podophylla, and Gunnera manicata luxuriate near the water's edge, and create a fine effect during the summer months. In several parts of the stream the miniature cascades over the rocks form a unique and attractive feature. We are now approaching the Bamboo quarters."

"How many varieties are represented?"

"Almost all the varieties in cultivation are grown, but I cannot tell you the exact number. Perhaps the most interesting way of treating them will be to mention a few general favourites. For example, Arundinaria nitida is very popular; it grows twelve feet high, though its graceful drooping gives it an appearance of delicacy which it is far from possessing. Anceps is a splendid variety, growing fourteen feet high, very hardy, with leaves long and narrow in dense clusters. Aristata, ten feet high, is very handsome; while auricoma, though only two and a half feet high, is beautiful because of its golden foliage. Nobilis does not belie its name; it is truly a noble Bamboo. Another handsome one is spathiflora, fourteen feet high; it resembles nitida, with leaves in dense clusters. Angustifolia has long, narrow, dark green leaves, and grows to a height of eight feet. A very distinct variety is Bambusa Marmorea, with leaves clustered round the canes. The dwarf Bamboo pygmea spreads rapidly, and palmata has very handsome, large leaves. Quadrangularis, twelve feet high, with square canes, is also handsome. Then there is Phyllostachys aurea, ten feet high, a vigorous grower, and good for massing in beds. Boryana, twelve feet high, is vigorous and elegant, with yellow canes and purple blotches. Castillonis, twelve feet high, has smooth, golden canes, with green stripes, and is very graceful. Marliacea, fifteen feet high, is a very handsome, hardy variety; and more

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hardy still is nigra, with black stems, growing fourteen feet high. Perhaps one of the tallest of Bamboos is Quilioi, twenty feet high, a magnificent variety of rapid growth. For brilliant green foliage, with handsome gold stem, sulphurea, also twenty feet high, may be specially commended. Violascens, fifteen feet high, is handsome and distinct. Viridi-glaucescens, eighteen feet high, is very hardy, elegant, and graceful, with beautiful green foliage. Lastly, there is fastuosa, eighteen feet high, an erect variety of sturdy growth."

"Do the Bamboos require much treatment?"

"No; owing to the fact that they have been so long established, they require little attention, but for a few years after they are planted, they usually need a good dressing of manure in the spring. Of course, we cut out the old canes from time to time. There is no doubt that the rich, heavy loam of the plateau suits Bamboos, and that the screen, provided by tall trees, from the cutting winds which often spoil their foliage, is a great protection."

"I notice that you have a number of Palms growing in the open."

"Quite a dozen of Chamærops Fortunei have been out for twenty years, but all fairly sheltered. We give them a top-dressing of manure every spring.

"What is the length of your curved Rose pergola?"

"Eighty yards. It is furnished with such Roses as Dorothy Perkins, Queen Alexandra, and Blush Rambler; Clematis montana rubens; Vitis Henryana; and Aristolochia sipho. Adjacent to the pergola, you observe Vitis Coignetæ growing over the forest trees; and two notable specimens of Eucalyptus, about forty feet high, thriving in the open."

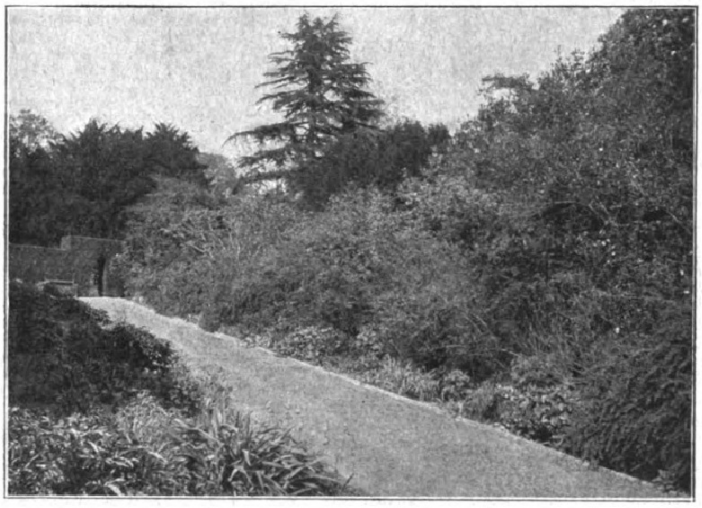
The Japanese Rest-house.

"How do you describe the quaint-looking building with carved granite elephants on either side of the door?"

"That is a Japanese rest-house, which Lord Redesdale had constructed exactly like those in Japan. He also brought the elephants and the beautiful bronze lanterns at either side of the verandah. Each lantern is seven feet high, and has bells hanging round the upper portion, and just outside there is a peregrine falcon poised ready for flight. On the right is a huge bronze Buddha, two thousand years old, squatting under the shade of an ancient Oak, with two deers in attendance. In various parts of the pleasure grounds there are large beds of Roses, which make a lovely display in the summer."

We were now quickly descending the slopes, and passing on our way an Oak tree planted by King Edward VII. on July 9th, 1905, with a lovely show of Forsythia suspensa against a background of Pinus montana, we next inspected the rockery. It is located in a most appropriate place, and was built of the sandstone in which Alpine plants always flourish. I asked for the names of some of the most important varieties.

"Ramondia pyrenaica, Aubrietias Dr. Mules, Fire King, and Moerheimii; Lithospermum prostratum, Meconopsis Wallichii and integrifolia, Viola gracilis, Romneya Coulteri, Zauschneria californica, Primula denticulata, and Phlox procumbens and Laphami. To these might be added Gentiana acaulis and verna; Rubus arcticus, which is growing splendidly; good varieties of Helianthus, and Saxifrages in variety Daphne Blagayana and cneorum are represented by good clumps, which flower splendidly. The rock garden is close to the range of houses, but before we enter those, you might like to inspect another important feature, known as 'Her Ladyship's Walk.' In this walk are extremely fine specimens of Aralia chinensis. Other contents of the walk including Hydrangea paniculata, Olearia Haastii, Phillyrea angustifolia, P. latifolia, Tree Pæonies, herbaceous Pæonies, Delphiniums, and Helleborus orientalis. There are altogether six hundred yards of herbaceous borders four yards wide."



HER LADYSHIP'S WALK, BATSFORD PARK GARDENS.

THE JAPANESE REST HOUSE, BATSFORD PARK GARDENS.

The Glasshouses.

"Your glasshouses are all on the slope?"

"Yes, like the whole of the kitchen garden; and both houses and garden have a south or south-east aspect. Taking the fruit houses first, the early Peaches grown in pots are Royal George, Bellegarde, Lord Napier, and Early Rivers' Nectarine; while in the borders are Hale's Early and Stirling Castle Peaches. In the other Peach houses the varieties are Abec and Bellegarde Peaches, and Pitmaston Orange, Elruge, and Lord Napier Nectarines. The crops are very promising, but a good deal of thinning will have to be done."

"When do you start your Grapes?"

"In the early Vinery in January, but we do not force very hard. We begin to cut Black Hamburgh and Madresfield Court at the end of June, and follow on with the same varieties in the mid-season house. Late varieties, like Lady Downe's and Black Alicante, are also grown. We do not grow anything on the back walls of our Vineries, and I am quite sure it is better to keep them clear—at any rate, the Vines here thrive. Last year our bunches averaged three pounds each, each Vine producing about twelve bunches. Muscat of Alexandria is the only white Grape grown, and it does remarkably well. We also get very good crops of Figs. Last year we had three crops in this house, but that was exceptional, and due, no doubt, to the heat of the summer. The varieties are Brown Turkey and White Marseilles. We grow five hundred Royal Sovereign Strawberries in pots for early forcing, and have ripe fruit at Easter. Then there are Pears in pots. The variety is Langley Gem, and we get them at the end of April. Our Melon season lasts from May to the end of October. The varieties are The Peer, Blenheim Orange, and Sutton's Superlative. The last is the favourite, and ripens at the end of May."

Tree Carnations Outside.

"How many Tree Carnations do you grow?" I enquired of Mr. Gardner, as we entered the house.

"About six hundred, and two dozen varieties. I find Britannia, May Day, Enchantress, Winsor, and White Perfection, the most useful. The best Malmaisons are Duchess of Westminster and Princess of Wales. The principal Orchids are Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Calanthes,

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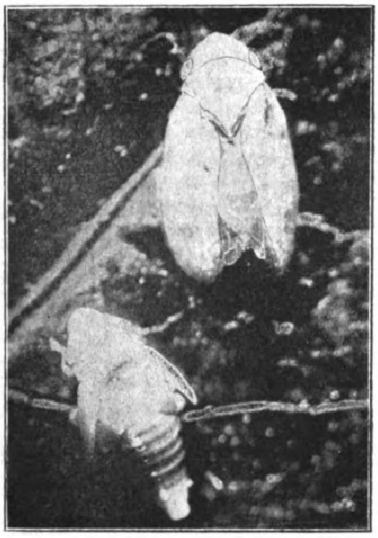
and Cypripediums; and other flowering plants, in different seasons, include Arum Lilies, a good batch of Schizanthus, Cineraria stellata, Amaryllis, Clivias, Azalea mollis, A. indica, —Hydrangeas, Celsia cretica, Jacobinia chrysostephana, Poinsettias, Clerodendron fallax, and winter-flowering Begonias."

"When do the Celsias flower?"

"At the end of April. It is a pretty yellow flower, and I have grown it with success for three seasons. The seed is sown in July, and only cool greenhouse treatment is subsequently required. About six hundred Chrysanthemums are grown, of which one hundred only are big blooms. The rest are Singles and Decorative varieties. Before we leave the subject of flowers, I may say that we plant out annually several hundred Tree Carnations. They are the plants which have flowered during the winter in the houses, and they continue to bloom in the open from the end of May until November. For this work Britannia, Mrs. H.



FROG-HOPPERS (magnified).

Burnett, White Perfection, Harlowarden, May Day, and Enchantress are excellent varieties. About seven hundred Border Carnations are wintered in pots, and planted out early in April."

"Do you force many vegetables?"

"We grow a good many vegetables in pits, Cucumbers and Marrows, for instance. The latter we have ready in April, and find them very useful. Asparagus, French Beans, Seakale, and Potatoes are also forced. The varieties of Potatoes are Sharpe's Victor and May Queen."

"You seem to make your kitchen garden as beautiful as you can, with its fine ornamental pond in the centre, its varied flower borders, and its well clothed fruit walls?"

"I am a strong believer in making kitchen gardens as beautiful as possible, and I do not see why beauty should not be combined with utility. Our flower beds are chiefly planted with annuals and hardy perennials. Tulips and Narcissus brighten the borders in the spring. With regard to hardy fruit, Plums do remarkably well on walls facing east and north-west. Morello Cherries do well on a north wall, and a west wall is occupied with Sweet Cherries and Pears. Apricots and Peaches both do well on the walls. We grow Egg-plants out of doors with success. The variety, Long Purple, is raised under glass, and planted against a south wall early in June. American Sweet Corn is also grown in the open."

"What about Apples and Pears on standards?"

"Our best Apples, I think, are Cox's Orange Pippin, Court Pendu Plat, Worcester Pearmain, Bramley's Seedling, Lane's Prince Albert and Newton Wonder; the best Pears, Conference, Doyenne du Comice, Marie Louise, Pitmaston Duchess, and Louise Bonne of Jersey. Strawberries flourish in the heavy soil, especially British Queen, Fillbasket, Bedfordshire Champion, and Givon's Late Prolific. A number of Gooseberries for dessert purposes are grown in the open, and in a north border."

Leading Vegetables.

"Have you anything special to say with respect to vegetables?"

"Canadian Wonder is a favourite French Bean for outdoor crops. We sow it on a south border early in May. The Runner Beans grown are Hackwood Park and Prizewinner. Broad Beans, raised under glass for early crops, are Beck's Dwarf Gem and Veitch's Improved Longpod. For the main crops of Peas, we use Centenary, Masterpiece, and Duke of Albany; for late crop, Autocrat and Gladstone. Cauliflowers are raised in heat, and planted on a warm border during April. The Pearl is our earliest variety, and we also use Early Giant and Walcheren. Michaelmas White Broccoli is grown for late autumn use, and the variety Snow's Winter White and Maincrop follow this. Our favourite Tomatoes are Frogmore Selected and Lister's Prolific; and Magnum Bonum does well out of doors. About two thousand heads of Celery are grown, Aldenham Pink and Standard Bearer being the best varieties. Of Onions, I prefer Ailsa Craig, Sutton's A1, and James's Keeping, while Giant Rocca is used for autumn sowing. For our main crop of Potatoes, we use Up-to-Date, Factor, and King Edward VII. The whole of the kitchen garden is bastard-trenched in the winter; it well repays for deep cultivation. There are five acres devoted to vegetable culture."

"I believe you have been in charge of Batsford gardens for a couple of years?"

"Yes; since Mr. Farquhar became the tenant. This is my first experience as head gardener. I started at Elsham Hall, Lincolnshire, and was next for some time at Aldenham House, Elstree, proceeding subsequently to Eaton Hall gardens, Chester, and Eastnor Castle gardens, Ledbury." ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week, the gardens of Colonel John Biddulph, at Grey Court, Ham, will be described.

GARDEN FRIENDS AND GARDEN FOES.

(Continued from page 64.)

APHIDES swarm in gardens during the summer months to the tune of millions. No pest of the flower-bed is so prolific, and few are so remarkable in their career. The "green-fly" displays no partiality to any particular plant; but when once she takes possession, her despotic rule is fearfully destructive to the growing shoots.

Eggs are deposited generously below the soil in the autumn, and these remain dormant until the following spring. Then, insects—wingless females—emerge, and produce living members of their kind, without the intermediary of the egg-shell. These, again, produce living insects, and so the multiplication goes on to the ninth or tenth generation. Eventually, as the autumn approaches, winged males and females appear, and eggs are deposited to await the balmy days of spring.

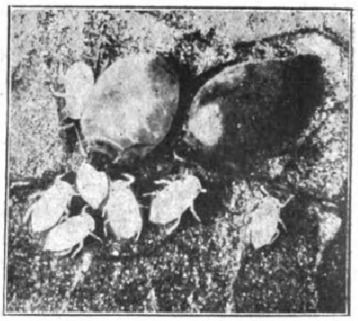
The enormous rate at which these insects are multiplied makes them pests of a very undesirable type. The ants do not improve matters; for these busy-bodies are said actually to carry the aphides to rich, succulent plants, to enable the "flies" to suck the juice. Then the ants "milk" the aphides of their liquid "honey."

Earwigs and Woodlice.

These parasites have each their own "field." Earwigs are well-known warriors with the beautifully-tinted petals of the Chrysanthemum, Carnation, and Dahlia. Moreover, they plunder by stealth. Stalking forth under cover of night, they mutilate the new flowers into most unshapely forms, and attack young shoots, inflicting irreparable injury.

Earwigs are exceedingly ravenous with a suitable host; and a keen eye should be kept on the appearance of their eggs. Where the eggs are discovered, the insect will be near at hand.

Woodlice prefer a warm, comfortable hiding place under dead leaves, or within the refuge of a decayed tree trunk. They crowd together in large colonies, and sally forth among young roots and slender branches of plants, doing dire mischief in a brief period. Neither earwigs nor woodlice are difficult to capture; and



A FAMILY OF PLANT LICE.

no efforts should be spared to keep them clear from beds of young plants.

Jumpers and Crawlers.

Frog-hoppers, slugs, and snails have their own peculiar methods of attack. Frog-hoppers shelter themselves in a white, frothy mass, commonly called "cuckoo spit." The mites within suck this juice from the plant, and operate generally on young and tender shoots.

Slugs and snails are much more destructive, and will not hesitate to carve into any succulent plant which can be rasped by their rough tongues. The common and garden snails, and the grey field slug, are especially ravenous in their attacks on vegetables. We can estimate what this means when we call to mind that the tongue of the garden snail bears on its surface thirteen thousand five hundred teeth.

J. H. CRABTREE.

(To be concluded.)

WATERCRESS.

THIS wholesome and delicious salading can be grown by anyone possessed of a garden of rather heavy soil. The seed should be sown in a trench, six inches deep, six inches broad, in semi-shade, and if this is flooded with water, poured on during dry times, there will be no lack of fresh green growth.

After the Cress is growing well, the soil should be pressed firmly around it by the fingers, then the water will linger, not run off too fast.

Excellent supplies can also be grown in wire baskets partly sunk in a rainwater tub, and lined with stiff clay first to prevent the lighter compost from being washed out.

R. CROFT.

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THE GARDENS AT HECKFIELD PLACE, WINCHFIELD.

Interview with Mr. Joseph Gardner.

THE historic seat which has been for many years in the possession of Colonel Horace Walpole is on the borders of Hampshire, quite five miles from Winchfield. The pretty little village of Heckfield nestles in a valley on the way, but Heckfield Place, standing on high ground, commands a splendid view of picturesque country. Approached by a long, winding carriage drive, the mansion and its surroundings are distinctly impressive at any season of the year. Though my visit was timed in February, when the promise of spring is only apparent, and heavy rain had just fallen, the gardens presented a most attractive appearance. They are on a very extensive scale, and cover between thirty and forty acres, so that Mr. Joseph Gardner, who has charge of them, immediately on my arrival commenced to show me the leading features. One of these is the number of fine trees which are visible from the main entrance to the house. Spanish Chestnuts find the very light soil congenial, and thrive amazingly; while Cedars, Abies in variety, and clumps of Rhododendrons and Azaleas studding the spreading lawn, are distinctly ornamental. As we moved in the direction of the terrace, my attention was attracted by two striking specimens of Chamærops Fortunei, evidently of considerable age, both in the open, but one a little more protected than the other.

"They have been there for forty-five years," said Mr. Gardner, "and the Palm which is a little better protected than its companion is seventeen feet six inches high, with head ten feet in diameter. The companion is fifteen feet high, and the stem of both about eighteen inches diameter."

"The terrace bedding is on a large scale.

"The flower beds on the south-east side of the terrace consist of four sets cut in the turf, each set being of different design, and surrounding a central massive vase. The four beds of each set are planted alike, pains being taken to prevent the clashing of colours, and to ensure harmony. The first set embraces, at the west end, Primrose Mauve Queen, edged with Veronica incana (grey), intermixed with Narcissus Emperor. The next is made up of Wallflower Cloth of Gold, edged with Myosotis Royal Blue; the third with Viola Perfection (mauve), edged with Arabis albida flore pleno, intermixed with Narcissus Emperor; the fourth with Wallflower Blood-red, edged with Polyanthus (yellow), Munstead strain; and the fifth, a circular bed, Wallflower Cloth of Gold, edged with Myosotis Royal Blue. The four beds on either side of the fountain have a groundwork of Myosotis Royal Blue, with Tulips rising therefrom; two beds each of Tulip Artus (scarlet), and Chrysolora (yellow). Each of the large baskets is planted with Doronicum plantagineum Harpur Crewe, edged with Myosotis. In the four smaller baskets are Wallflower Blood-red, edged with Arabis albida. The vases standing between each set of beds are chiefly filled with Wallflowers and Golden Privet."

The Summer Scheme.

"I suppose the arrangements in spring and summer both vary?"

HECKFIELD PLACE.

"Last year, in the summer, our first set consisted of Begonia Fairy Queen, edged with Veronica incana, with dot plants of Abutilon Thompsoni, four feet apart. The second set had a centre filled with Pentstemon George Home, a row of Marguerite Southgate Perfection (eighteen inches high), and an edging of Ageratum Imperial Dwarf Blue. Zonal Pelargonium Paul Crampel were the feature of the third set, edged with Pelargonium M. Salleroi, and dot plants of Abutilon Savitzii. In the fourth set Viola Maggie Mott and Veronica Andersoni variegata were mixed, and edged with Marigold Legion of Honour and dot plants of Abutilon Thompsoni. The circular bed contained Heliotrope Madame de Bussey, edged with Geranium Harry Hieover. The four beds by the fountain were occupied with Mesembryanthemum (pink), pegged down, edged with blue Ageratum, and Dracæna indivisa as a central plant. The two large baskets were filled with Plumbago capensis and Acer negundo, four feet high, about six plants of each, the outer portions being filled with Marguerites, Cannas, Fuchsias, Golden Privet, and Salvias Scarlet Queen. Asparagus Sprengeri, Nepeta glechoma, Heliotropes, and Tropæolum Fireball were used to hang and trail over the edges. In the four smaller baskets the central plant was Ricinus Bronze King, filled in with Cannas, edged by Pelargonium Madame Crousse, and Lobelia gracilis. Other vases contained specimen Fuchsias, Dracænas, Golden Privet, Acacias, and Ricinus, edged with trailing plants of Petunias, Ivy-leaf Pelargoniums, and Heliotropes. In summer we put out twelve vases containing specimen plants of Agave americana variegata. These are stood on stone on the turf, and we edge them with Lobelia gracilis. Standards of Bays also stand in tubs on the terrace."

Between the two lakes which are seen from the terrace is the rockery, a recent addition. There is a fall of about ten feet from one to the other, the space between being filled with a long, irregular belt of Rhododendrons on the south side. The remaining space, some ten yards wide, and about forty long, is built up as a rock garden. The site is a semi-shaded one, and such plants as Gentiana acaulis, Ramondia pyrenaica, Adonis vernalis, Anemones pulsatilla and alpina, Primulas japonica, rosea, denticulata, and Sieboldi, Auriculas, Funkias, and Viola gracilis, thrive on it. On the sunnier portions among the species most at home are Aubrietias, Campanulas, Dianthus, Epimediums, Ericas, Heucheras, and Veronicas."

The Rose Pergola.

Entering the kitchen gardens, which are both ornamental and useful, the stately Rose pergola is inevitably the first object of attention. I asked the length.

"About one hundred and twenty feet. It is clothed chiefly with climbers, which are planted six feet apart. The varieties include Crimson Rambler, Reine Olga de Wurtemburg, Carmine Pillar, Tea Rambler, Mrs. F. W. Flight, Madame A. Carriere, Lady Gay, Dorothy Perkins, and a few of the best of the Penzance Briers. Roses are further represented in front of two of the glasshouses by a border of Corallina, backed by White Dorothy Perkins, Goldfinch, and Gardenia. The first variety supplies us with flowers up to Christmas. Beyond the sundial is the herbaceous border."

"Which are your favourite varieties?"

"They include Artemesia lactiflora, Thalictrum dipterocarpum, Romneya Coulteri, Potentilla Miss Willmott, Delphinium belladonna, Gypsophila paniculata fl. pl., Heleniums, Rudbeckia Herbstsonne and other varieies, Geum chiloense Mrs. Bradshaw, Eremurus robustus and himalaicus, Bocconia cordata, Anchusa italica Dropmore variety and Opal, and clumps of Delphiniums of the newer varieties. Asters are grown in quantity for decoration. Amongst some of the best are Desire, Diadem, Daphne, St. Egwin, Lustre, Maude, Photograph, elegans, and a great many others. Pæonies, Japanese and Chinese varieties, are very effective. Annuals are grown for effect and cutting. Antirrhinums (the Intermediate and tall varieties), Coreopsis tinctoria, Drummondi, and grandiflora, Gaillardias, Godetias, Clarkias, Nemesia, Lupins, Larkspurs (Stock-flowered, specially useful), Scabious, Lavatera rose and white, Stocks, and Asters are largely used."

Making the Most of Dahlias.

"Dahlias," continued Mr. Gardner, "are a great feature. We divide the old stools and plant out either at the end of April or early in

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May. Holes are opened at about four feet apart, and one foot from the Cupressus hedge behind. These are filled with good, loamy soil and manure, and when growth is well forward, the shoots are reduced to three or four on each plant, tied to slight stakes, inclining to the hedge, to which, when sufficiently strong, they are fastened as growth proceeds. They thus form an attractive background to the other occupants of the border. Young plants are raised from time to time to keep up the stock. The varieties grown are chosen for effect and usefulness for cutting. Many of the best having very short stems are of little use for this purpose. They are chiefly Cactus and Cactus Pompones, with a few of the Pæony-flowered varieties. When frost has cut the plants they are removed to an old house, stood on their shortened stems for a few days to drain and become somewhat dry, afterwards being planted in trenches in dry soil for the winter. The front part of this border is planted with annuals. This year I am using Antirrhinums of the Intermediate section. The plants were raised in heat in pans early in February, and are now pricked out in boxes. With the Dahlias for background, and blue Ageratums, the effect should be good. The plants will be put out in the nursery bed on a south border, or in cold frames, from the boxes, in order to ensure good quality for planting here when the spring bedding is taken away. The latter consists entirely of Wallflowers."

"It will perhaps be convenient to say something about the contents of the houses before referring to the hardy fruit in the kitchen gardens?"

"You will notice that the upper kitchen garden is divided from the lower by this central walk, which runs right through to the pleasure grounds. The Cupressus hedge on either side is seven feet high, and is kept hard clipped. With regard to the houses, I need mention only the special features. Of these Carnations are one. Malmaisons, of which several varieties are grown, are layered about July in a frame. The air is increased as rooting goes on, and they are then potted in 'sixty' pots. It is a great advantage to have the layering done early. Here, on the stage, are a number of pots of Mignonette, which we sow in August, and pot on in 6-in. pots in a compost of light loam, a little old Mushroom manure, and mortar rubble. We stop them about twice, and then they flower in April. In the stove, plants are only grown for table work, including a few Orchids."

The Culture of Freesias.

"You are remarkably strong in Freesias?"

"We flower about one hundred and twenty, and cultivate very carefully. For first use we pot up in July, following in August or early September for the spring supply. After they have flowered we place them on a shelf fully exposed to the sun, keep them well watered and fed until the foliage shows signs of ripening, when the supplies of water are reduced, and finally withheld altogether. The pots of bulbs remain on the shelf to get a good roasting."

"The contents of your flowering house varies, of course, according to the seasons?"

"Just now, Cyclamen are conspicuous. We sow in August in cold frames, and obtain flowers for three months. The strain of Primula obconica is a good one, and the flowers are as large as a five-shilling piece. As to cultivation, they are sown at the end of April, and grown quite cool under the same conditions as Cyclamen."

"You have a house entirely devoted to Tree Carnations?"

"We strike cuttings in October, and at times through the winter, making the final potting at the beginning of May. The soil used for this purpose is three parts light loam, half part each of manure, old mortar, burnt refuse, and sand. We pot firmly, and protect from heavy rains in cold frames."

"How many Chrysanthemums are grown?"

"About five hundred, two hundred being for large blooms."

The Grape Season.

"When do you start Grapes," I enquired, as we entered the early Vineries.

"In February; and we gather fruit at the beginning of July. This house is devoted to Black Hamburgh, Foster's Seedling, and Madresfield Court; and the adjoining Vinery is planted with Muscats. Being below the ground level, the temperature fluctuates. The principal Vinery is the late house, fifty feet by twenty-five, with twelve Vines on each side. These are Lady Downe, Appley Towers, Alicante, Alnwick Seedling, Prince of Wales, and Cooper's Black, a very fine Grape. We usually take two hundred and fifty bunches out of the late house, using it until the foliage falls. The Grapes then on the Vines are cut and bottled. We find champagne bottles the best for the purpose, and we fill nearly two hundred, which are placed on racks in the fruit room, and taken out as required. An entire house, three-quarters span, with a portable stage of four tiers, is

ENTRANCE TO THE GARDEN.

occupied by Strawberries. We bring them in about the beginning of the year, and get fruit at Easter. There are six hundred pots altogether, and we ripen one hundred at a time."

"Do you go in largely for Peaches under glass?"

"No, we grow so many on the walls that we have only this one house, which is a lean-to, fifty feet long. The varieties are Condor, Royal Ascot, Sterling Castle, Sea Eagle, and Nectarine Humboldt. All trees are trained on the roof, and the wall is not used for them. The Fig house is filled exclusively with one tree of Brown Turkey, from which we get splendid crops. On the stage here are collections of Calceolarias, Schizanthus, and Intermediate Stock, all intended for use in the flowering house. In the Melon houses we grow Emerald Gem, Hero of Lockinge, Superlative, Sutton's Scarlet, and a seedling. The only variety of Cucumber is Delicacy."

The Training of Pears.

Pursuing our course out of doors, I said: "There is a very large assortment of walled fruit?"

"Perhaps you would like a note on the system of training Pears. I am a little averse to the horizontal system, and the trees run vertically for half the distance of the wall. By this means an excessive flow of sap can be checked. I think also that trees trained on the vertical horizontal principle have a very handsome appearance. Moreover, we get fine crops. On this wall, which is two hundred feet long, the varieties include Pitmaston Duchess (by the way, one of the first trees of Pitmaston Duchess raised in this country, with a label dated 1870, still fruits fairly well), Emil d'Heyst, Winter Nelis, Glou Morceau, Williams's Bon Chretien, Beurre Diel, Marie Louise, Durondeau, Beurre Bosc, Doyenne du Comice, and Charles Ernest."

"How do you grow most of your Apples?"

"The dessert varieties are espaliers horizontally trained, and the cooking varieties chiefly bush. On the north wall Plums and Morello Cherries occupy the whole of the space. We start with Rivers' Prolific, and go on to other varieties in succession. A good deal of spraying is done. Peaches are a great feature on the south wall. They were all planted during the last ten years, the wall being twelve feet high, and the trees planted from seventeen to eighteen feet apart. All the space is filled up, and we get as many as two hundred fruits off the best trees in a good season."

"Judging by the appearance of your trees, you are well off for bush fruit?"

A Model Cage for Bush Fruit.

"Currants and Gooseberries are grown on a square plot, protected from birds when ripe by wire netting, four feet high, placed on edge and supported by iron stakes. The stakes are six feet high, and are placed at even distances throughout the beds, and from the tops of these tarred twine is carried across and affixed to the sides. Three-quarter inch mesh garden netting is then placed over the whole and secured to the sides, with a small opening at one end of the netting, allowing easy ingress to the fruit, which can thus be gathered readily without moving the net."

"You force a good many vegetables?"

"A fair number. Peas for early use are raised in 'sixty' pots, or on turf cut into squares of about four inches, scooped out and filled with soil, from six to seven Peas to each. They are placed in a Vinery or Peach house just starting, until up; they are then transferred to a cooler position, and finally into cold frames. After they have been hardened, they are planted out on a south border in the middle of March. We sow early in February, using either Pioneer or Hundredfold. A sowing outside of an early variety about the same date, weather permitting, will give a succession. For this purpose we use Early Giant or World Record. Other sowings are made about every three weeks in the open, the last being about the middle of June, and for this crop shallow trenches are used. The varieties are Autocrat and Gladstone. Potatoes for first supplies are grown in frames heated by manure, early Radishes being sown between the rows. The varieties are Ringleader and May Queen. Dwarf Beans are grown in 7-in. and 8-in. pots, seven to nine Beans in each, in soil of a rich, light nature. They are raised in a house between sixty and seventy degrees, carefully watered and syringed on fine days until the flowering stage is reached, when more air and slightly drier conditions are maintained. When the Bean is set, syringing is continued vigorously, or red-spider would be troublesome. We use two varieties, Early Forcing and Superlative. Seakale is grown largely, about six hundred crowns being forced each year in the Mushroom house."

"How do you keep on the succession of Potatoes out of doors?"

"With Sir J. Llewelyn, Harbinger, Epicure, Ideal, and Windsor Castle. Late sorts are grown on the farm. Runner Beans are grown in shallow trenches prepared as for Celery. The first week in May is the time for the first sowing, and we follow with another the third week in June, the varieties being Prizewinner and Hackwood Park. Carrots for the main crop are sown in April in soil that has been used for a previous crop, with no recent

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manure added. A sowing of a small, stump-rooted sort about the end of July can be permitted to remain in the ground through the winter with a slight protection, and gives useful roots when the main crop is getting short. The best stump-rooted varieties are Dwarf Gem, Favourite, and New Red Intermediate as a long sort."

"What about Celery?"

"It is grown in well-manured trenches, eighteen inches wide, two rows of plants in each. We sow Early Gem the first week in March, and prick off in boxes. For the main crop, Solid White is sown in the same way in the middle of March, and pricked off in a cold frame on a shallow bed of rotten manure, faced with loamy soil. When ready for planting, a fork is placed under the plants on the hard bottom, in order to lift them up with all the soil and manure attached. They are then put in rows one foot apart, and kept well watered."

"I should like to hear about your career."

"I started my gardening career in the gardens of Wilton House, Southampton, at that time somewhat famed for Orchids. Thence I went in succession to the nurseries of Messrs. Veitch and Sons, Chelsea; Tring Park; Norris Green, near Liverpool; and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasgow, where I was in charge of a range of glass. I then came south as foreman at Thames Ditton House, Kingston, proceeding next to Ottershaw Park, Chertsey. My first post as head gardener was at Twyford Lodge, Winchester, where I exhibited Grapes with considerable success at the local show. I was appointed to Heckfield Place in 1901, and since I have been here I have done very well as an exhibitor of fruit and vegetables at Reading and Basingstoke." ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week the gardens of Mr. Fuller-Maitland, at Stansted Hall, Bishop's Stortford, will be described.

GOOD IDEAS.

A PROPAGATOR.

IT happens that I have lately received a parcel of seeds from the seed merchant, which two years ago would have raised my hair with pity for myself—and the seeds. I own a small garden, and a tiny brick cold pit, yet a month since I deliberately ordered these seeds, and made provision for them. I decided to install a small propagator inside my cold frame, and herein is the doing of it.

The Materials Required.

I first of all called at the grocer's, and obtained two packing cases, exactly the same size, such as are used for packing tinned goods in. For these I paid twopence! I then made enquiries at the ironmonger's, and ordered a tin container, eight inches long by six inches wide, by two inches deep, in the centre of which is fitted a screw burner, either a "Diamond" or a "Silver" chimneyless burner, ½-in. wick. This costs three shillings, and burns paraffin oil. Next, from the builder's merchant, I bought a sheet of iron, eight feet by three feet, price two shillings and sixpence. A sheet of glass just to cover the box, and some stout ¾-in. screws, complete the materials, except for a baking tin a little smaller than the case. I paid one shilling and threepence for mine, seventeen by fourteen, but others may be more fortunate. They sometimes are not missed from the domestic stock.

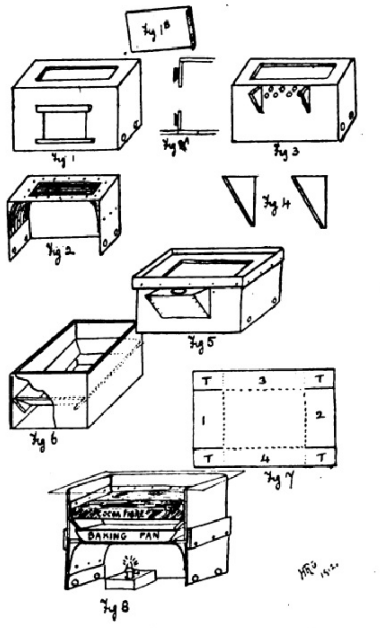
Now to work. Carefully draw any loose nails from the cases, and remove the whole of the bottom of one. (They will have no tops.) You will now have one case with a sound bottom, and one with merely sides. Turn the box with the base unside down, and with a keyhole saw carefully cut a hole exactly the size of the base of the baking tin, and bevel off the edge until the baking tin standing upon it, just fits in, but does not fall farther than this.

Next cut a hole in the side of the case nine inches wide by six inches high, through which the lamp can be passed into the case. Above and below this aperture, screw a strip of wood bevelled at the edges (see Fig. 1 and Fig 1A), so that a piece of sheet-iron, with an edge turned up (Fig. 1B), can be slipped in and out to act as a door.

Now, with a pair of tinman's shears, cut a strip of your sheet-iron the exact width of the inside of the box, but half as long again. Push it up into the box, so that the hole you cut in the "bottom" (now the top) is protected by iron (see Fig. 2). With a sharp nail and a hammer make holes in the sheet, and screw it firmly into position, *i.e.*, first all round the saw-cut hole in the top, and then to the ends of the case. This prevents fumes from the lamp rising through the heat chamber. Then run a fillet of wood all round the outside of the top (Fig. 5), so that no heat may be lost, and that the two boxes may fit closely.

Preventing Draughts.

Next, on the side opposite the door, at the top of the case, bore two rows of holes with a



brace and large bit (Fig. 3). Over these holes, on the inside of the case, nail a strip of perforated zinc. This prevents draughts from affecting the lamp, and constitutes the outlet for the oil fumes.

At the two ends of the case, at the bottom, cut two holes, to act as air inlets, and cover these with the perforated zinc, also from the inside. Cut out two pieces of wood (Fig. 4) to be screwed to the outside of the case (as shown in Fig. 3), over the outlet holes, and carefully fit a wooden top and side to them (as in Fig. 5). A hole cut at the top will receive the chimney to remove all fumes beyond the pit or frame in which the propagator is to be placed.

Next, carefully putty up all cracks and crevices in the box to keep it "heat tight," and coat all the puttied joints with paint; or, better still, coat them with heat-proof glue, which is made by slowly boiling together four parts of linseed oil and one part of quicklime. When this forms a paste it can be used hot, whilst any that is left can be dried in the open air on a plate, and reheated for future use.

Your base is now complete.

The Propagating Case.

Take the case without top or bottom, which is to be the actual propagating case, and, carefully measuring the length inside, cut two fillets of wood, about three inches wide by half an inch thick, placing them inside the case at an angle to the sides (Fig. 6), that they may form the sides of an "apron," or "condenser," above the baking dish. Next cut two end fillets, and fit them carefully into position, shaping them to fit as closely as possible to the side fillets, and thus making the apron complete. Fill the joints all round, having screwed the fillets to the case from the outside, and give the apron and joints two good coats of paint or enamel, for the condensing steam runs down this into the baking dish again.

Now for the metal lining, which will slip into the case and rest upon the top of the apron. Measure the exact inside dimensions of the case on your iron sheet, and with a sharp point mark out a rectangle of the size required, allowing eight inches all round. (Fig. 7—here the dotted line in the centre represents the exact size of the case, the whole rectangle being about eight inches wider all round). With the shears make cuts as T T, as far as the dotted line, and turn up the ends and sides, 1, 2, 3, and 4. The small pieces at T will then fold over the ends 1 and 2, and form the propagating tray.

Drop this into the case until it rests upon the apron, and screw it into position round the top. Three or four inches of cocoanut fibre must be placed into this tray, and it is ready to take its place in the scheme.

At Fig. 8 I have endeavoured to give a section of the whole thing, from the lamp at the bottom, to the sheet of glass at the top, only omitting the chimney at the back, which may be composed of a sheet of iron, rolled and joined, as mine is, or may be a small earthen pipe.

Regulating the Heat.

In actual working I found the chief difficulty was to keep the heat down. It sailed up to ninety-five, and stayed there. However, by turning the burner almost to vanishing point, I keep a steady sixty degrees, and burn an absurdly small amount of paraffin. One week has not consumed a quart of oil.

I clean the lamp thoroughly every evening, and have twice added a little oil to the container. I have once replenished the water in the baking dish, which should be kept full.

The lamp neither flickers nor smokes, and will burn for twenty-four hours without attention, but it is advisable to rub the wick with a rag (never cut it) in the mornings as well, to remove the charred portions.

The temperature of the brick pit is sensibly higher as well, and although, as a precaution, I leave a little ventilation on at the top of the frame light, yet after twenty-four hours the pit was quite free from paraffin odour, nor after several days have any plants in the pit shown signs of distress from fumes.

The total cost of all material was eight shillings.—H. R. GREEN.

Contributions for this page will be gladly received. They must be brief, and where possible, illustrated.

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tion to the exotic trees suitable for the parks and avenues of the United States and Europe. There is a batch of young trees at Kew which, although only a few feet high, promise to bear out this opinion. In Japan it grows 60 feet to 70 feet high, and, like the American "Honey-Locust" (G. triacanthos), it is very formidably armed with branching spines. The leaves, which are usually doubly-pinnate, measure 10 in. to 12 in. in length. The flowers of the Gleditschias are, of course, of no account as regards beauty, being very small and green; but the seed pods are always striking, and are, indeed, amongst the most remarkable to be seen in our hardy trees. In this Japanese species they are thin and flattened, wavy, and upwards of 1 foot long. Prof. Sargent says that long strings of these pods are displayed for sale in many towns of northern Japan, the pulp they contain being used for washing cloth. *W. J. B.*

Cultural Memoranda.

AGAPANTHUS UMBELLATUS IN THE FLOWER-GARDEN.

For breaking up the somewhat flat bedding system practised in these gardens, nothing has proved better than this well-known plant. We have a score of healthy plants in 16-inch pots. They have bright green arching foliage, and the flowers are produced on stems from 3 to 4 feet high. The pots are partially plunged, and the plant's ample leafage screens what portion remains above ground.

When the plants have made several crowns, and appear to have become too large for the pots, they are divided during the months of February and March. A compost consisting largely of loam, with some old mortar-rubble and a small portion of dried cow-manure and river-sand, suits them well.

Copious supplies of water are afforded throughout their season of growth, and the plants are removed to the houses on the approach of sharp frosts. During winter sufficient water is afforded them to prevent the soil becoming quite dry. A disused greenhouse, or a fairly dry cellar, will suit the plants for the winter.

In mild districts near the sea this African plant is sufficiently hardy to withstand the winter, if some protection be afforded about the crowns and roots.

Abutilon Sawitzii.

I have found that this pretty variegated plant is not suited for bedding-out in summer in this district. Even after a period of preparation by hardening the plants, the variety has proved to be too delicate for this purpose. The leaves have little substance in them, and they soon become brown and blistered. A few plants that I have cultivated for a time in a cool greenhouse are damaged in a lesser degree. This pretty Abutilon, therefore, requires the conditions of a temperate-house in order to develop suitably for decorative purposes.

There is no prettier plant for the ornamentation of the dinner-table. If cuttings be taken at once from plants that have become leggy, they will become rooted before severe weather occurs, and should then be potted off into 2½-inch pots, and placed on a shelf near the roof-glass in a warm temperature. *H. T. Martin, Stoneleigh Gardens, Kenilworth.*

THE CULTIVATION OF HERBS IN SURREY.

The extent to which herbs are sold in the Midland and Northern counties would probably surprise a chemist's assistant from the South of England if he were to take a situation in a large manufacturing town, such as Sheffield, Lancaster, or Leicester, &c. The mill operatives prefer, as a rule, to doctor themselves with herbs, and succeed fairly well in the treatment of all ordinary ailments. Some of the herbal remedies, such as composition essence, are regularly used as a drink by those who start early in the morning to their work, thus saving the time required to make a cup of tea. A teaspoonful of the liquid added to a cup of water makes a drink that stimulates the circulation of the blood as quickly and as effectually as a cup of warm tea. Herb beer is also largely used as a drink, being less intoxicating than ordinary ale, besides being cheaper. The trade in packets of herbs is therefore one of considerable magnitude. The herbs are generally imported from Germany, but the inferior quality of German produce, arising from various admixtures of other plants, dirt, or excessive drying, which reduces the herbs to stalks and powder when much handled, has led to an endeavour to grow in this country those most in demand.

During the last three or four years an attempt to produce a better quality of herbs has been made by Messrs. Potter & Clarke, the well-known wholesale herbalists, who have now a herb farm of about 40 acres devoted to this purpose near Carshalton, in Surrey. The herbs principally grown at present are Pennyroyal, Peppermint, Hyssop, Yarrow, Mugwort, Wormwood, Tansy, Feverfew, Marshmallow, Germander (Teucrium chamædrys), Rue, Lavender, Balm, American Golden Rod (Solidago), Comfrey, Greater Celandine (Chelidonium majus), Southernwood (Artemisia abrotanum), Stinking Orache (Chenopodium olidum), and Cotton Lavender (Santolina chamæcyparissus). Small quantities of Belladonna and Henbane and Savine are grown, and a notable quantity of Datura tatula, the purplish stems and lilac flowers of which were in excellent condition at the time of my visit, early in August. The plants are grown in rows, with sufficient space between most of them to allow a little circulation of air between the separate plants when fully grown. In the case of Camomile and Tansy and Cotton Lavender, the long ridges presented a mass of white or golden colour that gave quite a pretty appearance to the fields.

The ordinary culinary herbs are also cultivated to a considerable extent for the purpose of preparing powdered flavouring herbs for winter use. These include Parsley, Spearmint, summer and winter Savory (Satureia hortensis and S. montana), garden Marjoram (Origanum marjorana), Thyme, Lemon Thyme, Tarragon (Artemesia dracunculus), and Red and White Sage.

The Peppermint, Pennyroyal, Lavender, Balm, Savine, and Tansy, are not grown for distillation of oil, but for dried herbs only. The Marshmallow is grown not only for the herbage, but for the fresh roots, for which there is a limited demand; and so far as I know, Messrs. Potter & Clarke are the only cultivators of it for this purpose. The double Camomile flowers are dried on the spot by dry-heat on trays in a drying-room, as the weather permits, but as they do not last long in good condition, it is no easy matter to pick them at the right moment in dry weather, and to dry them off quickly of good colour, when there are large quantities to deal with, the dried flowers having usually to be subsequently sorted according to colour. The foliage of the Camomile is also dried as a herb, there being a fair demand for it as an ingredient in herb-beer. The herbs when coming into flower are cut and tied into packets and dried in the shade in large sheds, hung on strings, and packed as closely as allows a thorough current of air to pass through in every direction. The rapidity of drying depends, of course, upon the weather to some extent, in fine weather taking about four or six days.

The largest demand at present is for Pennyroyal, Yarrow, Hyssop, Peppermint, Feverfew, Marshmallow, Wormwood, Mugwort, and Rue. For Chenopodium olidum, curiously enough, there is a demand for more than the firm is yet able to grow. The plant is somewhat unsatisfactory, as it will sow itself where it is not wanted, and communicates its fishy odour to everything it touches—temporarily, at all events. Savine herb is in less demand than formerly, but the demand for Yarrow, which is a very popular diaphoretic for a cold, is so large, that although it grows wild almost anywhere, it is so much finer under cultivation that it pays to grow it. Santolina chamæcyparissus is chiefly exported to our colonies. The soil is sandy and gravelly, but is so well manured that it has quite a blackish colour, and the plants evidently thrive well. The ground is level, and is ploughed as in a Wheat-field, each herb having a separate ridge to itself right across the field.

The cultivation is under the charge of Mr. Wren, who takes great interest in the venture, and who kindly conducted me over the herb-farm. At present it cannot be said to be profitable, the expenses of buildings for drying the herbs and of rent for land and labour at present only being paid for out of the produce, leaving practically no profit. But these are initial expenses necessary in every business, and if the higher price obtainable for carefully-dried, well-grown English herbs can be kept up, there seems a probability that in a few years the growing of herbs may be made a paying industry. Mr. Wren hopes in time to be able to grow such rare herbs as Ground Pine (Ajuga chamæpitys), and possibly some American plants, such as Scutellaria lateriflora and Hamamelis virginica. Ground Pine is gradually being exterminated on the Kentish Hills, and if some of the rarer herbs can be cultivated on a commercial scale, several of our less common British plants will be spared to rejoice the eyes of botanists. The continued use of such plants as Yarrow, Ground Pine, Germander, Vervain, Woodsage, &c., generation after generation, seems to indicate that they might be worthy of chemical investigation. As yet we can hardly say that we know the principles to which the diuretic and cholagogue properties of Dandelion, and the tonic properties of Camomile are due, although they are both British Pharmacopœia articles. *E. M. Holmes, F.L.S., in "Pharmaceutical Journal."*

Obituary.

William Adam Gater.—This noted Rose cultivator, for many years at the Royal Nursery, Slough, died at Slough on the 15th inst., at the age of 65, after a wasting illness of some weeks. Born at Cheshunt, he was in early life apprenticed to Mr. Adam Paul, the father of Mr. William Paul, of Waltham Cross, and entered the service of the late Mr. Chas. Turner in 1858, having charge of the Rose department, and especially the culture of specimen Roses in pots for exhibition. One of his greatest successes was on the occasion of the great International Horticultural Exhibition and Botanical Congress, held at South Kensington in May, 1866, when first prizes were awarded to Mr. Turner for ten Roses in pots not exceeding 13 inches in diameter for a single specimen; with twenty Roses in pots not more than 8 inches in diameter; and a second prize for six standard Roses in pots. Of the ten Roses shown in 1866, B. Souvenir de la Malmaison, Tea Souvenir d'un Ami, and H.P.'s Victor Verdier and General Jacqueminot still find a place in lists; the single specimen was a magnificent example of Comtesse de Chabrillant. Another noteworthy exhibit was that made in 1875, on the occasion of the Whitsun Exhibition of the Manchester Botanical and Horticultural Society at Old Trafford, where seven railway trucks, laden with specimen Roses and Azaleas, were sent by special train to Manchester by the Great Western Railway. A still greater undertaking occurred in 1882, when a very large exhibition was held in the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society at South Kensington; on that occasion seventy large specimen Roses were sent from Slough, and two days were occupied in getting them to their destination. Eleven vans and twenty-one horses had to be requisitioned for the purpose. The Slough specimen Roses also won honours at the exhibitions of the Royal Botanic Society at the Crystal Palace and elsewhere.

There are records extant of two memorable specimens of Gater's growth having been exhibited

one was H. P. Elward Morren, shown at Manchester, with 130 large and finely-developed blooms; the other, H P. Paul Perras, with 300 expanded blossoms.

During the time that Gater had charge of the Slough Roses, the following new varieties were sent out from the Royal Nursery:—John Stuart Mill, The Rev. J. B. M. Camm, Royal Standard, Oxonian, Miss Hassard, Mrs. H. Turner, and the popular Crimson Rambler. The last London Show attended by Gater was that of the Royal Horticultural Society, held in the Temple Gardens, in May last. The success achieved by this worthy rosarian, can be attributed to something like a subtle understanding of the peculiar requirements of the varieties he grew, and his almost unrivalled skill in so timing the plants so as to be at their very best just when required. He was a chief among Rose cultivators, and on not a few occasions, when pitting his strength against other growers, it was his capacity for developing such a superb finish to his plants, which gained for him the premier award. *R. D.*

A ROSE GARDEN.

On p. 267, under Enquiry, "Rose" asked some reader of these pages to suggest a design for a Rose garden. The ground was said to take the shape of a horse-shoe, and to be 18 yards wide at the top or narrow end, 25 yards at the bottom, and 30 yards long." It was also requested that beds should be recommended that would be of a shape for pillars and arches. In fig. 88 we reproduce the first suggestion that has come to hand from a correspondent, and do so without expressing an opinion upon its merits. "Rose" omitted to state his case accurately, because a piece of ground 18 yards at top and 25 yards at base could not possibly be the shape of a horse-shoe, the widest portion of which, of course, is a point near the centre. Our correspondent, however, has taken "Rose's" measurements to be literal, and accordingly has a piece of ground like the section of a drinking-glass. The explanations given under the illustration will show how it was suggested the beds should be planted. We have since received another plan from a correspondent, which we hope to reproduce shortly.

HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

LARGE MELON FRUITS.—In August I cut from one Melon plant four fruits of the variety Best-of-All, which together weighed 31 lb. 6 oz. The heaviest was 8 lb. 11 oz., and the lightest 7 lb. 3 oz. *G. Groves, Temple House Gardens, Great Marlow.*

SEEDLING BEGONIAS.—Visiting Chesterfield Gardens, Watham Road, Croydon, the residence of T. Rigby, Esq., recently, I saw a splendid batch of Seedling Begonias with single flowers. They were raised last year, and have been grown in pots this year. The gardener, Mr. Chas. Welstead, by whom they were raised, has been kind enough to enclose three flowers for your inspection. *M. E. Mills, Coombe House Gardens, Croydon.* [Very magnificent flowers. One of them nearly 5 inches across, and of good circular form, has fine petals, with pretty, wavy margins. In colour it is pale yellow, with orange-red staining at the base of two of the segments, and at the apex of the remaining two. The flowers are borne upon good, stout stems. Ed.].

THE CAPE GOOSEBERRY.—At the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society at the Drill Hall on October 9, 1900, I entered a small exhibit of Cape Gooseberries. The plants of which they were the produce correspond to Physalis peruviana, of Nicholson's *Dictionary of Horticulture*. The flower has a dark spot at the base of each petal division; every flower sets, one at each joint, and is followed by the characteristic fruit of this genus. Its flavour is rich and *sui generis*. This fruit makes one of the best jams known. I grew the plants which produced the fruit exhibited in pots in a greenhouse. I have some also in the open ground, which have made far more vigorous growth than those in pots under glass, but owing to the lateness of the season, the fruit has not ripened yet. There is no difficulty in growing the Cape Gooseberry in the South of England. It would be interesting if some one would try and cross this Physalis with P. Franchetti. If the cross succeeded, by selection, a new and valuable fruit might be the result. I obtained the seeds of this Physalis from Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieux et Cie., of Paris, under the name of Alkekengi doux. Last year I grew some in the open ground, and from the scattered fruit, this year some plants germinated spontaneously, and made vigorous growth. The inference is that the Cape Gooseberry might easily be naturalised in the South of England. *E. Bonavia, M.D., Worthing.*

CRACKING OF MUSCAT GRAPES.—The fact of "Anxious to Know's" Muscat Grapes cracking in the manner described on p. 275 may be attributed to one or all of the following conditions: 1, An unduly moist and warm, close atmosphere; 2, Imperfect root-action; and 3, Uncongenial nature and condition of the soil forming the border in which the roots are growing, which may be lacking in fertility, or be badly drained. The same remarks apply to the atmosphere of the vinery, which may have been kept too hot and too moist, and the reverse in turns during the period the Grapes were completing the last swelling. If Grapes experience a check in the process of the last swelling through the soil about the roots being allowed to become unduly dry for a short time before applying a liberal application of water at the roots, such mischief complained of would be likely to result. "Anxious to Know" does not say whether the berries had attained to full size or not before they began to crack. *H. W. Ward, Rayleigh.*

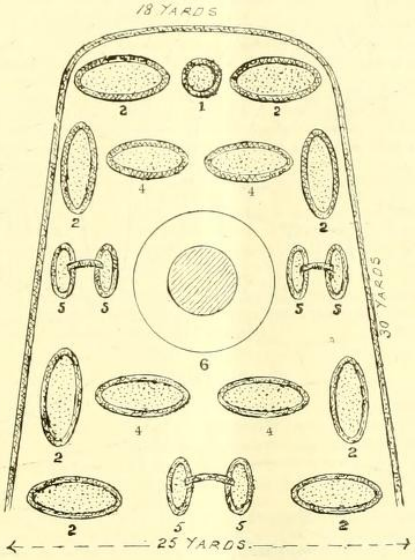

Fig. 88.—SUGGESTED DESIGN FOR A ROSE-GARDEN.

1, Round bed to be planted with "pillar" Roses.
2, H.P. Roses.
4, Tea Roses.
5, Climbing varieties for arches.
6, Half-standard Roses.

CACTUS DAHLIAS.—From a decorative point of view there are none to equal the varieties Magnificent, Britannia, and Night. These bloom with the freedom of Pompons, and are borne on long stems, quite clear of the foliage. They also produce perfect blooms continuously, which a large number of this section fail to do. *W. H. Aggett, Bermondsey, S.E.*

PALMS FLOWERING AT TORQUAY.—Palms which have flowered in the open here this summer include Corypha australis, over 20 feet high; Chamærops excelsa, not quite 14½ feet high—both planted twenty-nine years ago; C. humilis and C. Fortunei, which I take to be synonymous with Trachycarpus Fortunei [Yes]. The flowers of C. excelsa are magnificent, but they do not ripen seed here. Corypha australis, of which I have obtained young plants from seeds ripened here, has flowers of pale lemon colour; they are not nearly so numerous as the great buttercup-yellow flowers of Chamærops excelsa, which are like imperial crowns, and have a wonderful effect at the latter end of May and in early June. *R. Hamilton Ramsey, Duncan House, Torquay.* [Both Chamærops excelsa and C. Fortunei are now referred to the genus Trachycarpus. Ed.]

ORNAMENTAL CRAB JOHN DOWNIE is a most useful variety, of good habit, and very pretty, whether in flower or fruit. The fruits make an excellent jelly, equal in colour to that made from Red Currants. Preserved whole in syrup the flavour is most enjoyable. *R. M., Newbury.*

HARDINESS OF THE SWEET PEA.—It is to be hoped that the interesting and instructive leader on the above subject, which appeared on p. 190, may induce growers to treat these valuable flowers as hardy annuals instead of raising them in heat in the spring for early bloom. In the article referred to, any date between October and June is held as suitable for sowing. In the south-west, September sowings are often made with good results, as in average winters in that locality the plants will pull through with little or no protection, if the growth is not sappy from high feeding. One year, by way of experiment, a sowing was made between two glasshouses in the middle of August. When growth stopped for the year, the Peas had reached a height of 3 feet 6 inches. During the winter the grass thermometer showed 49° of frost, but 6·5° of frost was the greatest cold experienced. The foliage passed through the winter practically unharmed, and with the mean temperature of April slightly above the average, and no frost registered on the screen thermometer in that month or during May, the Peas came into good bloom in the latter month. Doubtless, in a more severe season, or further north, the experiment would not have proved so satisfactory, but it proves that, under the genial climatic conditions which usually prevail in the south-west, it may be made with a fair hope of successful result. I note that the practice of damping the seeds and rolling them in red lead is considered to be an infallible protection against the ravages of mice. As regards Sweet Pea seeds, I hold the same opinion expressed on p. 190, namely, that mice rarely meddle with these. This I have known to be the case where the plague of mice made it almost impossible to preserve intact rows of edible Peas, in spite of all precautions. Even damping the seeds with petroleum and rolling them in red lead proved no preventive to their destruction. The red husks would be found in the morning lying on the ground minus their contents, and the mice gave no evidence of being harmed by their feast. In the same place they evinced a pronounced predilection for the seeds of Chilies, and every seed-pan not covered with glass was robbed of its contents. After the great Sweet Pea Show and Conference at the Crystal Palace, these lovely flowers will be brought still more before the public. The chief need now is the ability to make a choice selection out of the enormous number catalogued. I am glad to see, from a note on p. 171, that a Classification Committee has been appointed to draw up a list of the three best varieties in each colour section, and shall anxiously await its publication. Perhaps one of the greatest difficulties encountered in compiling a list, is the impossibility of accurately describing the colours of the various flowers. Thus, there are no true blues, though numbers of Sweet Peas are termed blue, and there are no real scarlets. Of the varieties classed as blue, scarlet, and crimson, scarcely two are of the same tint, totally different shades being treated as of the same colour; another difficulty being thereby placed in the way of those who are obliged to make a selection without seeing the flowers. After an inspection of various collections during the past summer, the following twenty varieties, mostly self-tints, appear to be among the best of their respective colours, though having followed the generally accepted colour descriptions, these can only be taken as approximately representing their shades in some cases. White—Sadie Burpee and Emily Henderson; blush—Venus and Hon. F. Bouverie; pale yellow—Queen Victoria; salmon—Lady Penzance; mauve—Countess of Radnor; heliotrope—Fascination; pink—Lovely; rose—Lord Kenyon and Prince of Wales; scarlet—Gorgeous and Salopian; crimson—Mars and Firefly; maroon—Black Knight; purple—Duke of Westminster and Monarch; blue—Lady Grizel Hamilton and Countess Cadogan. *S. W. F., Devon.*

1900.

GATENBY Mary of 68 Hunslet New-road Leeds (wife of Robert Gatenby) died 15 April 1900 Administration **Wakefield** 4 May to the said Robert Gatenby smith Effects £165 4*s.* 4*d.*

GATER Harry of 76 Sumner-road Croydon Surrey died 11 May 1900 at Croydon-infirmary Croydon Probate **London** 23 June to Ellen Gater widow Effects £121.

GATER Henry of 5 Providence-place Long Ditton Surrey died 17 December 1899 Administration **London** 22 August to Eliza Gater widow Effects £147 19*s.* 7*d.*

GATER William Adam of Laurel-villa Diamond-estate Slough Buckinghamshire florist died 15 October 1900 Probate **Oxford** 30 November to Arthur Gater brewer's-clerk and Albert William Gater compositor Effects £999 15*s.* 3*d.*

GATES Catherine Mercy of 7 Liverpool-terrace Worthing spinster died 3 November 1899 at the "Cedars" Cobham-road Kingston Surrey Administration (with Will) **London** 24 February to Hephzibah Banks spinster Effects £40 2*s.* 8*d.*

GATES Edwin Charles of Lynchford-road Farnborough Hants died 2 June 1900 Administration **London** 4 September to William Edgar Gates lath-render Effects £1564 10*s.* 8*d.*

GATES Eliza of 141 Tyneham-road Lavender Hill Surrey (wife of Charles Gates) died 24 August 1900 Probate **London** 6 September to Joseph Sawyer gentleman and Louisa Emma Sawyer (wife of the said Joseph Sawyer) Effects £1401 19*s.* 3*d.*

GATES James of 116 Longley-road Lower Tooting Surrey died 28 January 1900 Probate **London** 24 February to Maria Gates widow Effects £232 7*s.* 10*d.*

HOW TO GROW VEGETABLES.

Interview with Mr. Arthur G. Gentle, at Little Gaddesden Gardens, Berkhamsted.

THE gardens of Mrs. Denison, at Little Gaddesden, which by her courtesy I visited a few weeks ago, would in any circumstances be full of interest. They are situated in a lovely part of Hertfordshire and are approached from Berkhamsted by a long drive through Ashridge Park, rich in picturesque scenery and stately trees. Though not extensive, they are laid out with the utmost taste; and the many rare plants and choice flowering shrubs which Mrs. Denison includes in her collection, form a distinct attraction. These and other features of the gardens claimed much attention, but a considerable portion of my time was also spent in discussing with Mr. Arthur Gentle, the head gardener, his methods of vegetable cultivation. Mr. Gentle has achieved great celebrity in the horticultural world as a successful grower and exhibitor of vegetables. During the thirteen years he has been at Little Gaddesden, he has won upwards of two hundred first prizes, more than a hundred second prizes, and fifty third prizes. In addition to this record, he was awarded, in December, 1905, a silver Banksian medal for Onions by the Royal Horticultural Society; in February, 1906, a silver Knightian medal for a collection of Potatoes; in January, 1908, a silver-gilt Knightian medal for a collection of Potatoes and Onions; in January, 1909, a silver-gilt Banksian medal for a collection of vegetables; in February this year a silver-gilt Knightian medal for a collection of vegetables, as well as the Cultural Commendation Certificate for Potatoes only, on the same occasion. His numerous trophies, won in all parts of the country, include the Sydenham Challenge Bowl for the best single dishes of vegetables, which he carried off three years in succession, namely, 1900, 1901, 1902, and is thus its proud possessor. A prophet with honour in his own country, he has been very successful at Watford, Hitchin, Hemel Hempstead, Redbourn, St. Albans, and Berkhamsted; and beyond the Hertfordshire boundaries, has gained further honours at Chiswick, Norwich, Liverpool, Birmingham, Bedford, Sandy, and Dunstable. He was first at Norwich for Potatoes, with one hundred and five exhibitors competing.

LITTLE GADDESDEN, THE RESIDENCE OF MRS. DENISON.

The Collection of Rare Plants.

But before we proceeded to the kitchen garden, which is the centre of his remarkable operations, we explored the pleasure grounds and the conservatory. The latter is a charming building, and at all seasons of the year it is bright with flowering plants. As we entered, I noticed that part of the roof is covered by a creeper just coming into flower, and Mr. Gentle said:

"That is the Acacia cultriformis, which was awarded a First-Class Certificate by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1903. It was planted out of a pot, about fourteen years ago, and yields masses of yellow blooms. We have several varieties of Acacias, including Drummondi, dealbata, and coccineum. Another valuable climber is Stigmaphyllon ciliatum, whose flowers are also yellow."

"I should like to know the names of some of the rare plants which you flower here in pots or otherwise."

"I will tell you what I can, but there are some whose names we do not know. Three striking greenhouse plants are Wistaria coccinea (with scarlet, tube-like flowers), Myrtus bullata (with creamy-white flowers), and Grevillea Preissii, a very light, pretty scarlet flower. Then we grow in tubs, Clethra arborea, or the Tree Lily of the Valley, which makes a fine specimen, six feet high. All the plants in tubs are put out of doors in summer, and stand there until the frost sets in. One of the rarest plants is Bryophyllum calycinum, and the plant with the orange blooms is Arctotis arborescens.

"Then," continued Mr. Gentle, "we have Cantua dependens, with scarlet flowers; Hibiscus Heubelii, a beautiful blue; H. rosea sinensis flore-pleno, maize; Russelia juncea, scarlet flower, of reed-like growth; Leontis Leonurus, in whorls of orange tubes; Echium creticum, with lovely blue spikes; Eugenia Ugni, with miniature pink flowers, followed by berries like Strawberries, which make delicious jam; Metrosideros in variety; and Albuca Falconeri (the Cape bulb), with spikes of greenish-white flowers. There are also flowered here three varieties of Brugmansias, Correas in variety, and white, purple, red, pink, and yellow Mesembryanthemums."

"How do you treat the rare plants which you have just mentioned?"

"There is no special treatment. I have to use my own discretion with regard to individual plants; but I may say that I have got many to flower which had not flowered before I came here, notably Acacia cultriformis, which has bloomed freely every year since."

Freesias, and Primula kewensis.

"You grow Freesias in quantity?"

"Yes, and we get a great number of flowers. The Cœlogyne cristata, which you see here, opened with fifty-two flowers on it; and we have had five pots of Cypripedium insigne, averaging nineteen blossoms each."

"When did your fine show of Primula kewensis begin to flower?"

"Before Christmas. They are in 'forty-eight' pots, and some of the spikes are eighteen inches high. Now, I think, we might go outside."

"How high is the striking variety of Erica under the verandah?"

"Fourteen feet and six inches. The variety is grandiflora. We use the white flowers to decorate. The creepers on the house are Magnolias, Roses, Abelias, Polygonum Baldschuanicum, and Cotoneaster angustifolia. With regard to the lawn, the feature in the arrangement is the number of nooks, and the manner in which the bedding is made up so as to give a mass of bloom. Japanese Iris and Tree and herbaceous Pæonies have large beds to themselves. The herbaceous border is also a striking feature."

Tropæolum speciosum in Force.

"What is the plant under a glass shade?" I enquired, as we started across the velvet lawn to the herbaceous border.

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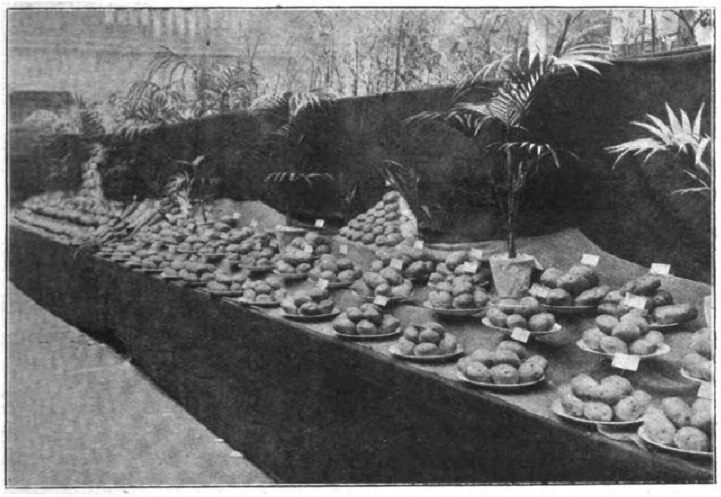
"The Australian Forget-me-not (Myosotidium nobile). It is a seedling, and flowered last year. The blooms are pale blue. The border is fifty yards long by six feet wide. At the back is Tropæolum speciosum, which grows up the hedge of Thuia, and makes a blaze of red, some pieces being fifteen feet long. It does just as well on a Yew or Holly hedge, and is one of the best things in the pleasure grounds. The stiff clay soil suits it, and it roots everywhere, keeping in flower from the end of June until the frost cuts it down, and then the purple berries follow. The treatment is quite simple. It should be planted shallow, and left to take its own course. The dead pieces should not be cut off."



A PRIZE EXHIBIT OF VEGETABLES BY MR. GENTLE.

"Are there any notable plants in the border itself?"

"There is the Australian Fuchsia, which has a purple berry, prettier than the flower, but the varieties, after the bulbs flower in the spring, are chiefly Phloxes, Liliums, Helianthus, Lysimachias, Lychnis, Liatris, Lupinus, Oriental Poppies, Statice, Anchusa italica (the Dropmore variety), Anemone japonica, Incarvillea Delavayi, and Pyrethrums. In front are included the Rock Cistus, Platycodon grandiflora, Mariesi, and majus, Ostrowskia magnifica (a lovely mauve flower, six to seven inches across), Heuchera in variety, Pansies, and Pinks. We manure the border heavily in the autumn."

Roses and Flowering Shrubs.

"And Roses opposite?"

"The Roses are mixed in beds the shape of Maltese crosses. There are many varieties of Teas and Hybrid Teas, making a splendid show in the season. Further on are beds of Azalea mollis and Kalmias, and two enormous beds of Rhododendrons. These are also mixed. I simply keep them in position, and do not use any peat. The soil is loam."

"You must have a nice display of Roses on the long pergola?"

"Not only Roses, but Clematis, Lonicera, Laburnums, and Aristolochias. The Tropæolum also runs along the pergola, which is one reason for not cutting off the pieces. The borders on either side are mixed Polyanthus, and the beds adjacent are filled with Tulips, Narcissus, and other spring-flowering varieties. Here is one of the little nooks with a collection of specimen shrubs, such as Exochorda grandiflora, Gum Cistus, Calycanthus, Skimmia japonica, Podocarpus, Tree Ferns, and Viburnum plicatum, quite sixteen feet high. On the poles at the end of the pergola are Roses—Dorothy Perkins, Lady Gay, Royal Scarlet, and Bardou Job; also an Ivy umbrella, which provides pleasant shade in the summer. The principal trees on the lawn are two very fine Cedars, Firs, Thuias, Weeping Beech, and Acers. Now we take the kitchen garden, which is scarcely separated from the pleasure garden."

Seedling Sweet Peas.

"You do not even keep the Roses away from the vegetables?"

"No, we have three Rose beds here, and numerous other flowers. For example, we have a big bed of Michaelmas Daisies, a bed of long-spurred Aquilegias (for cutting early), Honeysuckle in variety is grown on the trelliswork, and there are Cactus and Pæony-flowered Dahlias. On one side of the fruit cage is the main collection of Sweet Peas, and elsewhere is a large plantation of special seedlings. The latter are unnamed. I am waiting to bring them out."

MR. GENTLE AMONG HIS SWEET PEAS AT LITTLE GADDESDEN.

"You have shown Sweet Peas considerably?"

"I have taken seventeen first prizes at Dunstable out of nineteen entries. We trench for the seedlings, and the general collection is arranged in lines of one variety. We are giving preference to the Spencer family, but grow all the old best kinds. As to other flowers, the border on one side of the stove is filled with Crinums, Watsonias, Sternbergias, Schizanthus, and Xerophyllum; and the other with Iris stylosa, Belladonna Lilies, and Gerbera Jamesonii."

"Before we go into the houses, we ought to say something about the hardy fruit."

"Hardy fruit is not a feature, though at Bedford, in 1909, I won a first prize for Pitmaston Duchess Pears. The Red Currants planted as ordinary bushes, and trained on wires as espaliers, look graceful, and have done well. The Gooseberries, Red Currants, and Raspberries in the fruit cage—for which we use inexpensive Fir posts, covering in with wire netting—also thrive. The Pears include Marie Louise and Jargonelle, and the Peaches, Hale's Early."

Violets in Quantity.

"You have a good collection of Violets in the frames?"

"Violets are a feature, and we grow a large quantity of Marie Louise, Lady Hume Campbell, White Swan, and Mrs. J. L. Astor, doubles. The singles are La France, Princess of Wales, and Admiral Avellan. There are three houses, the stove, the greenhouse, and the Peach house."

"I notice that the stove contains some of the rare plants which you named just now."

"Also a fine specimen of the Spider Lily (which yields white flowers), Orange trees, Hibiscus in variety, and Rondeletia Spencerii. The varieties in the Peach house are Hale's Early (yielding on an average about five hundred fruits), and Royal George; and we grow a few Royal Sovereign Strawberries. There are more rare plants in the greenhouse, but I have already mentioned their names."

"I imagine, by the fact that the tree is now in bloom, that you cut a great number of Roses from Fortune's Yellow?"

"Last year we cut six hundred and twenty-four flowers, and this year six hundred and sixty-one from it. The tree is seven years old. Here are more Freesias and a number of named Zonal Geraniums, of which I keep up a succession. The principal are Falstaff, Lady Churchill, Conan Doyle, Buckingham, Wedding Ring, and Aglaia."

Then, having peeped into Mr. Gentle's office, papered with prize cards, we began to talk about vegetables.

"Of course," observed Mr. Gentle, as we started on the Potatoes, "we like to show that

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we can do something besides vegetables; but they are the chief feature here. In fact, all my life they have been first in my regard. With respect to varieties of Potatoes, the best coloured are Carters' Red Emperor, a splendid kidney, a good cropper, and a good eater. Invicta is a very good-coloured round Potato, a short top, and first-early. The best of the early white varieties are Sir John Llewelyn, Duke of York, Snowdrop, Carters' Surprise, Midlothian Early, Snowball, Windsor Castle, Satisfaction, Carters' Royalty (six and a half inches long, a beautiful shape); and later, Factor, Up-to-Date, and Carters' Long Keeper. I sprout all these in boxes, and work six plots of Potatoes at the same time. I do not plant a whole plot at once, but shift from piece to piece. This is because the soil is heavy. It would not answer to dig a plot, and plant it right away. I cannot lay too much stress on the importance of turning up the ground roughly, especially in the autumn, when it is frosty, and again in March. The Potatoes should be earthed up when the ground is dry, and, when lifting, the utmost care should be taken not to bruise them or rub the skins at all.

The Value of Soot.

"You have not said anything about manuring?"

"I use droppings from the old Mushroom beds, which are thrown on the top of the ground after it has been turned up roughly. I put all the burnt refuse in the soil. Last year I had five cartloads, and burnt refuse is one of the best of manures. I also use dressings of soot largely, dusting the row with it after the first spit of soil has been placed in. On heavy soil, water should never be used, but on light soil I have used stable litter between the rows. One of the reasons why I plant Potatoes in small plots is that I can get round them more easily to syringe them, and they are altogether more manageable. They are planted two feet six inches from row to row, and fifteen inches from set to set. When the first-earlies begin to show, we put Fir boughs over them, to protect them."

"What do you do with the Potatoes when you have lifted them?"

"They are stored in boxes in a cool shed or cellar until the time arrives for exhibition. A most important point in exhibiting is to select Potatoes as nearly as possible of one size. Uniformity is practically indispensable."

Hints to Exhibitors of Peas.

"Do you trench in the cultivation of Peas?"

"Yes, just the same as for Celery. Trenching ought to be done in the winter. After the manure has been put in, the trenches should be left open until March, in order that the frost may have access. On the ridges I grow Spinach, Lettuce and Turnips. Top-dressing is done when the Peas are coming into bearing, with long stable litter or mowings from the lawn. Of course, we water Peas freely, and give manure-water once a week. I do the same for Sweet Peas, which are cultivated on much the same principle, and I also find it of great benefit to dust with soot before I water."

"How many varieties do you grow?"

"The chief varieties are Carters' Little Marvel, Daisy, Dreadnought, International, Quite Content (for exhibition purposes), Gladstone and Autocrat. They are grown in rows two feet six inches apart for early varieties, and three feet apart for mid-season and late varieties. I always use sticks, which I think are much better than wire netting."

A GROUP OF FREESIAS AT LITTLE GADDESDEN.

"Any hints on Peas for exhibition would be acceptable."

"When the growers are selecting Peas for exhibition, I advise that the pods should be held up in front of a light. Those that are full should be selected, even if they are not the largest, as they will then stand the test of opening, provided, of course, that they are young and fit for table. Amateurs should be warned not to rub the bloom off. I remember once seeing a lady polishing her Peas with a cloth, and she was greatly surprised to find she was out of the prize list, though hers were much the finer pods. The same remark applies to Potatoes; they do not look natural when they are polished. In packing any vegetables for show, almost as much care is needed as if they were flowers. My own practice, after getting them all perfectly clean, is to wrap every specimen in paper, and pack it in layers of wood wool."

How to Plant Broad Beans.

"What have you to say about Scarlet Runners?"

"I grow them up poles and plant the Beans fifteen inches apart, trenching the ground. By growing them up poles we get finer Beans, some of them fifteen inches long. The varieties are Carters' Scarlet Emperor (which is very good for exhibition) and Red Giant. With regard to Broad Beans, I plant single rows on ground which has been well manured in the autumn, top-dressing when they have set their first flowers, and stopping them at their second set. I thin them for exhibition, leaving only the longest pods. With the exception of stopping, the same treatment will do for French Beans. Of Broad Beans, I grow Carters' Leviathan, which are grand for exhibition. Mammoth Windsor, Giant Seville and Beck's Dwarf Green; of French Beans, Canadian Wonder and Carters' Perpetual and Ne Plus Ultra."

The Treatment of Onions.

"After seeing your specimen Onions, I am especially anxious to know how you grow them?"

"I sow in boxes about the second week in February. When large enough to handle, they are pricked out into more boxes, and planted out at the end of April, in ground which has been trenched three feet deep. A good heavy layer of manure is placed at the bottom, and another fairly good layer half way up. The ground should be turned over roughly twice, before planting-out from the boxes. We plant fifteen inches apart in the rows, and between the rows, dust soot at intervals, and water in the evenings on hot, dry days. For the suppression of fly, I syringe with paraffin, a tablespoon to a gallon of water, with a little knob of soft soap. This is the most effective remedy I know of. The three best varieties are Ailsa Craig, Carters' Record, and Cranston's Excelsior. The largest I have ever had weighed three pounds twelve ounces."

How to Handle Onions.

"How do you keep them, Mr. Gentle?"

"To keep Onions, properly, they must be handled like Peaches. I once had to suffer heavily for not handling the Onions myself. I told a boy to do it for me, and he dropped them on the ground, with the result that all my exhibition Onions were spoilt. Each specimen should be hung separately."

The Cultivation of Celery.

"Then, there is Celery?"

"I grow Celery in trenches, the plants being put out fifteen inches apart. The ground should not be too heavily manured, or the plants will run to seed. Celery should not receive any kind of check. I sow in boxes first, prick off, and plant out when ready. I syringe for the Celery-fly in the same way as the Onions, and, after earthing-up, I dust well with soot, to keep away insects and slugs. The best varieties for exhibition are Standard Bearer, Solid White, and Nonpareil. Lettuce is grown on the Celery ridges. I plant in single rows, and water well on dry days. The varieties are Carters' Jumbo, Cos, Mammoth White, Giant White, Holborn Standard, and Perpetual."

Turnips and Spinach.

"What is your treatment of Turnips and Spinach?"

"I sow them in between the rows of Peas, as they are well shaded, and not so liable to run to seed. The Turnips are thinned six to nine inches apart. For autumn and winter I sow after the Potatoes are lifted, and dust well to keep down slugs. The varieties of Turnips are Jersey Lily, Golden Rose and Snowball; of Spinach, Giant-leaved Winter, New Zealand, and Carters' Summer Long-standing."

"How far do you trench for Brussels Sprouts?"

"Not deeply, but I manure rather heavily. I leave the ground alone until the end of March, and then tread firmly. As soon as the plants are ready, I put them in two feet apart. The varieties are Exhibition and Scrymger's Giant. Much the same treatment is given to Savoys, Cabbages, Broccoli and Cauliflowers, except that Savoys and Cabbages are planted more closely together, say, eighteen inches apart.

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The varieties of Savoys are Drumhead, Perfection, and Giant Green; of Cabbages, Mammoth Beefheart, and Ellam's Early; of Broccoli, Snow's Winter White, Brimstone, Sandringham and Walcheren; of Cauliflowers, Purity, Autumn Giant, and Magnum Bonum."

The Best Leeks.

"Do you go in for Leeks?"

"Yes, I grow the Lion and Holborn Medal. I trench the same as for Celery, using cardboard or brown paper for blocking. Leeks require an open position, and so, for the matter of that, do all vegetables, except Scarlet Runners, which should be in partial shade. Carrots, Beet and Parsnips follow after Celery, the two former being from one foot to fifteen inches apart, and Parsnips fifteen to eighteen inches apart. I sow on ground which has been well worked, and if the Celery has been properly dusted with soot, it will be found pretty free from insects. When the roots have been duly thinned, I dust with soot in between the rows. Great care should be taken with each of these vegetables not to mark them when lifting, because the least scratch shows up when they are washed. The varieties of Carrots are Red Elephant, Intermediate, and Early Favourite; of Beet, Globe; and of Parsnips, Maltese?"

"Have you ever gone in for French gardening?"

"No, we have no place for it, and I do not think there is anything new in it. We always have a little early salad, and we force a little Seakale and Rhubarb. But I am quite content with the English system."

Mr. Gentle is not the only gardener in the family. Mrs. Gentle has taken a great many prizes, for cut flowers, for table decoration and for baskets, thirty firsts, nineteen seconds, and twelve thirds, as well as a special for the best table at the National Sweet Pea Show. Her favourite colours are pink, cream, and yellow. Finally, before I left Little Gaddesden, one of Mr. Gentle's young daughters showed me her garden, in which there are indications that she inherits the hereditary bent; while her father varies his professional work in the gardens by breeding fowls.

ALFRED WILCOX.

MR. WILCOX'S article for next week will describe the gardens at Hursley Park, Winchester, the Hampshire seat of Sir George Cooper, Bart.

Repotting Plants.

(Concluded from Page 33.).

BEGONIAS of the tuberous-rooted section will have been started some time now, in a light mixture, such as leaf-mould and cocoanut fibre. This is all that is needed at the beginning; but when they have made a little growth, and are potted up, a compost consisting of equal parts of good loam and leaf-mould, with half a part of sand, should be given them. For the final shift into the flowering pots, a soil of stronger texture must be provided. Two parts of loam to one of leaf-mould, with sand as before, and, if available, some well-decayed manure, will do admirably. In the absence of the manure, any of the well-known brands of fertiliser may be used; the proportions are always given on the packets in which they are sold. With a compost such as this, the plants will thrive exceedingly, and will not require "feeding" until they are well established. Even then, the liquid manure should be weak, and be given only at intervals of about six days.

To the fibrous-rooted section similar treatment may be accorded, save that rather more loam should be added to the compost. For winter-flowering and foliage Begonias, an ideal soil can be made up of equal parts of loam, peat or leaf-mould, and well-decayed manure, with some sand. Compound fertilisers may be used with advantage, and when the first-named is coming into bloom, weak liquid manure can be given about twice a week.

Primulas.

Primulas of the obconica and sinensis type revel in a compost of about two parts loam, one each of leaf-mould and manure, and a quantity of sand. If it can be obtained, cow manure suits them best, but whatever sort is used must be thoroughly decayed and flaky. A little artificial fertiliser may be sprinkled on the surface and watered in when the pots are filling with roots. Soot-water, quite clear, or an occasional solution of sulphate of ammonia, or nitrate of soda, about a quarter of an ounce to the gallon, is also beneficial.

For the Auricula, another charming member of the Primula family, a stronger compost is necessary, and four parts of loam should be used instead of two, the other ingredients remaining as before. For this plant, too, cow manure is to be preferred. Liquid manure is also appreciated, and should be varied as much as possible, so that the same sort is not given twice in succession

Pot Roses.

Roses grown in pots should be treated somewhat differently from those grown in the garden. The soil need not be so heavy, but may consist of, say, three parts fibrous loam, one each of leaf-mould and well-rotted manure, and enough sand to make it porous. Many firms prepare a special compound for Roses, which may be used as directed, either mixed with the compost at time of potting, or as a top-dressing later on. Frequent applications of liquid manure may be given during the growing season. On the whole, it is better to use a compound fertiliser, which will supply all the plant's needs, in preference to any single form, but alternate this with a solution made from an organic manure.

Hydrangeas require most care when the much admired blue tint is desired in the flower. The compost should consist of three parts loam and one part manure—of course, well decayed—with a little sand. Some growers add to this mixture a little peat, which is said to assist in obtaining the blue shade. Others mix iron filings with the soil; but a more effectual method is to water the plants with a solution of one ounce of sulphate of iron to a gallon of water. This should be given once or twice a week when they are in full growth. Alum water, made in the same proportion, is likewise recommended, but is not so certain in its results.

Subjects for Peat.

Azaleas of the indica section must have a compost of which peat is the chief constituent. If very fine specimens are wanted, and all the materials are at hand, nothing suits them better than three parts of good fibrous peat, and one part each of leaf-mould, loam, and sand; but for ordinary circumstances the leaf-mould may be omitted. Liquid manure is necessary for old plants which are not repotted, but merely top-dressed; and it may be given advantageously to other plants when growth is fairly started, alternating organic with inorganic compounds, and taking care that clear water is given in between.

The mollis sections will not require so much peat; in fact, they may be grown without it, substituting therefor leaf-mould. No lime should be present in the soil. The compost may consist of equal parts of loam and peat, with a little sand, or, as indicated, leaf-mould may take the place of peat, and the proportion of loam is often increased. Liquid manures may be applied as for Azalea indica.

ILEX.

THE CONSERVATORY AT LITTLE GADDESDEN.

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not be quite in the right positions, and to take out the weaker ones. It is certainly pleasant to see regular rows of vegetables in the kitchen garden, but it is pleasanter still to see them of uniform size and merit.

THE RAKE AND THE SEED DRILL.

March 15th.—In the case of small seeds, the rake has two uses—three, if the drills are drawn with it. One is with the back to push the little ridges into the drills in which the seeds have just been sown, and the other is with the teeth to level the bed. If the former is omitted, stones will be drawn forward more readily than the smaller particles of soil, and will fall into the drills. The teeth of the rake should barely touch the ground, and should be drawn along the drills, never across them. If they are inserted too deeply, or worked across the drills, some of the seeds are sure to be dragged out and scattered. This is especially to be avoided when similar plants—different varieties of the same species—are sown side by side in a seed bed. For it is certain to result in their being mixed.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

SOME GOOD SWEET PEAS.

As many flower shows are now starting again, and some who will take up growing may not have had the chance to follow what progress has been made during the war, a few notes may be of some interest and help. It has been impossible to devote much attention to the growing of Sweet Peas, but those who had new stocks coming along have managed to keep them going for the time which has now come.

There are several novelties which I have seen, and have not mentioned in GARDEN LIFE before, as it was uncertain if they would be distributed. One is Edith Cavell, from the well-known specialist, Mr. Robert Bolton. This is a large rosy-pink on a cream ground, and is of extraordinary size and substance. Both standard and wings shade off to a bright rosy-pink edge, which gives it a delightfully fresh appearance. It carries many fives and sixes, on long, stout stems, which make it invaluable for exhibition.

Another promising novelty is Cicely, from Mr. Woodcock, of Walmer. This is also a strong-growing cream-pink. Elegance, Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Tom Jones, Alexander Malcolm, Mrs. A. Hitchcock, and Palestine I have already described. They are all well worth growing as novelties.

One of the most distinctive for this season, in my opinion, is Jack Cornwall, V.C., a deep violet-blue from Messrs. E. W. King and Co., of Coggeshall. This makes a valuable addition to the dark blues.

SELECTIONS OF TWELVE AND EIGHTEEN.

My choice for a good up-to-date twelve and eighteen for this year would be: Constance Hinton, white; Alexander Malcolm, flame; Mrs. Tom Jones, delphinium blue; Edith Cavell, cream pink; Warrior, maroon; Maud Holmes or King Edward Spencer, crimson; Valentine, pale pink; Jean Ireland, buff picotee; Barbara, salmon; R. F. Felton, lavender; King Alfred, orange-pink; Mrs. F. W. Bishop, cerise. For eighteen add Elsie Herbert Improved, white, picotee edged; Lavender George Herbert; Felton's Cream; Palestine, cream-pink on lemon ground; Elegance, lilac; Jack Cornwall, V.C., deep violet-blue.

I would advise enthusiasts to try some of these novelties. I am sure they will not be disappointed. I have seen them all, although grown under war conditions, and I consider them "top notch." I am growing them all myself, and hope to show them in good form on the show tables this year. Plants can be procured of some of these, and this is worth noting by those who have not sown seeds.

GEORGE HERBERT.

THE triumphs in vegetable showing with which Mr. A. G. Gentle's name is associated were gained during the twenty years he was in the service of the late Mrs. Denison, at Little Gaddesden. It was not until the end of 1917 that he came as head gardener to Mr. Arthur Webb, at Altnacealgach, near Colchester; and last year labour shortage and other difficulties stood in the way of his exhibiting, although his keenness in raising high-quality vegetables is as great as ever, as I had an opportunity of seeing when I visited him a few days ago. But it is not in vegetables alone that his skill is displayed: with

MR. ARTHUR G. GENTLE.

flowers and fruit he is likewise successful, and he has further to his credit the introduction of several novelties of more than ordinary merit, especially in Sweet Peas. I found him busy superintending the conversion of a field into a Potato patch, but leaving this, he led the way towards the Peach houses, where he pointed out the different varieties:

"Princess of Wales is the first tree. Last year we gathered off this some of the finest Peaches I have ever seen, single fruits weighing nearly a pound each. Others are Hale's Early, Grosse Mignonne, Royal George, Sea Eagle, and Dr. Hogg. Concerning Dr. Hogg, I noticed what I have never known before with Peaches, the fruit has a bitter flavour near the stone, which spoils it for dessert, though it is excellent for preserves and compôtes."

GOOD SWEET PEAS.

"Do you sow all your Sweet Peas singly in small pots?" I asked, seeing a number of healthy seedlings in this house.

"Yes; I put one seed in a sixty-size pot. When they have made the second leaf I stop them, and let them break. The plants you see here are some special varieties of my own raising, which I brought in from the frames for safety, as rats had got to them and destroyed a lot."

"You have raised several good sorts, I believe?"

"One that I raised is Mrs. A. G. Gentle, a pretty bicolor—white and rose-pink. This was bought by Messrs. Robert Sydenham, who have put it on the market. I have now about half a dozen good things coming on, including a particularly fine pink with a satiny sheen, which I think will eclipse anything so far seen in its class. A well-known expert and cultivator has seen this and the others, and wants me to let him have the first refusal of the seed."

"What do you regard as the best varieties at present in cultivation?"

"Constance Hinton is the finest white; King Edward Spencer is still, I think, one of the best reds; Sutton's Cream, which is black-seeded, wants a lot of beating, and so does Unwin's Lavender; as a bicolor I consider Mrs. A. G. Gentle is the best; and Marjorie Willis leads as a cerise."

A NEW BULBOUS PLANT.

From the Peach houses we went to the range of Vineries, the stagings of which were filled with choice plants in different states of growth, from starting to flowering. In the first several pots of a delightful little plant at once compelled attention. The flowers are in varying shades of pink and rose, in racemes, on stalks from twelve to fifteen inches high, and the habit of growth is very neat.

"That," said Mr. Gentle, "is a bulbous plant which, so far as I have been able to learn, has never been grown in this country before. Seed was sent to me by a lady who was travelling abroad, and who knew I am deeply interested in raising new plants. I sowed it, and have grown it for a few seasons, and am now working up a stock. For a long time I could not discover its name, nor could anyone I showed it to help me; but at last it has been identified as a species of Ixia, I. campanulata, from South Africa, and not previously cultivated in England. It is a dainty little thing, which will, I think, be very useful for decoration. The treatment it requires is the same as Freesias, which it resembles in habit of growth. It seeds freely, and forms tiny bulbs, which give offsets which can also be grown on."

A CHOICE AMARYLLIS.

"Are there any 'good things' among this large batch of Amaryllis?"

"Yes; there are some remarkably fine reds and scarlets, and there is one of the same pure orange colour as Robert Sydenham Sweet Pea. They are all seedlings of my own raising, and are an unusually good strain. Some have carried six blooms on a spike, and I have had blooms measuring ten inches across the trumpet. I think there is going to be a revival of interest in the Amaryllis."

"You will certainly be able to make a good display."

"I have a large number of bulbs—more, in fact, than I require. Some are flowering size, others will not flower for a year or two."

"How do you treat them?"

"I dry them off gradually, then repot them, and syringe them overhead until the spike shows. Many of these have already started."

On the staging in front I noticed a collection

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of scented-leaved Geraniums, Brodiæas in flower, and other plants; in the centre was a number of pots of Marguerite Mrs. F. Sander, also boxes of Potatoes sprouting; and at the back Heliotropes and Fuchsias Phenomenal, Mrs. Marshall, Rose of Castile, and Rose of Castile Improved.

ACACIA CULTRIFORMIS.

The Vines, which were beginning to break nicely, comprise Muscat of Alexandria, Lady Downe's Seedling, Alicante, Gros Maroc, Black Hamburgh, and Buckland's Sweetwater. In each of the four sections were many plants in flower, the third, in particular, being gay with Primula malacoides Rose Queen, a variety raised by Mr. Gentle, and bought from him by Messrs. Sutton and Sons, who introduced it into commerce. Varieties of Primula kewensis, and Cineraria stellata, also lent a touch of brightness to this house. Here, too, are plants of the rare Acacia cultriformis—so called from the shape of the leaves, which resemble the coulter of a plough—for which Mr. Gentle received a First-class Certificate some years ago. This is a handsome trailing or climbing plant, capable of reaching a length of thirty feet or more, and, like all the Acacias, bears yellow flowers. Coleus, bedding Geraniums, and Perpetual-flowering Carnations are other subjects noted here, also eight varieties of Achimenes for hanging baskets in the conservatory. In their season Chrysanthemums figure largely in conservatory and indoor decoration, and I asked for the names of some of the favourites:

"In Japanese," said Mr. Gentle, "we grow White Queen, Mrs. A. T. Miller, F. Chandler, Madame Oberthur, Bob Pulling, Mrs. J. H. Stokes, A. F. Tofield, and Hon. Mrs. Lopes. The favourite Singles are Mary Richardson, Sandown Radiance, Royalty, Florrie King (one of the very best pinks), F. W. Smith, Queen Alexandra, Metta, Mrs. W. Buckingham, Thorpe's Beauty, and a white of my own raising. Among the Decoratives are Nina Blick, Framfield Early White, Sanctity, Source d'Or, Normandie, Framfield Yellow, and Rayonnante, with W. H. Lincoln and Christmas White for latest work. The early garden varieties include Horace Martin, Blush Masse, Goacher's Crimson, White Quintus, W. Browning, and Champ d'Or."

A WELL-FILLED CONSERVATORY.

From the houses we went to the conservatory, a lofty structure, with the plants arranged in tiers from the ground level. Here a good display greeted the eye, from Azaleas (double white and salmon), Cinerarias, Primula kewensis and P. malacoides Rose Queen, Crinums, Brodiæas, and no fewer than seventy-one Arum Lilies. Palms and other foliage plants supply plenty of greenery, while Acacia cultriformis again appears, the intention being to train it along the roof, so that its sprays may hang down.

Outside, on the lawn, are five beds, and the spring bedding this year consists of Forget-me-nots and Tulips, the varieties of these being Inglescombe Yellow, Clara Butt, White Queen, Inglescombe Pink, Golden Crown, Salmon King, and Gesneriana major. These will be followed by Geraniums, Begonias, Coleus, and other subjects for summer, the Begonias being an especially fine strain of frilled and crisped singles, of Mr. Gentle's own raising.

Across the lawn, and backed by a hedge of Sweet Briers, is the herbaceous border, not much short of a hundred yards long, and from two to three yards wide. The contents are of the usual character, among the plants that do well being Romneya Coulteri (at present protected by Beech boughs), Delphiniums, Geums, and Montbretias. To the right is the tennis lawn, with a wide border of Roses on one side, and two pretty pavilions. Following the path round the outside of the tennis lawn, we passed along a pleasant walk, lined with shrubs of various kinds, and so came to the herbaceous border already mentioned, the path eventually leading to the lawn on the east fronts of the house. Here there are many ornamental trees —a Wellingtonia being among the most noticeable—also flowering and other shrubs.

Beyond the shrubbery is an orchard, but of the varieties Mr. Gentle could tell me little, for in most cases the names on the labels are obliterated, and last season few of them bore any fruit, so that he has not yet been able to name them. But they have now been well overhauled, and sprayed with Cooper's Vi fluid to cleanse the bark of lichens and insect pests, and give promise of good crops this year, weather and other circumstances permitting.

The absence or illegibility of labels also extends to the fruit trees in the kitchen garden, to which we next turned our steps, but in the case of the espalier Pears it has been possible to identify some, at least, by their fruit, and so I learned that among good varieties of Pears are Pitmaston Duchess, Doyenne du Comice, Beurré Hardy, Duchesse d'Angoulême, Beurré d'Amanlis, and Beurré Diel, and on the walls are Plums Coe's Golden Drop, Czar, and Green Gage. Despite the rains which had fallen so heavily in the Eastern Counties, the soil in the kitchen garden was in good condition for digging on this, the first really fine day for about a week, and I was informed that it is splendid for vegetable growing.

"Do you intend to take up showing again?" I inquired.

THE CULTIVATION OF POTATOES.

"Yes," was the answer; "I hope to be able to put up some dishes later on. I have generally shown in December, January, and February, sometimes in March, my object being to demonstrate not only that it is possible to grow roots and tubers of good shape and quality, but that they will keep. Many people, after growing Potatoes well, fail to store them properly, so that their full food value is preserved. I have written a little book, called 'Practical Potato Growing and Storing,' which I publish myself at one shilling post free. In this I deal with the preparation of the soil, the selection of the seed, harvesting, and storing, with hints on when and how to plant and on routine operations. It also treats on disease and its treatment, and Mrs. Gentle has written a chapter on cooking Potatoes."

"I need not ask if you sprout your seed, after seeing so many trays to-day."

"I always adopt that course, and, if growing for exhibition, restrict the sprouts to one or two. One thing I should like to warn everyone against — putting manure in the trenches when planting. Wood ashes are beneficial, but organic manure leads to a rank, soft growth, which enable disease to spread with astonishing rapidity, and causes tubers to come coarse, scabby, and misshapen."

"Do you spray against disease?"

"I am a firm believer in spraying, and have practised it for many years. I usually spray three times during the season. I hope the time is not far off when it will be made compulsory for every Potato-grower to spray. As it is, one person standing out may cause infection to spread throughout a district, so putting all other growers to an extra amount of trouble to keep the disease in check."

"What are the varieties you chiefly grow?"

"I am this season sprouting Kerr's Pink, Midlothian Early, Edzell Blue, Majestic, Arran Chief, Scottish Farmer, President, and have a few new varieties that have been sent to me for trial. In addition I have Golden Wonder, one of the best Potatoes in cultivation, of excellent shape and quality, with a finely netted skin; Carter's Royalty, another good sort; Carter's Mainstay, white oval; and Snowball, a late white round."

A FIRST PRIZE DISH OF POTATOES, CARTERS' SNOWBALL, SHOWN BY MR. A. G. GENTLE.

A CARROT FOR AMATEURS.

"Besides Potatoes, what are the principal vegetables you have shown?"

"Carrots and other roots and Onions at the winter exhibitions; but I have also shown miscellaneous vegetables at other times. The Onions I grow for exhibition are Ailsa Craig and Dickson and Robinson's Premier; I also have Rousham Park Hero, Bedfordshire Champion, Carter's Long-keeper, and am trying this season Autumn Triumph. As to Carrots, there is nothing I know in the way of Short Horns to beat Carter's Early Scarlet Horn. It is a nice shape, keeps well, is of fine texture, and does not split, and I can recommend it as an easy 'doer' that will suit any amateur or cottager. For long Carrots I like Red Elephant and Intermediate."

"You still have some nice rows of Leeks and Celery?"

"The Leeks are The Lyon, Carter's Holborn, and Musselburgh; the Celery, Standard-bearer, Wright's Grove White, and Sulham Prize Pink."

"Can you give me your selection of Peas?"

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"For earliest work I use Carter's Daffodil; this is followed by Giant Lightning, Thomas Laxton, and Ringleader; Carter's Market Gardener is an excellent variety which comes in later; Quite Content is one of the finest for exhibition; and Duke of Albany is a main-crop which is still good. Dreadnought is an extra good late Pea—very distinct by reason of its blunt point—and it is always well filled; while for latest cropping there is nothing to beat Gladstone and Autocrat. Both have their admirers, and of the two I would give preference to Autocrat. When preparing Peas for show, exhibitors should hold the pods up to the light, to see if they are uniformly filled, and they should be careful not to rub off the bloom."

"And about Beans?"

BROAD BEANS A FOOT LONG.

"I have raised a Scarlet Runner of my own, which promises to be a good one; and I also use Scarlet Emperor, Best of All, and Carter's Scarlet Giant, which are the three best I know. In Broad Beans I can find nothing better than Carter's Leviathan—I have had Beans on this eleven to thirteen inches long, and of splendid flavour."

"And what are these healthy-looking spring Cabbages?"

"There are three varieties—Carter's Spring tide, Flower of Spring, and Ellam's Early. For a late Cabbage, and a good one for exhibition, too, I prefer Winnigstadt. Then as to Lettuces, I have Hicks' Hardy White for winter use, and for summer, Carter's Giant White Cos and their Standard Cabbage, which rarely runs to seed."

In our walk through the kitchen garden, which is laid out in square beds edged with Box, I was impressed with the neatness and general state of order that prevailed. This impression was deepened when looking round the well-equipped tool-house, where everything has its assigned place, and, if not in use, is to be found in that place. Moreover, the tools were all clean; pots well scrubbed, and many of them crocked in readiness for Chrysanthemums and other plants; seed guards to hand for putting over the drills; clips, labels, etc., in their respective drawers; stakes cut, bundled, and stood in a corner to dry; and everywhere indications of method.

A TRAP FOR SLUGS.

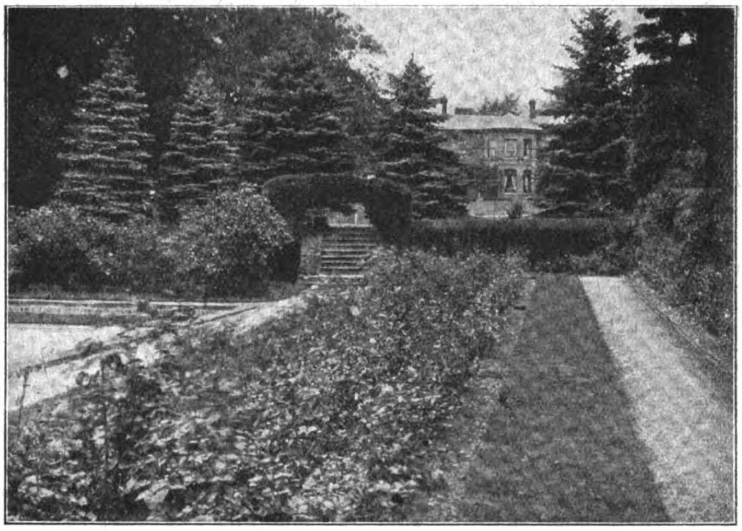
Our talk turning on pests, I asked Mr. Gentle what he did to check slugs.

"I have here half a dozen of the 'V.T.H.' slug traps," he answered; "which I consider the very best thing out. They are baited with bran, and sunk to the level of the soil in different parts of the garden. The only attention they require is to renew the bran when necessary, and to take them up every few days to empty them out. Once a slug gets in it is impossible for it to get away, and I have caught as many as three hundred and fifty in one trap. I shall be putting them out again as soon as the slugs begin to get active."

The present staff is three men and a boy, but Mr. Gentle is also assisted by his daughter, who has had experience in other gardens, and now looks after the houses. Of course, more labour will be employed as soon as it is available, for many extensions and improvements are in contemplation. In addition to the gardens, Mr. Gentle has charge of the small farm attached to the estate, which includes a select herd of dairy cows. There is likewise a thriving poultry farm, well stocked with pure bred birds of good laying strains.

Before leaving, Mr. Gentle showed me a few of the trophies he has won. His first, second, and third prizes run into many hundreds; but what he most values are the awards received from the Royal Horticultural Society. Thus, at the great International Exhibition at Chelsea, in 1912, he received the premier award, a silver gilt Knightian medal, for six dishes of Potatoes, and two bronze medals for single dishes. Other silver gilt Knightian medals were bestowed in January, 1907 (Potatoes and Onions); February, 1910 (vegetables); January (Onions) and February (roots and tubers), 1911; silver Knightian medals, January, 1906 (Potatoes); February, 1913 (roots); February, 1914 (vegetables); January, 1915 (Potatoes); a silver gilt Banksian medal in January, 1906 (vegetables); and silver Banksian medals in December, 1905 (Onions); January, 1912 (Potatoes); February, 1913 (Carrots); February, 1914 (Potatoes); and as late as March 30th, 1915 (vegetables). The date of these awards proves that, in addition to cultural skill, he knows how to store the produce. In the days when shows were held at the old Aquarium, Westminster, he won the Sydenham Challenge Bowl for vegetables three years in succession, and this trophy now adorns his sideboard, while he also received from Mr. Robert Sydenham a gold medal to commemorate his victory. That his successes are not confined to vegetables is attested by medals from the National Sweet Pea Society, the Hemel Hempstead Rose and Sweet Pea Society, and others. But other members of his family have likewise distinguished themselves in showing, Mrs. Gentle having many prizes to her credit for cut flowers and table decorations, while Miss Gentle promises to follow in her mother's footsteps, having already been awarded a medal for a table decoration.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.



ROSE BEDS IN A MIDLAND GARDEN.

ROSES AND MILDEW.

Mildew is the bane of nearly every grower of Roses, and is a very serious pest in most gardens. There are, of course, many proprietary specifics, all of more or less excellence and efficacy, for the cure and prevention of mildew, but in all good gardens of the future the tendency will be, I think, to avoid the use of such things as far as possible. Modern effort in the further development of the Rose is becoming more and more concentrated upon the evolution of varieties that are resistant to disease.

This tendency is not solely confined to the raising of resistant Roses, but it is one which is receiving great attention from the plant hybridist in general. The rapid spread of wart disease amongst Potatoes may be cited as a case in point. Potato raisers are now wholly concerned in the production of new varieties that are resistant to wart disease, and a variety that is not immune to this disease will have little chance—no matter what its other virtues may be—of ever finding a place in commerce. Legislation is, in fact, tending in this direction, and wisely so, for it has already been fully demonstrated that immune varieties can be evolved, and if is courting serious trouble and inviting disaster to go on growing non-immune sorts any longer.

THE ROSE OF THE FUTURE.

While we may not have, meantime, so great a selection of Roses that are resistant to mildew as we now have of Potatoes that are resistant to wart disease, there is no doubt that many such Roses will be available in the very near future. Many varieties of the Rose that are supreme favourites in the garden to-day are sadly afflicted with mildew, and these sorts—beautiful as they are—simply pollute the other occupants of the beds and borders. Marie Adelaide, Colleen, George Dickson, and Mrs. George Shawyer are very notable examples. Others, again, are very rarely affected, and the worthy General McArthur and the elegant Miss Cynthia Forde are two of this type.

But what we want is a type of Rose wholly resistant under all conditions to the scourge of mildew. Such a type is not impossible, any more than a wart-proof Potato is impossible. The latter—a well marked type—is already an established fact; and so, too, is a thoroughly mildew-resistant type of Rose. The most outstanding example to-day of such in the Rose family is Mrs. Wemyss Quin. Not only did this magnificent variety put us many steps forward in the evolution of a hardy, sweet-scented, vigorous, free flowering yellow Rose, but it also created a decided advance in the establishment of a well-defined type of mildew-resistant Roses. The next important step, therefore, in the development of this favourite flower is the creation of sorts having the mildew-resistant characteristics of Mrs. Wemyss Quin. The more or less rapid development of such a race of Roses is a matter which every raiser and grower of the flower can accelerate or retard. Let the demand arise for mildew-resistant Roses; let such be appreciated and find a ready market when they are placed in commerce, and a mildewed Rose will soon be a thing of the past.

GEORGE M. TAYLOR, Edinburgh.

We shall esteem it a favour if readers will kindly introduce GARDEN LIFE to their friends.

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W. George

THE GARDENS AT YELDHALL MANOR, TWYFORD, BERKSHIRE.

SOME of the most beautiful gardens in England are little known, but they are the source of the keenest enjoyment to the owners and their friends. Under the shadow of Bowsey Hill, the summit of the highest point in Berkshire, within a short distance of the Thames, lies Yeldhall Manor, the residence for the past sixteen years of Mrs. Tuckett. The property belongs to her son, Mr. P. F. Tuckett, who, when he is able to leave London, spends as much time as he can in his attractive country home. The house itself is situated on rising ground, and commands fine views of the adjoining country. But to appreciate the prospect fully it is necessary to get into the Labyrinth, which lies on the north side of the mansion, and mount the steps which terminate in a platform. From this point of vantage, two hundred and fifty feet above sea level, four counties can be seen, and the outlook is as varied as it is far-reaching.

"What is the extent of the Labyrinth?" I enquired of Mr. W. George—who has had charge of the gardens ever since Mrs. Tuckett took up her abode at Yeldhall Manor—on the occasion of my visit on a bright afternoon in March.

"Upwards of two and a half acres. When it was formed, about 60,000 trees were planted, Thorns and Privets. The Labyrinth deserves its name, for it is by no means easy to find a way out. A few fruit trees have been added, and, as you can see, it makes quite a picturesque retreat. The hedges are three feet high, and the work of clipping and clearing out occupies one man for five or six weeks. But now, having got a general idea of the surroundings, you will like to see the features of the pleasure grounds."

"What do the features embrace?" I asked, as we walked down the steps in the direction of the house, pausing to look at some of the fine specimen trees close to the carriage drive, which is nearly a mile in length, and is planted on either side with groups of Rhododendrons, Deutzias, Spiræas, and Conifers in variety.

"Flowering trees and shrubs are certainly one. On this side of the lawn is a notable specimen of Pyrus floribunda, about twenty-five years old, which flowers gloriously the third week in May. To increase the decorative effect as well as for the sake of the produce, fruit trees were planted here, chiefly Apples, Plums, Damsons, and Cherries in variety. Early in the year the flower, and later the fruit, helps to keep up the combination of colour on which in spring and autumn we set store."

Flowering Shrubs and Conifers.

"Tell me, please, in detail, how far the combination is aided by the shrubs and Conifers. I see many which, no doubt, give both a wealth of blossom and of rich foliage."

"Among the trees which give successional effect is the American Scarlet Crab; and the bronze foliage of Prunus Pissardii is conspicuous among the green shrubs. Weigelas in variety, Lilacs, Spiræas, Guelder Roses, Calycanthus præcox—which flowers profusely—Berberis Darwinii and stenophylla, among shrubs; and Sequoia gigantea pendula, Arbutus unedo, Thuja Lobbii, Wellingtonia gigantea, Pinus excelsa, Cedrus atlantica glauca, Cupressus Lawsoniana, Liquidambar, with Mulberry and Medlars, are amongst the other trees. As we approach the croquet lawn, and the tennis lawn, with its double courts, I should like to call your attention to two fine examples of Retinospora squarrosa."

YELDHALL MANOR, TWYFORD, BERKSHIRE.

"They are very good, and in thriving condition."

"Of course, in order to obtain symmetry, the knife has to be used freely; and they respond to it. But before proceeding on this side we might look at the dell on the other. Here there is a nice piece of Picea morinda. The dell itself is carpeted with bulbs, which are naturalised, principally Daffodils and Crocuses. In the approach to the house, Roses, William Allen Richardson, are planted as standards on either side. The only pruning they receive is when I cut the blooms for house decoration. The winding walk is adorned by climbing Roses in variety, and at the back of the border are flowering shrubs, including Brooms, Buddleias, Laburnum, Olearia Haastii, and others I have already mentioned."

With a glance at the forecourt, a carriage entrance which harmonises with the front of the mansion, we returned to the front lawn, and I congratulated Mr. George on the flourishing appearance of two remarkable specimens of Portugal Laurels.

"What is their height?" I asked.

"Upwards of twenty feet, and they are about thirty feet in circumference. Beyond requiring to be carefully pruned every year, they give no trouble. Now we come to the two terraces, with large plants of Choisya ternata, which flowers excellently, on either side of the steps leading from one terrace to the other. On the terrace wall are climbing Roses in variety, and in the border below Blood-red and Cloth of Gold Wallflowers."

"And the climbers on the mansion?"

"Akebia glomerata, Clematis montana, Bignonia radicans, Magnolia grandiflora, Ampelopsis Veitchii, Wistaria sinensis, and Lonicera corymbosa, which gives a quantity of large blooms. The verandah is also decorated with Lonicera, the sweet-scented Verbena, and Physianthus albicans."

Entering the conservatory, I observed that nothing was planted.

"The arrangement," Mr. George explained, "is such that at any time the contents can be entirely changed. The centre at the present moment is made up of Camellias, Dracæna dracosa, Arums, and Maidenhair Ferns. In one corner is the Japanese Loquat, which has flowered profusely, and is now fruiting. This is the second time it has fruited. The fruit is dark amber in colour, and the size of a small Plum. Spring-flowering Tulips, Daffodils, and Hyacinths are most in evidence."

"With a very gay effect."

"Then there are Primulas malacoides and kewensis. At the back of the stage are Sparmannia africana, Palms in variety, Genista, a few Azaleas, and Solanum capsicastrum. These continue on through March and April. Later, climbing Roses, Plumbago capensis, and Bougainvillea, all in pots, will be brought in. In the season we fill with Chrysanthemums."

The Rose Temple.

Leaving the conservatory, we approached one of the most notable features of Yeldhall, namely the Rose temple.

"Roses, as you have already discovered, are in many parts of the pleasure grounds. Outside the fences are a number of W. A. Richardson, one of the great favourites. I do nothing more to the trees than tie in the young plants. The two specimens of the Weeping Prunus may be noted, and then, I think, we might pursue our way along the west walk to the wild garden."

"This is in process of development only?"

"The winding walk, which leads to the wild garden, is planted at the beginning, on one side with Yuccas and Dracænas, which often get up to ten feet high, and on the other by trees and shrubs in variety. One of the newest additions is a bed of Azaleas, and we are now planting a number of Japanese Maples. In the wild garden itself large quantities of bulbs have been planted, and with the natural vegetation, which comprises numerous fine trees, Irises, Cyclamens, Gunnera, and Rambling Roses have been intermixed. The German, English, Spanish, and Kæmpferi types of Irises are largely represented. Then there are Lilies of the Valley, Fritillarias, Montbretias, Pampas Grass, Sweet Briers, Doronicums—almost everything to keep up a

long succession of flower. We are just planting Bamboos, which should do well. Hybrid Rhododendrons flourish here, and Ox-eye Daisies, Delphiniums, and the tall-growing Solidagoes are also in evidence."

"There is plenty of space for a big garden on the lines you indicate."

"Yes, and we shall fill up by degrees. Beyond the wild garden is the pond, half of which is used for bathing, and the other half filled with Water Lilies, with yellow Irises lining the banks, and a background of ponticum Rhododendrons, Marsh Marigolds, and Rushes."

May-flowering Tulips.

We next explored the reserve garden, admirably protected on one side by a belt of Laurels, and on the other by trees and shrubs.

"You grow both fruit and flowers here?"

"The fruit chiefly consists of Currants, Gooseberries, and Strawberries. The varieties of the last are Leader, Royal Sovereign, President, and Latest of All. I keep the plants for three years, not fruiting the first, and cropping heavily the two others. The Loganberry has produced large crops of fruit for four or five years."

"You seem to devote a great deal of space to Tulips?"

"On the left side of the centre of the garden the whole of the space is devoted to Darwin Tulips, and the whole of the right to Cottage varieties. I take up the bulbs in the summer, dry them, and plant out in September, putting sand and leaf-soil into the beds, which are deeply dug. The bulbs are planted three or four inches down, soot being an excellent stimulant. They flower the third week in May, and last for a fortnight. I wish the season could be prolonged, but while it lasts we get a great mass of colour."

"Can you tell me how many Roses you grow altogether in the Rose garden?"

"About 1,500. We like to have three flowering seasons of Roses, starting with the terrace, temple, and pillars; then the Rose beds, the season finishing with the Rose garden, which is encircled with a Yew hedge. They are all standards and dwarfs here."

THE GARDENER'S LODGE AT YELDHALL MANOR.

Herbaceous Borders.

"What are the leading features of the flower and fruit garden?"

"There are over three hundred yards of herbaceous borders filled with such things as Achillea ptarmica the Pearl, Aconitum japonicum, Anemone japonica alba, Aquilegias, Asters (Michaelmas Daisy) in variety, Chrysanthemum King Edward VII., Delphinium hybrids, Harpalium rigidum, Helianthus in variety, Helenium grandicephalum striatum and autumnale, Helleborus and Hemerocallis in variety, Heuchera sanguinea, herbaceous Pæonies, Papaver orientale, Pentstemons, Solidago canadensis, Phlox (herbaceous), Rudbeckia, Thalictrum adiantifolium, Gypsophila paniculata and elegans, and a host of other useful flowering plants. They are used for cutting in addition to an outside display, and they are assisted in summer by planting annuals, such as Asters, Coreopsis, Scabious (tall and dwarf), Salpiglossis, Stocks (Ten-week), Browallia, Alonsoa, Arctotis grandis, Calendula in variety, Clarkia, Collinsia, Cosmea, Eschscholtzia, Gaillardia, Godetia, Helichrysum, Malope, and Mignonette in variety, Nemesia, Nigella (Miss Jekyll), Petunia, Poppy (Shirley), Zinnias, and Nasturtium (Tom Thumb varieties). The borders you notice are made out of the grass, and the garden is partially surrounded by a hedge of China Roses and W. A. Richardson. In one long border we have early in the year Narcissus, Myosotis, and Primroses, which we follow with Lilium candidum. This border is nine feet wide by seventy-two long. There are three mixed borders, which are planted in spring in much the same way. Then there are three large beds of Roses pegged, with Lady Gay in the centre."

"Do you grow many varieties of Sweet Peas?"

"About fifty. As to cultivation, I find it best to sow about five seeds in a large sixty pot in February, and place in a cool house until they are about one and a half inches high, when I transfer them to cold frames, keeping them steadily growing until the third or fourth week in April. I then plant them out in rows across the garden, putting them six feet apart from row to row, and eighteen inches apart in the row. I like to dig the ground deeply, adding in addition to stable manure, a good dressing of soot and superphosphate of lime when digging, and before planting, another good dressing of soot. In dry times I give them a good soaking of water to start them after planting, and once or twice during the growing season another good watering, adding about half an ounce of nitrate of soda to the gallon when I do this, and under this method the results are excellent."

"Do you grow many Dahlias?"

"Upwards of two hundred, chiefly the Cactus varieties. They are all grown for cutting."

The Orchid Houses.

"Then as to the houses, of which I see you have a useful range?"

"Yes, but the glass is not a feature. We have neither Vineries nor Peach houses, and practically the range should be devoted entirely to Orchids. There are a large number of varieties grown. But I should be glad if you would note the striking specimen of Killarney Fern, which has been in possession of the family for more than half a century. We turn the Orchid houses to the best account, so that it may be said we get a miscellaneous collection which is always changing. Just now there are coming on Zonal Pelargoniums in variety, Tree Carnations, and Schizanthus, which are used for house work. In one of the houses Gerbera Jamesonii, which is very hard to flower, is doing well; and the contents also include Euphorbia jacquiniæflora and Begonia manicata. In the frames the Violets grown are Marie Louise, Neapolitan, Swanley White, and Princess of Wales."

"In respect to hardy fruit, you have not referred to Pears?"

"At present I do not find Pears do well on this heavy soil. Plums also do not fruit as I should like to see them. The American Blackberry (Wilson, junr.) fruits well here."

"What about vegetables?"

"I have to grow everything in quantity. I sow twenty-two quarts of Peas, eight at the first sowing, eight the second, and six for later crops. The best plan here is to sow the second and third batches about twenty feet apart, so that I am able to plant Winter Greens between. I find it desirable to sow nitrate of soda and superphosphate of lime at the rate of four ounces to the square yard during showery weather. This adds very much to the health of haulm, and gives me well-filled pods, and a good flavour to the Pea when cooked. During the growing season I do this two or three times until the Peas have formed their pod. Asparagus I treat in the orthodox style, giving it three or four dressings of kainit during the growing season, at the rate of four ounces to the square yard. I get good results."

"What is your system with Seakale?"

"I plant annually, as I have to dig the crowns up and bring them to the houses to force. About eight hundred are grown, and in digging up we save all the roots, cut them into 4-in. lengths, and bury them in ashes until March, when we plant in rows eighteen inches apart. The crowns are covered with pots and litter, and I find that the system does away with a lot of work. Nearly two acres are given up to vegetables."

"Do you go in largely for salad?"

"There is a large demand for it, but we only grow the ordinary kinds, such as Lettuces, Radishes, and Mustard and Cress. Tomatoes, Cucumbers and Melons have to be grown in hotbeds in frames, because I have no room inside for them."

"With so little glass I need scarcely enquire if you do much showing?"

"There is neither time nor means to do any showing. The men are always engaged either in the garden or with estate work, and the whole of my time is occupied in either superintending or doing work which cannot be left undone. As to my own experience, I was in early days successively at Ewell Castle, Surrey, Moate Mount, Mill Hill, and Cherkley Court, Leatherhead. My only post as head gardener has been in the employ of Mr. Tuckett, first for six years at Child's Hill House, Hampstead, and for the remainder of the time at Yeldhall Manor."

Alfred Wilcox.

point, in a straight line, exactly as it had grown. If, however, the part beyond the notch is bent upwards, it will root much more quickly. The reason is not difficult to see. If a little bay is dug in the bank of a stream which follows a straight course, the main current will sweep past it; but if there is a bend at this point the water will rush into the bay, and impinge on the bank with considerable force, perhaps even to the extent of making for itself in time a new outlet there. The analogy between the flow of water in a stream and the flow of sap—from a cell into the surrounding space, then into another cell, and so on—is only a rough one, but it will give some idea of what happens. The crude sap ascends from the roots, and, after having been elaborated by the leaves, descends again, and it is always at an obstruction, whether due to a bend natural or artificial, or to the construction at a joint, where, too, there is often a bend, that its activities are the greatest. Hence it is that roots are nearly always produced at such points.

THE ADAPTABILITY OF PLANT LIFE.

October 8th.—If the foregoing explanation were left as it stands, it might appear that leaves were essential to the formation of roots; in which case it would be impossible to root cuttings late in the year, when they have no leaves, or else lose them early. That, of course, is not correct. For all the sap which is elaborated by them is not expended on immediate growth. As the season advances, much of this plant food is deposited at the bases of the buds, and is held in readiness there for use at the beginning of the following season, before the leaves have developed sufficiently to be able to perform their functions. This food in a leafless cutting, under the influence of moisture and a suitable temperature, can be transferred to its wounded end to form a callus, and ultimately roots. The more one sees of plant life, the more one is impressed with its marvellous adaptability.

A GOOD LATE-FLOWERING SHRUB.

October 9th.—Good late-flowering shrubs are not numerous; one of the best is Buddleia variabilis Veitchiana, which produces its large panicles of lilac flowers in July and August. Here, in Hampshire, it seems to be quite hardy, which is more than can be said of the commoner species, B. globosa. Its one defect is that the lower flowers on each panicle do not fall off when they wither, so that they rather spoil the effect of the upper ones, which open later. It can be easily propagated by means of cuttings taken about the present time. They make rapid growth in the following season, and some of them may flower.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

CHRYSANTHEMUM SOURCE D'OR.

It seems a far away time since Source d'Or was first exhibited amongst Japanese Chrysanthemums. I well remember attending a show held in the Birmingham Town Hall, at which there were several pans staged, each containing six blooms, and the excitement the new colour —old gold—caused. People crowded round to get a glimpse of a variety that marked a new departure in colour.

It has long been relegated to the decorative sorts, owing to its moderate size as compared with present-day varieties, but it is a question whether it has ever been improved upon so far as colour is concerned.

It is a mid-season variety, carries its foliage well, and the flowers last a long time. It is owing to these good qualifications that a few of the old growers still retain it in their collections. It is a splendid market bloom, and, from what I know of it, the demand nearly always exceeds the supply. It is well worth looking-up by the average grower for home decoration.

ARDATH.

Famous British Gardens.

Blackbrook, Bickley, Kent.

Interview with Mr. A. E. Gibbs.

IT was on a pleasant afternoon towards the middle of August that I had the privilege of visiting Blackbrook, situated about a mile and a half from Bickley station; and of meeting the owner, Mr. H. E. Chalmers, and Mrs. Chalmers, both of whom take keen interest in the gardens, and give every encouragement to their able head gardener, Mr. A. E. Gibbs. Indeed, it is by their combined efforts that the gardens have been brought to their present high level of excellence, for considerable alterations and improvements have been wrought since Mr. Chalmers purchased the estate ten years ago. There was, however, the advantage of many fine old trees of picturesque appearance, and due effect has been given to these when planning and remodelling has been under consideration. The gardens are between four and five acres in extent.

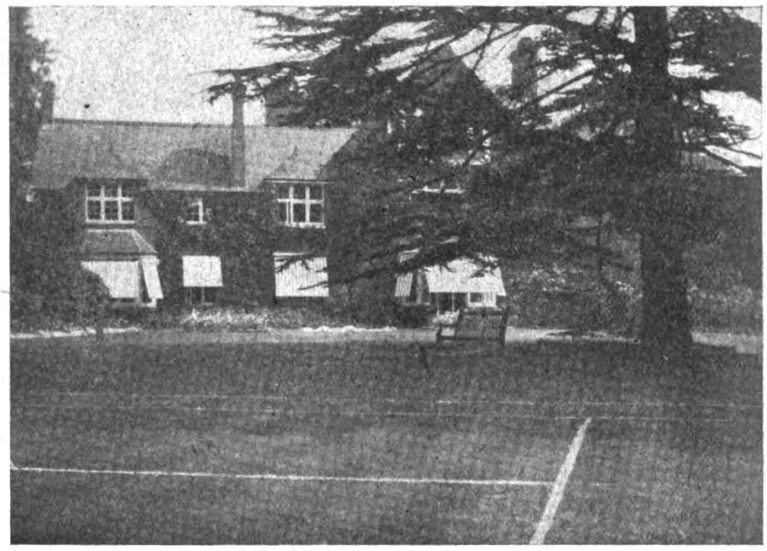
The gravel drive in the front of the house is bordered by Laurels, and on the left is a Laurel hedge, screening the lawn. The narrow border was planted with blue Lobelias, yellow Calceolarias, and Paul Crampel Geraniums; and on the house itself is a mass of greenery, giving colour from spring to autumn. Early in the season Wistarias festoon the walls and cover the porch with their mauve blossoms; and were now, here and there, blooming a second time; while Clematis montana adds its white, starry flowers in great profusion. Then there are Jasmines, the fine old Rose Gloire de Dijon, and Ampelopsis Veitchii, which reaches right to the top of the chimney, and in autumn assumes lovely tints.

GOOD BEDDING COMBINATIONS.

The south-west front of the house, to which we next passed, is covered with Ivy and Ampelopsis. Looking across the lawn, we get glimpses of further stretches of turf, with beds beyond, and nearer at hand note two stately Cedars with an Oak between. Under the house wall is a blue border, the present occupants being Lobelias and Heliotropes Lord Roberts and President Garfield. There are three narrow beds, close to the path, and two are filled with white Ten-week Stocks, Sutton's Perfection, edged with blue Lobelia, the middle one having Begonia semperflorens with an edging of white Alyssum. To the right, under a hedge of shrubs, is a bed of pegged-down Ivy-leaved Geraniums, edged with Alyssum. The soil is light and gravelly, and the Geraniums do well.

Then, crossing to the left, we came to the back of the Laurel hedge I have already mentioned.

"This hedge," said Mr. Gibbs, "was twelve feet high when I came here ten years ago; but I have cut it down to five feet, and want to get it to slope to three feet on the drive side. In the border under it we have dark crimson Iresines, yellow-leaved Fuchsias, and golden-leaved Geraniums."



THE TENNIS LAWN AT BLACKBROOK, BICKLEY.

A few steps down a sloping bank took us on to another lawn, formerly the tennis court, partly surrounded by shrubs. In one corner nine small Cedars (Deodara) are growing gracefully; and in the distance a pleasing effect is created by large beds of Antirrhinums, Pentstemons, and Larkspurs, whose colours shine brilliantly as the sun falls upon them. Towards these we walked, and I asked the varieties.

"The rains of July beat them about badly," I was told, "and they are far from being at their best. The Larkspurs are Sutton's Stock-flowered rosy scarlet and blue. I sow the seed at the end of September, in boxes, winter them in a cold frame, with the lights off, and plant them out in April. The Pentstemons are in three varieties, a rich crimson, a rosy pink, and a blush pink. The Antirrhinums are also selected colours in shades of rose and pink."

In front of these was a round bed of mixed plants. Fuchsias were in the centre, then came Verbenas, Begonia semperflorens, and singles of the tuberous type, Iresines in front, and Alyssum as an edging. The beds which had

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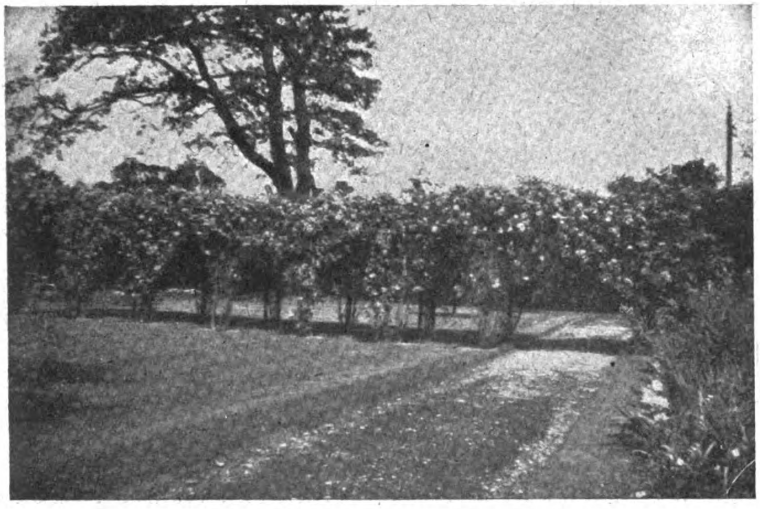
proved so striking from a distance lost nothing of their charm on a closer view. They were in blocks of distinct colours, and the plants, ranging from two to three and a half feet in height, stood out boldly.

Across the path is a very large lawn, known as the croquet lawn, and here other beds were prominent. One, of mixed Nemesias, with an edging of Alyssum, was very effective with its rich colouring; and two beds of Salvia Sutton's Fireball, raised from seed, and edged with Alyssum and Lobelia, were also very attractive.

"Ten years ago," said Mr. Gibbs, "this lawn was a field. All this part of the gardens has been added since Mr. Chalmers bought the place."

ROSES ON A PERGOLA.

Skirting this lawn are many choice shrubs and ornamental trees; and on one side is a round bed of hybrid Rhododendrons of the best sorts, with every promise of a fine display for next spring. For this bed the original soil was taken out, and peat substituted. Among the shrubs are Prunus Pissardii, Syringas of sorts, Guelder Roses, Spiræas, variegated Holly, and Ribes. At the far side is a pergola, covered with Ramblers.



A ROSE PERGOLA AT BLACKBROOK, BICKLEY.

"What are the varieties?" I asked.

"They run in pairs, one on each side to correspond, and each has a three-foot square. The varieties are Pink Delight, Lady Godiva, White Tausendschön (this does not make strong growth), Hiawatha (a splendid thing), René André, Blush Rambler, Ethel, Mrs. F. W. Flight, Excelsa, Paul's Scarlet Climber, Diabolo (this does not flower freely, however), Minnehaha, Una, and Rubin (which mildews badly, and the buds open deformed)."

The end of this pergola leads into a small garden, surrounded by a Yew hedge, which, on the outside marks the boundary of the pleasure grounds, and is about six feet high, but on the garden side is only about three feet high, so that a view of the lawn can be obtained, with many beds of Roses. In the centre is a concrete pond, with white and crimson Water Lilies, through which goldfish are darting. The border has bush and standard plants of the dwarf Polyantha Rose, Jessie, with an edging of Viola White Swan.

"We cannot get the Roses to grow in this border," said Mr. Chalmers, who had joined us here, "though the soil was made up especially. No doubt the roots of the Yew take all the nourishment."

But though the Roses fail, this little garden is altogether charming, making a cool retreat in summer, and giving a pleasant outlook on to the Rose beds skirting the lawn. A pretty arch, covered with Ramblers, leads to the Rose beds, which are in pairs, and comprise eight large beds, and several small ones, some of them circular in shape. All are edged with Violas, mostly white or yellow. The beds are planted to colour, and each contains four or five varieties.

FLOURISHING ROSE BEDS.

"We keep each bed to one colour, though not to one shade only," Mr. Gibbs explained. "Here is one made up of Marquise de Sinety, Lady Hillingdon, Madame Ravary, Le Progrès, and Harry Kirk, which give us various tones of yellow. This bed of pale pink has La Tosca, Viscountess Folkestone, Pharisaër, Mrs. George Shawyer—which is a very poor doer—and Augustine Guinoisseau. Scarlets and crimsons are produced in this bed by Hugh Dickson, Richmond, George C. Waud, Ecarlate, and General McArthur. White and pale yellow are represented by Frau Karl Druschki, K. A. Victoria, Ethel Malcolm, Madame Mélanie Soupert, and Mrs. David McKee."

"Do you have any difficulty with Rayon d'Or?" I asked, seeing how well it was doing.

"None whatever," was the answer. "In fact, it does so well here that we have an extra number for that reason, so there are only four varieties in this bed, the other three being St. Helena, Alice de Rothschild, and Senateur Massurand."

"The round beds have only one variety in each?"

"Yes. Madame E. Herriot is very satisfactory, and, as you see, has some lovely blooms. Willowmere is another that does well; but Sunburst is rather weak in growth. Madame Charles Lutaud is a pretty shade of yellow."

"How do you treat the plants?"

"I prune them hard—except Lady Hillingdon, which is inclined to droop its head a little, so I leave it longer, to keep it a bit off the ground. After pruning, I give the beds a dressing of cow manure."

There were several other good varieties I noted as we passed, such as Caroline Testout, Killarney, Madame Abel Chatenay, and Mrs. Wakefield Christie-Miller in one bed; and Lyons Rose, Jacques Vincent, Edmee Metz, and Mrs. A. R. Waddell in another.

At the opposite end of this lawn is another pergola, of which Mr. Gibbs was able to give me a photograph for reproduction. On this the varieties are Dorothy Perkins, American Pillar, and Lady Gay. A wide herbaceous border, running at right angles, was gay with Phloxes of many colours, Heleniums, Veronica longifolia, Chrysanthemum maximum, Solidago, and other late summer-flowering plants. Earlier, Irises, Trolliuses, Pæonies, Lupins, and Delphiniums are among the subjects that enliven it, and the Lupins and Delphiniums, having been cut down after their first flowering was over, were now showing for bloom a second time. For the autumn show Michaelmas Daisies are the mainstay.

FINE HERBACEOUS BORDERS.

Passing under the pergola, we entered the kitchen garden, but of this little was to be seen because of the broad herbaceous borders running its full length, and practically blocking out the beds of vegetables behind. A neat paved path, with grass edging on either side, added to the effectiveness of the picture.

"This border," Mr. Gibbs remarked, in reply to my questions, "is good at all times. At one season it may be mainly blue. Irises, Anchusa Dropmore, Delphiniums, and others, edged with Viola Maggie Mott, make a fine show of blue. Then, as these go over, the borders take on a different aspect, and we get reds and scarlets, such as Lychnis chalcedonica and Arkwrightii, Monarda didyma Cambridge Scarlet, Malope grandiflora, Geum Mrs. Bradshaw, and Oriental Poppies. We arrange for large clumps to be duplicated right through the border, to carry the colour from end to end. At present, as you see, the border has more of a mixture. Montbretias are coming on nicely; and the tall plants of blue and white Chimney Campanula stand out well. Here and there annuals are sown, and these add to the beauty of the border. Love-in-a-Mist is one we like. Then, if there is a gap anywhere, a few Antirrhinums are put in to fill up. Many things are raised from seed. This clump of Anchusa was sown last year, and next year will be even better than this. Lupins also are raised from seed."

Halfway down the path is crossed by another, also with flower borders on each side. Here is a border of Lavender, and annuals are grown in quantity for cutting, and some of the perennials are raised. A large bed of Asters Southcott Beauty and Ostrich Plume was very striking, and so, too, was Eschscholtzia Mikado.

A POOR FRUIT SEASON.

"How are your fruit crops turning out this season?" I asked.

"Apples are not so good this year, though one or two varieties are excellent. Ecklinville Seedling is a fine crop; but Bismarck is the best, and I can show you trees weighed down with fruit. This is a variety that always bears well. Raspberries did not do well, though Superlative, as usual, has been better than the others. It is by far the best variety. They are netted over, with the Black, Red, and White Currants. We are sorely plagued with birds here, which eat the Apples, pick out the buds from the Gooseberries, and take the Peas."

"Paxton was the best this year; Royal Sovereign was touched by late frost. Strawberries are no good here after the second year."

"Your Broccoli looks healthy and promising."

"They are planted on the old Strawberry bed. I make the ground very hard, as a precaution against club-root, and the Brussels Sprouts I plant in wood ashes."

"What is this good row of Scarlet Runners?"

"That is Carter's Elephant. It is always rather late, but it does very well with us. Here is a nice bed of Asparagus, Connover's Colossal, which is invariably good. But the bulk of our vegetables are grown in a field, though we raise early Potatoes in this garden, Sharpe's Express, Eclipse, and British Queen being the favourite varieties."

Before going to see the remainder of the vegetables, we went through the houses, of which there are four. Concerning the first, Mr. Gibbs observed:

"This is really a Cucumber house. It is used in spring for propagating. We run heat

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until the first week in June, after which the house gets rather stagnant. Very soon it will be cleared out, to make room for Poinsettias, at present in frames."

Among the plants I noticed a number of Crotons, which are used for indoor decoration; Plumbago rosea, which gives nice sprays of flowers for cutting; Dendrobiums chrysotoxum and thyrsiflorum; and a fine specimen of the Nidularium, with bright red bracts surrounding the small cluster of bluish purple flowers, and bearing a strong resemblance to a bird's nest.

Outside this house is a row of pits, heated with a 1½-in. flow and return pipe, and used for wintering much of the bedding stuff.

There was a bright display in the second house, Gloxinias, Streptocarpus, and Achimenes contributing to the result. A good batch of Coleus, Begonia President Carnot, and the old-fashioned Anthurium scherzerianum were other features; and a beautiful mass of greenery was supplied by hanging baskets filled with Nephrolepis of sorts. In the winter this house is filled with Perpetual-flowering Carnations, and Cyclamen go in the Fernery at the end. The principal varieties of Carnations, I was told, are Carola, Matchless, Countess of Latham, Baroness de Brienen (which is very good in spring, but does not bloom freely in winter), Britannia, Cinderella (of these a quantity is grown), Mikado, Mary Allwood, Renown, Queen Alexandra, Lady Ingestrie, and Scarlet and Variegated Carola.

The centre staging in the third house was filled with Primula obconica, Hydrangeas, scented-leaved Geraniums, and other plants; but in autumn this staging is taken out and the floor space is occupied by Chrysanthemums, of which I was later shown a remarkably fine collection. To follow the Chrysanthemums there are Cinerarias: in short, there is always something to see in this house. Tomatoes, Britain's Best, were on one side; and more were seen in the fourth house, though here the varieties were Wright's V.C. and Holmes' Supreme.

A GOOD CROP OF POTATOES.

Leaving the houses, we made our way to the field to see the principal kitchen garden crops. Big beds of Potatoes, with scarcely a sign of disease, led me to ask Mr. Gibbs if they had been sprayed.

"No," he replied; "I do not spray, but the crops are lifted early. The two chief varieties are Arran Chief and Great Scot for maincrops. From half a hundredweight of Eclipse we lifted thirty hundredweight."

"You have suffered somewhat with club-root in the Cabbages?"

"Yes; and I have noticed that the rows planted on the level have been more subject to attack than those deeper down, as, for example, between the Potatoes. Cottager's Kale and Curly Kale—perhaps because they are hardier—have not suffered to the same extent."

"And your Turnips do not seem to be affected?"

"No; they are quite healthy. We get best results by sowing them in July. We have some good rows of Perpetual Spinach, which is found very useful; and Peas do very well."

"What are the varieties of Peas?"

"Our earliest are Carter's Blue Express and Little Marvel, which are followed by Gradus and The Pilot. Gradus does well sown late; and we are also growing Delicatesse as a late Pea. The Parsnips are going to be good—the varieties are Maltese and Hollow Crown."

SOME FIRST-CLASS CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

After this we made our way to the frame ground, to see the Chrysanthemums. There were five long rows of exhibition Japanese varieties, healthy in every way. Answering my query, Mr. Gibbs said:

"The Chrysanthemums are struck in the heated pit, not in pots in the greenhouse. There are many varieties, including Rear Admiral, Lloyd George, Keith Luxford, Francis Rowe, Salonica, Francis Joliffe, Mrs. R. Luxford, Mrs. E. Tickle, Master James, Bob Pulling, Mrs. R. C. Pulling, Queen Mary, Miss Edith Cavell, William Rigby, General Petain, Mrs. Gilbert Drabble, Master Rex, Mrs. James Gibson (this is very beautiful), Golden Champion, W. Mease, Mrs. A. Davis, General Smith-Dorrien, James Stredwick, Master Rex, Captain Fox (an old favourite), Rosoman (another good variety), King George, Mrs. J. Baker (a very nice flower), and Louisa Pockett, of which I am growing some on first and some on second crowns, to see which comes best. Then there are a number of large-flowered singles and early and late decoratives, and you might make special mention of Godfrey's Perfection, an Anemone-flowered variety, blush-white and sweetly scented. It is a lovely thing."

Although unknown as an exhibitor, Mr. Gibbs is an experienced Chrysanthemum grower. Before coming to Blackbrook he was for some years under Mr. Hudd, gardener at Farrants, Bickley, who has been so successful with incurved varieties. W. J. CHITTENDEN.

UP-TO-DATE SWEET PEAS.

The Floral Committee of the National Sweet Pea Society has issued its annual classification of Sweet Peas. The list is in alphabetical order, and the asterisk (*) indicates the variety which the Floral Committee considers the best in each of the colour classes. Two asterisks (**) indicates a variety of special value for cultivation under glass.

Bicolor (light).—*Dora (A.M., 1915), Mrs. Cuthbertson, Sparkler.

Bicolor (dark).—*Adelaide, Marks Tey.

Blue (light).—Margaret Fife (A.M., 1915), *Mrs. Tom Jones, Princess Mary.

Blue (dark).—*Commander Godsall, Jack Cornwell, V.C., Lord Nelson Spencer.

Blush (pink).—Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes (A.M., 1905), **Valentine.

Blush (lilac).—Agrigola (A.M., 1912), *Elegance.

Carmine.—*John Ingman (F.C.C., 1904).

Cerise (pale).—**Doris, Hope, Mrs. G. W. Bishop.

Cerise (deep).—Brilliant, Fiery Cross (Silver Medal, 1915), *Royal Salute.

Cerise (scarlet).—Alex. Malcolm, **Royal Scot.

Cream (buff and ivory).—Cream (Dobbie's), **Felton's Cream, Ivorine.

Cream Pink (pale).—*Mrs. A. Hitchcock, Giant Attraction.

Cream Pink (deep).—Edith Cavell, Market Pink, **Picture.

Crimson.—*Charity, Sunproof Crimson (A.M., 1909).

Fancy.—Prince George, **Magic.

Flushed.—Mrs. J. Balmer (rose on cream ground), *Mrs. J. T. Wakefield, Selina (deep rose on cream ground).

Lavender.—Austin Frederick, Gladys, **R. F. Felton (A.M., 1912; S.M., 1913).

Lavender (pale).—**Victory (Bolton's) (A.M., 1915), Lavender (King's), Lavender (Unwin's).

Lilac.—Dorothy, Italia, **Mascotts Helio.

Marbled and Watered.—*Birdbrook, Helen Pierce Spencer, May Campbell (A.M., 1911).

Maroon (red).—Hawlmark Maroon, Maroon (Dobbie's), *Splendour.

Maroon (dark).—King Manoel, *Warrior.

Mauve.—**King Mauve, Lady Eveline, Queen of Norway.

Orange.—Golden Glory, Orange (Dobbie's), **Tangerine.

Orange (Pink).—**Edrom Beauty, John Porter, King Alfred.

Orange (scarlet).—May Unwin, **The President, Thos. Stevenson (F.C.C., 1911).

Picotee Edged (cream ground).—Cherub, *Jean Ireland (F.C.C., 1915), Mrs. C. W. Breadmore.

Picotee Edged (white ground).—*Annie Ireland, Elsie Herbert (A.M., 1906).

Pink (pale).— **Daisy Bud, Elfrida Pearson, Mavis.

HERBACEOUS BORDERS DIVIDING THE KITCHEN GARDEN AT BLACKBROOK.

Pink (deep).—**Hawlmark Pink, Hebe, Pink (Unwin's).

Purple.—Le Mahdi, *Royal Purple (A.M., 1914), Royalty.

Rose.—Old Rose (A.M., 1916), *Rosabelle, Verdun.

Salmon.—**Barbara (F.C.C., 1911), Liberty, Melba.

Salmon (pink).—**Lady Miller (A.M., 1912), Surprise.

Scarlet.—**Hawlmark Scarlet, Mascotts Scarlet, Scarlet (Dobbie's).

Striped and Flaked.—Loyalty, Phyllis, *Senator Spencer.

White.—**Edna May Improved, King White (A.M., 1912), Nora Unwin.

White (tinted), these are dark seeded varieties.—*Constance Hinton, Miss Burnie.

Many of the varieties in the different colour selections are "too-much-alike" to be exhibited together.

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The Garden, 1875

OBITUARY.

We have to record, with much regret, the death of Mr. John Gibson which took place on Monday last, after a long period of severe suffering. Mr. Gibson, who was born in Cheshire, in 1815, was apprenticed at Chatsworth to the late Sir Joseph Paxton, who, appreciating his worth, even as early as 1835, sent him out to India to collect plants for the late Duke of Devonshire, more especially the Amherstia nobilis, a plant, of the singular beauty of which we had then received such glowing accounts in this country. On returning to Chatsworth, Mr. Gibson was appointed foreman of the exotic plant department. In 1849 he left Chatsworth, having been appointed superintendent of Victoria Park, then in course of formation. In 1850 Greenwich Park was added to his charge. In 1858 the formation of Battersea Park was commenced, and, while in its rough state, Mr. Gibson was entrusted with its direction, principally as regards planting. Soon afterwards Kennington Park, the grounds of Chelsea Hospital, and those of the Royal Military Asylum, were also placed under his charge. In the early part of 1871 Mr. Gibson was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. James Mann, as superintendent of St. James's, the Green, and Hyde Parks, and Kensington Gardens, an office which he held until within a few months of his death. To Mr. Gibson we are chiefly, if not wholly, indebted for sub-tropical gardening, which was so well carried out by him in Battersea Park. He also laid out the ground for the great International Exhibition of 1866, and was often consulted on similar matters on subsequent occasions. As to the esteem in which he was held by horticulturists throughout the country, the liberal support which the testimonial, lately got up for him, received, speaks for itself. Indeed, for skill in artistic arrangement, and in decorative gardening generally, as well as for integrity of character and courtesy of manners, Mr. Gibson deserves to be long remembered.

GIBSON John.
Effects under £300.

24 February. The Will of John Gibson formerly of Palace Entrance Kensington Palace but late of Argyll Lodge Gloucester-terrace South Kensington both in the County of **Middlesex** who died 11 January 1875 at Argyll Lodge was proved at the **Principal Registry** by John Thomas Gibson of 29 Bridge-road-West Battersea in the County of Surrey Park Superintendent the Son and John Arch Stuart of 6 New-inn Strand in the County of Middlesex Solicitor the Executors.

GIBSON John.
Effects under £450.

30 May. The Will of John Gibson late of Tholthorpe in the County of **York** Yeoman who died 17 January 1876 at Tholthorpe was proved at **York** by Octavius Robinson of Easingwold in the said County Gentleman and William Pipes of Tholthorpe Farmer the Executors.

GIBSON John.
Effects under £100.

6 September. The Will with a Codicil of John Gibson late of Mainsfield in the Parish of Muggleswick in the County of **Durham** Farmer who died 14 July 1876 at Mainsfield was proved at **Durham** by Ralph Ward of Watergate in Muggleswick Gentleman and Thomas John Muse of Castleside in the Parish of Lanchester in the said County Grocer the Executors.

GIBSON John.
Effects under £3,000.

12 October. The Will of John Gibson late of Colby in the County of **Westmoreland** Cornmiller who died 20 September 1876 at Colby was proved at **Carlisle** by Thomas Gibson of Orton in the said County M.D. the Nephew and John Gibson of Colby Cornmiller the Son the Executors.

GIBSON John.
Effects under £200.

18 October. The Will of John Gibson late of Red-Rock-street Liverpool in the County of **Lancaster** Blacksmith who died 1 October 1876 at Red-Rock-street was proved at **Liverpool** by Catherine Ryder Gibson of 74 Red-Rock-street Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

GIBSON John.
Effects under £200.

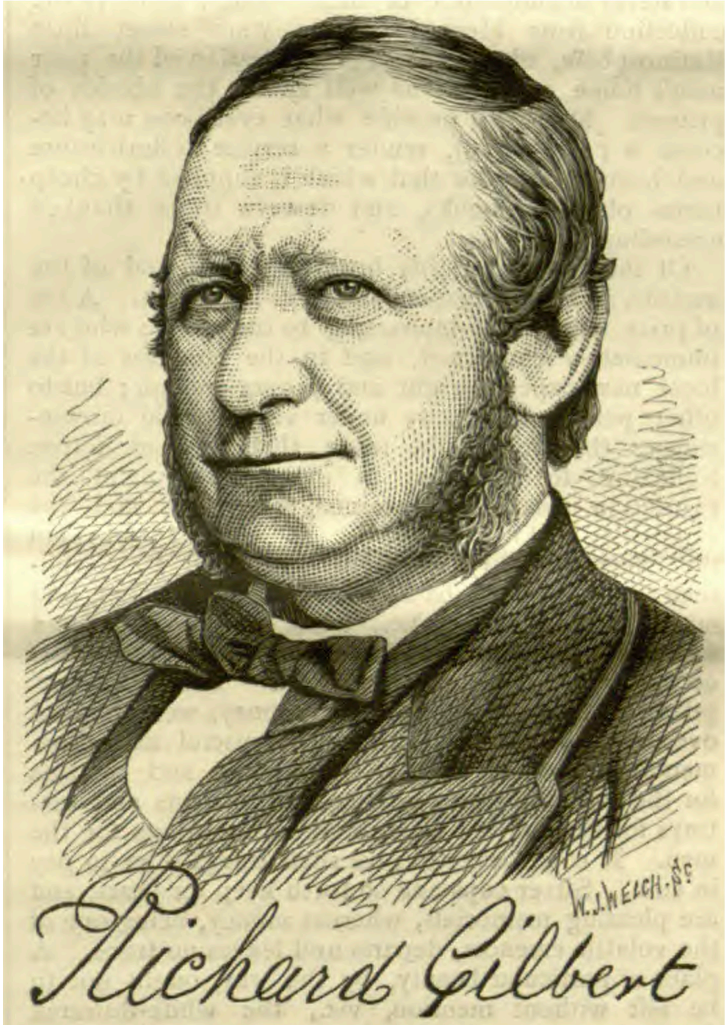
7 December. Administration of the effects of John Gibson late of Selwyn-street Kirkdale Liverpool in the County of **Lancaster** who died 26 August 1876 at Selwyn-street was granted at **Liverpool** to Ellen Gibson of 200 Hawthorn-road Bootle in the said County Widow the Relict.

GIBSON John Thomas.
Effects under £600.

30 May. Administration of the effects of John Thomas Gibson late of 1 Gardner-street North Shields in the County of **Northumberland** Steam Boat Owner who died 24 February 1876 at 1 Gardner-street was granted at **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** to Jane Gibson of 1 Gardner-street Widow the Relict.

GIBSON Joseph.
Effects under £200.

24 January. Administration of the effects of Joseph Gibson late of Amington in the Parish of Tamworth in the County of **Warwick** Labourer who died 8 November 1875 at Amington was granted at **Birmingham** to Catherine Gibson of Amington Widow the Relict.



Richard Gilbert

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1875 n.s. 4

This fine specimen of a British gardener, whose portrait we place before our readers to-day, was born at Worksop, on August 6, 1821. His father was the proprietor of the Red Lion Hotel, but the son, not relishing either hotels or horses, was always to be found in his grandfather's garden, and at the age of twelve years was allowed to dig the south border for early Potatos — a great privilege in his estimation.

"After staying at home until I reached the age of fourteen," writes Mr. Gilbert, "and having already filled the position of principal foreman for two years under my grandfather, I was apprenticed to Mr. John Wilson, Worksop Manor Gardens, whom I served for seven years. Worksop Manor was then the property and occasional residence of the Earl of Surrey. The glass-houses were among the best in England, and gardening was well carried out at the Manor, Pines and Vines were here done to perfection; the former I have seen 11¾ lb. (Providence), grown in pots, and, by-the-by, splendid houses of succession plants, and a fine canopy of Grapes overhead. Here I used to visit Welbeck, Clumber, Thoresby, and Osberton, and being quite the white-headed boy with my excellent friends, Mr. Tillery and Mr. Moffatt the former still at Welbeck and the latter then at Clumber — they always showed me round themselves, and took the greatest interest in my welfare generally. I am happy to say that the friendships then formed last to this day.

After my seven years' stay at Worksop Manor I was sent to Arundel Castle, under Mr. R. Wilson, where, I believe, I filled every place in the garden except the master's — first flower-garden foreman, then kitchen-garden foreman, and afterwards, when the lamented Mr. McEwen took charge, general foreman. I cannot pretend here to relate the great ability and success with which Mr. McEwen filled the position he there held, but I may say that I never saw George McEwen's master at growing Strawberries. Grapes and Pines he was not so successful with, but as a general horticulturist his name stood high, and deservedly so.

After spending about ten years at Arundel, which were among the happiest days of my life, my old master, Mr. John Wilson, recommended me to Dr. Lindley, and never shall I forget my first interview with "the Doctor." He scanned me closely, asked me a great many queer questions, but at last said, "I want you to wait upon Yarborough Yarborough, Esq., at the Pall Mall Club, and you will come back and let me know how you get on." I kept the appointment, and was engaged for my first place in a very short time. I then returned to the Doctor (an errand I did not much relish), but, however, we got on very well, he giving me a few instructions how to proceed.

Mr. Yarborough's place was Sewerby House, Bridlington Quay, where we had a large orangery, a conservatory, and several half-span and lean-to pits, and houses for Grapes, Peaches, and Figs, &c.

Here I soon discovered that though head gardener I had about half the power I had when foreman. However, I rubbed on till the August of the following year, when I had to exhibit my produce at the Bridlington Quay flower show — where I won eighteen first prizes, ten second, and four thirds, and received £3 12s. 6d. for thirty-two prizes (a large amount was it not?)— and was then questioned as to "what I intended to do with the money." This astonishing success encouraged me to stay a little longer, and the following year I repeated my successes. Not liking Yorkshire so well as a more southern clime, I went to my old master (McEwen) at the Royal Horticultural Gardens, Chiswick. From this lime dates my friendship with the present worthy superintendent, with whom I have mown short grass in the dear old arboretum from four in the morning till nine at night. I was after a time put under Ben Hyde (what Chiswick man has not kindly recollection of "Old Ben"?) in the distribution department, and I should like publicly to thank Ben for the disinterested kindness I received at his hands in those days and since.

From the Society's gardens I went to take charge of the gardens of Samuel Rickards, Esq., Shalimar, Acton, where I found two little vineries and a conservatory. While in this situation I believe I was the first to patronise Sir Joseph Paxton's 'hothouses for the million,' getting first two small lean-to's, subsequently two Peach-houses, an orchard-house. Straw- berry-house, and Pelargonium-house. I well remember the pleasure my master had in looking round his garden, and notably his pride when we cut our first Pine, a Smooth Cayenne of 6 lb., and his sending it to a friend in Paris.

I served him for seven years, adding yearly to the dessert-table and to the pleasure of my employer; and it is but fair to add that he fully appreciated my endeavours.

Alas! Mr. Rickards died. I lost a kind, good master, and the place was soon sold, and a great part is now built over. When this occurred, I was sent to a place called Burntwood, Wandsworth Common, where eight months was a sufficiently long stay. After this I went back to Chiswick for a short time, then to Blackmore Priory, Essex, where two of the young members of the firm of Wheatly & Myatt, of Deptford, lived. Here I got on well; always receiving the greatest kindness from my employers, until I was recommended to the Marquis of Exeter (my present noble employer) as kitchen gardener. Here I am still, and hope to remain. As was stated recently in the pages of the Gardeners' Chronicle I have now entire charge of all matters horticultural at Burghley. It is needless for me to give particulars of the place, as it is well-known in the gardening world. My employer is a kind and good master, taking great interest in the state of the gardens.

As regards exhibiting I have never done much except with vegetables; but at the provincial shows of the Royal Horticultural Society I have never, except on one occasion, been left out in the cold entirely. My most fortunate hit, however, was winning the "Carter Challenge Cup" a few weeks ago,"

Mr. Gilbert's native modesty has prevented him from more than casually alluding to his success as an exhibitor of vegetables, but it is due to him to say that no man has done more with his pen, and more substantially with his productions, to kindle enthusiasm in the culture of vegetables — the sheet anchor of every good gardener; and it would be difficult to estimate the value of the services so cheerfully and, shall we say, so originally rendered. We may add that Mr. Gilbert not only enjoys the friendship of a great number of the members of the gardening fraternity, but also great popularity amongst the men employed under him. About two years ago they presented him with a handsome timepiece; and on the occasion of a recent very successful competition, with his favourite vegetables, and which was also the seventh anniversary of his directorship at Burghley, he again received a token of their esteem in the shape of a handsome arm-chair. Mr. Gilbert does all that a man can do to better the position of his men, and the good feeling which exists between them is alike creditable to all concerned.

Since Mr. Gilbert has been at Burghley the Fruit Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society have awarded him no less than twelve first-class and special certificates, five of which were for Melons alone— a fact which we believe is quite unprecedented. Since he became a head gardener, Mr. Gilbert has made it a practice to take no apprentices; but, as we have heard him remark, when e gets a boy with a head on his shoulders he always brings him out. Neither does he accept gratuities from young journeymen seeking employment at Burghley, but for obtaining them a situation after serving under him his fee is a new hat, and long may he live to wear the stock already accumulated!

effective plant for greenhouse decoration.—Cl. Sonntag.

Gigantic Odontoglossum spike.—An extraordinary flower-spike of O. crispum (Alexandræ) has been sent to us by Dr. Paterson, of Fernfield, Bridge of Allan. It carries upwards of fifty blooms on various branchlets. Dr. Paterson writes as follows respecting it: "When in Mr. Low's nursery some years ago, and he had just received an importation of Alexandræs, I observed that half a dozen of the lots had unusually large and thick dried flower-stems, so I purchased three of the smallest plants. The spike I send you is from one of the plants; the other two, being equally robust in habit, also throw very strong spikes, and are even finer varieties. Can these plants have been seedlings with vigorous constitutions? I think the variety might be called giganteum. All orchidists who have seen the spike declare they never saw a finer flowered Alexandræ." Whether this exceptionally fine spike is due to a particular variety or not is a doubtful point. We should rather attribute it to Dr. Paterson's skill in Orchid culture.

Fuchsia Sir Henry Pottinger.—This fine old Fuchsia is probably nearly extinct, yet in some respects it has not been surpassed by the thousand and one varieties raised since its day. It was one of the pioneers of the light race. The flowers when in their best state are very large, of great substance, and have a glittering surface, although their shape does not much accord with the modern criterion. The habit of the plant, which is only of moderate height, is decidedly weeping. The specimen from which the spray sent was taken is a 13-foot standard and about forty years old. It is in a 12-inch pot, and from associations is much revered here. The bloom is arranged in thick, drooping racemes at the ends of the branches, some of which are pendent from the top of the plant to a foot below the base of the pot standing on a bench. It has been in flower nearly the whole of the summer. To bring about this, however, it requires a sumptuous diet, and it is necessary to remove the berries, which it yields in abundance.—J. M., *Charmouth, Dorset.*

*** A showy variety in the way of the Lord Beaconsfield.—Ed.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Finsbury Park.—The usual display of Chrysanthemums in this park will be opened to the public to day, October 18. The usual annual displays also in the Temple Gardens are open.

"Forestry."—The proprietorship of this monthly magazine work has passed from Messrs. William Rider & Son to Mr. Charles Anderson, jun., the proprietor of the "North British Agriculturist," and in future the magazine will be published in Edinburgh.

The Walnut crop.—The crop of Walnuts in the district from which I write is the best we have had for several years past. It is not only abundant but the quality is also good, there being but few Nuts without kernels. I notice that the green shell is unusually thick this season.—J. C. C.

Town trees.—Trees are being planted on each side of the improved portion of Gray's Inn Road; and it is expected that the planting will be continued by the St Pancras Vestry on that part of the thoroughfare which is under their jurisdiction as far as King's Cross. This contemplated improvement will convert a rather dingy London road into a handsome promenade.

A new industry has just been started in East Kent—that of growing crops of Lavender and Peppermint for the purpose of extracting the oil and supplying it wholesale. A large breadth of land at Grove, near Canterbury, has been planted with Lavender and Peppermint by way of experiment, and the result has proved in every way satisfactory. It has, therefore, been determined to establish extensive works on the spot in order to carry on the process of extracting the oil from these plants, neither of which, it is stated, has ever been cultivated before in Kent.

Distribution of plants.—The commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings intend to distribute this autumn, among the working classes and the poor inhabitants of London, the surplus bedding-out plants in Battersea, Hyde, the Regent's, and Victoria Parks, and the Royal Gardens, Kew, and the pleasure gardens, Hampton Court. If the clergy, school committees, and others interested will make application to the superintendent of the park nearest to their respective parishes, or to the director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, or to the superintendent of Hampton Court Gardens, in the cases of persons residing in those neighbourhoods, they will receive early intimation of the number of plants that can be allotted to each applicant, and of the time and manner of their distribution.

The International Forestry Exhibition in Edinburgh was brought to a close on Saturday. Throughout the day and during the evening the attendance was very large, the buildings and the grounds outside being crowded. The high, unsteady wind and, it was said, a slight accident prevented the ascent of the balloon. It is estimated that nearly 500,000 people have visited the exhibition. As to the financial results, it is believed that there is likely to be a deficit of not less than in all probability between £500 and £1000. The accounts have not yet been made up, and, accordingly, no exact statement can be given; but the above estimate is believed to be only too well grounded, and certainly not over the amount of the deficit that may be looked for when everything now due has been paid off. This deficit is attributed chiefly to the heavy expenditure that has been necessary to the carrying on of the exhibition, with all its attractions. The buildings, in the first place, cost upwards of £7000; that of the electric light has been, it is said, about £1500; and £36 a night has been paid for other illuminations. The general expenses have been very heavy—heavier than was at first anticipated; and in the general expenses are included a vast number of important items for every-day requirements, which have run up into a formidable figure. The promoters of the proposed School and Museum of Forestry have now obtained from the Lawson Seed Company a place for the temporary accommodation of the exhibits that have been promised for the museum, and, accordingly, it is understood they do not propose to acquire any considerable portion of the exhibition buildings. These in the course of a short time will be taken down and removed.

Blue Grapes.—I send you some clusters from my blue-berried Vine described in your columns some few years ago as one of the good things in my garden. I should not be far wrong this year if I said it is the best. Certainly it is so if the admiration of beholders—and specially of ladies—is any proof of excellence. I could not say how often I have been asked for some of these Grapes in order that they may be painted, and I have sent away boxes full of them for that purpose in all directions. I see now why Vitis humulifolia is so little known, and it comes as a surprise even to such experienced gardeners as the Rev. T. H. Ellacombe, of Clyst St. George, or to his son, the vicar of Bitton. The beauty of this Vine when it is at its best is quite undeniable, but it often, even here, goes three or four years without coming to perfection, and it scrambles all over the place with astonishing vigour. The summer must be a continuously hot one for the Grapes to ripen well in September; if it is wet in July while the Vine is in blossom, it will do nothing more. It follows from all this that either it must be grown under glass, or success must be looked for only once in three or four years. The first supposition is not often complied with, because Black Hamburghs stand in the way, and the Vine becomes so discredited by the failure of two or three years in succession in open air, that it is at once given up. Moreover, I should not think it ever would do anything at all in a place which is damp and cold. But given only a really old-fashioned hot summer and an entire absence of rain for weeks and months together and in any suitable place, Vitis humulifolia is sure to be an object of exquisite beauty. Its numerous clusters of clear turquoise-blue are very engaging, and they are so utterly unlike anything else which I have ever seen, that they command attention at once. Even so great a traveller as Colonel Stuart Wortley has been very much struck by them, and he is only one out of many. The chorus of praise has been unstinting the last few weeks which my blue-berried Vine has received. I would just add that it strikes easily in a little heat in mid-winter, and I daresay it may be grown from seed—at any rate, Mr. Horner tells me he intends to try and raise it in that way.—H. Ewbank, *St. John's, Ryde, Isle of Wight.*

*** A pretty-fruited Vine, the berries of which are about the size of Peas and pale blue in colour.—Ed.

Apples and Lilies.—In a sloping, walled-in garden I recently saw a clump of gold-rayed Japan Lilies with half opened blossoms and great plump buds, and quite near to it, for contrast, great rosy-cheeked Apples hung in festoons down the grey-leaved branches. Those Apple trees are twice beautiful within the cycle of one short year. In spring the trees are like rosy snow rucks against the sky, while now one may perceive that the ancient dream of Hesperidian "Apples of gold" is true in our own time. On a sunny border the lilac-starred Asters were in bloom, and it is to them the butterflies come for nectar and to sun their wings. Red Admirals and the Tortoiseshell, large and small alike, are there with the bees a jocund company. The best of the old Michaelmas Daisies are beautiful in themselves, and afford us the joys of lovely insect life as well, but one lesson this old walled-in garden teaches is an old one: we must never divorce the fruit trees from the flowers.—F. W. B.

RICHARD GILBERT.

Amongst the foremost of British gardeners is Mr. Gilbert, of Burghley, a man well known to readers of The Garden. He began his career in the gardens at Worksop Manor, under the late Mr. John Wilson. Afterwards he spent some time in the Castle Gardens at Arundel, and he was likewise a student gardener at Chiswick during the best times of that grand old garden. For the past ten or fifteen years he has had charge of the gardens at Burghley, where his cultural successes have been greater than those of most men, a fact to which our pages bear ample testimony. As an inventor, Mr. Gilbert has given us improved hand-lights or portable protective plant frames, and as a raiser of new flowers and vegetables he is likewise favourably known. The charming double-blossomed Chinese Primroses which he originated are still to the fore, and amongst vegetables we need only mention Chou de Burghley, and the Universal Savoy, and an improved selection of Brussels Sprouts to show what he has done in that branch of gardening. In short, in fruit and vegetable culture Mr. Gilbert has been especially successful, as the many first-class awards which he has received abundantly testify. As a contributor to horticultural literature he is well known, and his communications, while, as a rule, brief, are full of humorous point, and abound in strong common sense. The annexed portrait is acknowledged to be an excellent likeness of him.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

An Example.

While our Royal Horticultural Society has been frittering away its opportunities and resources and lamenting its misfortunes, it is interesting to turn to a kindred institution, founded under far less favourable circumstances at a much later date, prosecuting its work with far less assistance, and yet efficiently and successfully aided by a small army of observers, which, strange to say, are mostly gardeners. I allude to the Scottish Meteorological Society, concerning which a few particulars may be interesting. This society may be said to have begun almost without funds—casting its bread upon the waters, so to speak—and trusting to public encouragement to help it to continue a useful work, the importance of which is now beginning to be fully realised. The object of this society is to investigate meteorological phenomena generally, its connection with public health, agr

culture, and natural history, and with that view it has established "stations" under the care of competent observers, mostly head gardeners, over the whole of Scotland, at the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and elsewhere, while it is in communication also with other observers and societies in other parts of the world. One of the latest stations formed is on the summit of Ben Nevis, from which great things are expected, while a marine station, equipped with all the necessary appliances, including a steamboat, has been established at Granton for the purpose of investigating problems connected with our sea fisheries and other matters connected with marine animal and vegetable life. Annually, or oftener, the society publishes a full and most interesting report of its proceedings, many of which have a real interest for gardeners and farmers. Under the presidency of the Duke of Richmond, an influential council, and an able and enthusiastic secretary and his staff, the work proceeds smoothly and methodically, and extends in importance and usefulness every year. The working expenses amount to an incredibly small sum, showing the most rigid economy necessitated by the very limited funds at the disposal of the society, and provided, I believe, mostly by voluntary subscriptions. The report is an exhaustive and laborious compilation, such a task as our Royal Horticultural Society has never had to face, and before which its reports, if they saw the light, would dwindle into insignificance. And yet the Scottish Meteorological Society is for all practical purposes similar to the much more pretentious Royal Horticultural Society. It is constituted on the same lines and does its work by the same means. There is only this difference between the two — that whereas the one knows its work and does it, the other never seems to know what it is going to do next, and is always waiting for something to turn up, notwithstanding that it has had by far the best opportunities. Yet if the Royal Horticultural Society would divest itself of some of its needless responsibilities, cease those aspirations which it can never realise, and confine itself to the work that it can do, and which belongs to it, it might yet beat the Meteorological Society in its sphere of usefulness, because it has a more popular and wider field, and would no doubt be helped in its work by many voluntary assistants.

The great want of horticulture at the present time is exact information and tabulated facts on almost every important subject, which are easily procurable if only some properly organised body, working with a will, would collect them, arrange them, and generally digest them for the benefit of all concerned. The Apple show was a step in the right direction, *i.e.*, if we get the promised report, and anything comes of it, but on that occasion the "congress" seems to have saddled itself with more than it could accomplish. Half-a-dozen pomologists or intelligent fruit growers sitting periodically in council, and taking the work deliberately, might settle Apple nomenclature and the question of kinds best adapted for different parts of the country, and other matters pertaining to culture in a year or two, and without any great exertion, if they set about it in the right way, and placed themselves in connection with cultivators throughout the country, not encumbering themselves with the help of everybody who chooses to offer it, but only that of responsible and appointed agents and correspondents. In this way, by taking up one thing at a time, and working it out methodically, the work would proceed and something would be done.

As constituted at present the Royal Horticultural Society appears to consist of a number of individuals, each acting on his own responsibility, and doing what seems right in his own eyes, but by far the greater portion of them do nothing at all, and are mere dummy members. We shall be told, I daresay, that there are three committees, one scientific, one for fruit, and one for flowers, all doing useful work. Well, the two last appear to exist principally for the benefit of the trade to register their productions and help their sale, and as for the scientific committee, nobody seems to think it worth while hardly to record its desultory conversations. Still, these bodies exist and spend time and money, and if anyone belonging to them had the courage and enterprise to take the initiative, and start a proposal to place the society on a new footing, with the purpose of performing some good work, some specified task, I have no doubt they would receive support from horticulturists of all degrees. As the Royal Horticultural stands at present it might be blotted out of existence, and would never be missed. J. S. W.

RICHARD GILBERT.

THE GARDENS AT TRESCO ABBEY.

Tresco Abbey, a foundation of the Benedictine monks of Tavistock, dates from the tenth century. From the insignificant ruins that now remain of it, it could never have been very grand. The present abbey is a queer, many-gabled house, built on a rocky cairn facing the channel which intervenes between Tresco and the largest of the islands—St. Mary's. In the rear the ground ascends still higher. To the left of the entrance a descent conducts to the gardens; to the right a carriage drive leads to the populous parts of the island. The Abbey Walk, a carriage drive, could not be improved upon, if only Mr. Dorrien-Smith would plant out one ugly gap disclosing some uncouth sheds. It is about three-quarters of a mile long, and thickly planted on both sides with ever-varying kinds of foliage. The commonest, but at the same time the handsomest, tree is Cupressus macrocarpa. This sea-loving Cypress is the Conifer that succeeds best on the islands. Its growth in the sandy soil of Tresco is more vigorous even than on the mainland; and when hundreds of them are seen in close proximity, as in this drive, the effect of the bright green foliage peculiar to the tree is most exhilarating and entrancing. The late Mr. Augustus Smith wrought quite a change in the vegetation of the island, and none of his introductions have turned out a failure, except the Pinaster. Those who have seen the magnificent old Pinasters of Mount Edgcumbe cannot credit the report of its being a short-lived tree, and so the verdict anent the Scilly specimens must be that they have been wind-tossed into the reverse of a green old age. It is a pity they are so gnarled, dwarfed, and brown, for there are some thousands of them. However, they have answered the main purpose for which they were planted, and have afforded ample protection for the younger and more tender trees. The carriage drive is cut along the side of a slope, and on one side the ground rises sharply. It is on this side the Pinasters are planted, with an undergrowth of Rhododendron ponticum. At every few steps Dracænas are mixed with the Rhododendrons, one, a local hybrid between Cordyline erythrorachis and Dracæna australis, and combining the habit of the former with the foliage of the latter, being very striking. Where the Rhododendrons will not grow the ground is covered with Bracken. The various New Zealand Flaxes are planted largely, and every now and then occur large examples of Chamærops excelsa. Turkey Oaks, bronzy Elæagni, and silvery Eucalypti abound, and in a sheltered alcove are brought together Pinus insignis and Picea nobilis, with some spiny Araucaria Bidwilli at their feet. A very noticeable plant abutting on the road is

Messrs. LORD, Ashton-on-Mersey, had a fine lot of cut sprays of various indoor flowers which tell well in groups at this season of the year.

DICKSON & ROBINSON exhibited a fine collection of Cyclamens set out amongst Maidenhair Ferns; and DICKSON, BROWN & TAIT had a similar assortment.

Mr. JOHN WATKINS, nurseryman, Hereford, put up a collection of over fifty dishes of dessert and culinary Apples in first-rate condition.

VARIORUM.

A TROPICAL FROG AT KEW.—Dr. Gunther, writing to *Nature*, says: A short time ago Mr. W. Watson, the assistant curator of Kew Gardens, informed me that he had noticed for several years, in some of the hothouses, specimens of a small frog, which, hiding away during the day among the pots and orchid baskets, enlivened the quiet evenings with their shrill, whistling notes. Suspecting that this frog must be of foreign importation, I asked the director to allow some of the specimens to be caught, and some days ago I had the pleasure of receiving three specimens in excellent condition. The frog is Hylodes Martinicensis, a small arboreal species, distributed over, and common in, many West Indian islands (Martinique, Porto Rico, St. Vincent, Dominica, Barbados, &c., and possibly in Trinidad). Mr. Watson recollects that he observed it first some ten years ago, that he lost sight of it for some time, but that it reappeared about four or five years ago. Taking into consideration the few facts with which we are acquainted as to the reproduction of this frog, it seems most probable that several specimens of both sexes were, on more than one occasion, accidentally introduced in Wardean cases. However that may be, it is evident that the frogs have freely propagated since their introduction. At present they are most numerous in the propagating houses, in which the temperature ranges between 80 deg. and 100 deg., sinking in winter at times to nearly 60 deg. Accompanying Mr. Watson one evening, I heard from several points the call of the frogs, which somewhat resembled the piping of a nestling bird; and guided by the sound, I had soon the pleasure of seeing one of them clinging to the side of a glass case. There is nothing extraordinary in the accidental importation of individuals of a tropical species of frog into Europe; but it is an interesting experience, that the species should have permanently established itself. This is owing, in the first place, to the favourable conditions under which it found itself placed, and secondly, to the peculiar mode of its propagation. Hylodes Martinicensis, and probably the majority of its congeners, does not spawn in water, but deposits from fifteen to thirty ova on leaves in damp places. After a fortnight the young frogs are hatched in a perfect form, having passed through the metamorphosis within the egg, thus escaping the vicissitudes and dangers to which they would have been exposed during the progress of the usual Batrachian metamorphosis. This instance of the acclimatisation in Kew Gardens of the "Coqui" (as the frog is called in Porto Rico) is unique in Batrachian life at present. I trust that the little guest may long flourish where it has found such a congenial home, and where it usefully aids in the destruction of plant-eating insects and wood-lice, of which I found great numbers in the stomach of a specimen. If at a later period a nest with ova were discovered, Mr. Dyer would delight the heart of embryologists, to whom the opportunity of examining fresh ova of this frog would be most welcome.

Obituary.

LORD DE TABLEY.—The deceased peer was generally known as a scholarly and elegant poet. It is not so well known that as the Hon. Leicester Warren he was a critical botanist of great acuteness, as witness his investigations on the genus Rumex and many other British plants.

RICHARD GILBERT.—By the death, on Friday, Nov. 22, of Richard Gilbert, at the age of seventy-three, the gardening world is the poorer by an excellent gardener, and a man of sterling worth. The deceased had been gardener to the Marquis of Exeter, and during the last few years tenant of the kitchen garden and appurtenances at Burghley House, Stamford, at which place he died. His connection with Burghley began in 1868, he having been recommended to the post of head gardener by the Superintendent of the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Chiswick. Mr. Gilbert had the advantage of a varied experience in gardens and gardening, and had many changes of masters, before he settled to his life's-work at the place with which his name was to become intimately connected.

To those who may be interested in the matter, we would refer our readers to his autobiography, which appeared in these pages on August 14, 1875. He was an enthusiast in his profession, doing thoroughly, and with all his heart, whatever he undertook, but his *forte* was fruit and vegetable culture, and out-of-doors gardening generally. In few places could better

trained and fruited wall-trees, or finer Strawberries, be found. His British Queens were unsurpassed for size and goodness, and although, as was natural in a man capable of having an opinion, about retaining what was best in every sense in the older productions of the garden, he was constantly testing new varieties of fruit and vegetables. We believe there was scarcely a new Strawberry brought out by Messrs. Laxton of Bedford, Mr. Lovell, Mr. Allan of Gunton Park, or other raiser of note, that he did not at once buy and test in the capital soil of Burghley. At one period, some ten years ago, he endeavoured to raise varieties of Savoys, and crosses between Cabbages and Broccolis, which were the one or the other according to the season at which they were cut; but these, although they found favour with gardeners for a time, are, at this date, not generally liked. With his Queen of Broccolis, and Universal Savoy, he was more successful, and these are likely to survive for years to come. His Royal Sovereign Tomato, and Burghley Park Cherry, are meritorious productions, as are Victory of Bath and Gilbert's Green-Flesh Melons. Most of these novelties were raised by him, and of the others he was simply the introducer.

One of his greatest feats as an exhibitor, and he exhibited much and frequently at the London and other big shows, was the winning of the Carter Challenge Cup, for a collection of vegetables, at the Royal Horticultural Society's show on July 7, 1875, his chief opponents being Mr. Arkell and Mr. Pragnell.

GEORGE LAWSON.—The death has occurred, says the *Athenæum*, at the age of sixty-seven years, of Professor George Lawson, who occupied the Chair of Chemistry and Mineralogy in the University of Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was a native of Dundee, and while engaged as a young man in a city office he devoted his leisure to science pursuits, and in 1848 he left his native town for Edinburgh as assistant to Prof. Balfour. In 1858 he was called to fill the Chair of Natural History at Kingston College, Canada, some years afterwards taking up his late position at Halifax. In 1888 he was elected President of the Royal Society of Canada. It is not too much to say that to Prof. Lawson must be ascribed much of the success attendant on fruit-growing in the Dominion, since he was the first to direct attention to the possibilities of Canada's development in this direction. He was a Fellow of the Royal Physical and Botanical Societies of Edinburgh, and of the Institute of Chemistry of Great Britain, and an honorary member of the Edinburgh Geological and Scottish Arboricultural Societies. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In the summer of last year he visited Scotland, and in October last he retired from college work, looking forward to well-earned rest. On November 1, however, he was seized with paralysis, and ten days later passed away. He was twice married, and his first wife, Miss Lucy Stapeley, of London, contributed to the *Transactions of the Botanical Society of Canada* a paper on "The Silkworm and other Fibre-yielding Insects, and the growth of their Food Plants in Canada." Prof. Lawson was an old and valued correspondent of this journal, and furnished us regularly with reports on the Apple crops of Nova Scotia.

MRS. BRUCE FINDLAY.—It is with much regret we announce the death of Mrs. Bruce Findlay, wife of the Curator of the Manchester Royal Botanical and Horticultural Society, which occurred at Old Trafford on Wednesday, November 20.

MARKETS.

COVENT GARDEN, November 28.

[We cannot accept any responsibility for the subjoined reports. They are furnished to us regularly every Thursday, by the kindness of several of the principal salesman, who revise the list, and who are responsible for the quotations. It must be remembered that these quotations do not represent the prices on any particular day, but only the general averages for the week preceding the date of our report. The prices depend upon the quality of the samples, the supply in the market, and the demand; and they may fluctuate, not only from day to day, but often several times in one day. ED.]

PLANTS IN POTS.—AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Adiantum, per doz.	4 0-12 0	Ferns, various, doz.	5 0-12 0
Aspidistra, per doz.	12 0-30 0	Ficus elastica, each	1 0- 7 6
— specimen, each	5 0-15 0	Foliage plants, doz.	12 0-24 0
Chrysanthemums, doz. pots ...	6 0-12 0	Lilium Harrisii, per dozen pots ...	18 0-36 0
— (specimens), p. plant ...	1 6- 3 0	Marguerites, p. doz.	6 0-12 0
Cyperus, per dozen	4 0-10 0	Mignonette, p. doz.	4 0- 6 0
Dracæna, each ...	1 0- 7 6	Palms, various, ea.	2 6-10 0
— various, p. doz.	12 0-24 0	— specimens, ea.	10 6-84 0
Ericas, various, doz.	9 0-24 0	Primula sinensis, per dozen ...	4 0- 6 0
Evergreen Shrubs, in variety, doz....	6 0-24 0	Solanum, per doz....	9 0-12 0
Ferns, small, doz....	1 6- 3 0	Spiræas, per doz. ...	9 0-12 0

FRUIT.—AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Apples, Ribstons, per bushel ...	3 6- 6 0	Grapes, Alicante, 1st quality, p. lb.	1 3- 1 6
— Blenheim, per bushel ...	3 0- 4 0	— Alicante, 2nd quality, p. lb.	10- 1 0
— Kings, per bushel ...	3 0- 4 0	— Muscat, 1st quality, p. lb. ...	2 6- 3 0
— Cox's Orange, per bushel	3 6- 6 0	— Muscat, 2nd quality, p. lb. ...	1 9- 2 0
— Cooking vars., per bushel	1 6- 3 0	Pears, Duchess, half-sieve	4 0- 5 0
— From Nova Scotia, per barrel ...	11 0-14 0	— Beurré Diel, per half-sieve ...	4 0- 6 0
Cobs, per 100 lb. ...	30 0-35 0	Pine-apples, St. Michael, each ...	3 0- 6 0
Grapes, Gros Colmar, 1st quality, lb.	1 6- 1 9	Quinces, half-sieve...	1 0 —
— Gros Colmar, 2nd quality, per lb.	10- 1 3	Walnuts, French, Grenoble, per bag	5 0- 6

the plants and poorness and solidity of the rooting medium, it would be very easy of imitation, and I am inclined to regard it as so. At any rate, the private gardener need not add to his labour the annual task of layering and transplanting all his Carnations if it is bad for his plants, for even by layering and potting much loss and disappointment ensue. Let a few gardeners try a bed or two of a plentiful kind, and at planting time ram them very firmly into the soil. Avoid manure and dispense with layering, and note the results. E. J.

FLOWER GARDEN NOTES.

Hardy plants.—Besides their employment on borders specially reserved for them and in the more outlying parts of the garden, as, for instance, in connection with shrubberies, many hardy plants have of late years been introduced into the formal garden with so much success, that the experiment might well be tried on an extensive scale, especially in those places where labour is somewhat scarce and insufficient to maintain a lot of summer-bedding plants at a high pitch of excellence, particularly in those seasons when these plants require constant attention in the way of watering to produce such results. I should like, however, to point out that in those cases where it is deemed advisable to utilise hardy plants for the geometrical garden, beds of such plants show to the best advantage on turf. Surroundings of Box and tiny gravel paths are not natural associations. Box and gravel should be removed, to be replaced by good bold beds cut out on the turf, allowing plenty of space between. The planting may be carried out to suit any special tastes—a mass of one variety in each bed, bold central blocks with a broad dwarfer edging, or nice large clumps of a fairly tall species, with a dwarfer plant worked in and around such clumps. A few such combinations that may be suggested in the last-named style would be Pæonies, Aquilegias or Lobelia fulgens with Pinks, Spiræas and Pyrethrums with Violas or dwarf Veronicas, Japanese Anemones in the rose and white shades with Iceland Poppies and the like. In the case of species that are represented by a great number of varieties, as the Starworts, Phloxes, Campanulas, &c., large beds might with advantage be filled with one family in variety. If we have, for instance, round or oblong beds of considerable size, the centre might be partially filled with clumps of the taller Phloxes, the suffruticosa section planted in a similar manner nearly to the edge, and all the clumps relieved by a carpet of Phlox subulata in variety running throughout the bed. The wealth of material at the disposal of the planter in the Starworts and Campanulas should render the task of filling occasional beds with these a comparatively easy matter, whilst the difference in the flowering season between the several sorts would give a certain amount of colour in such beds for a very long season. It was partly the desirability of securing a protracted display that led to the suggestion of a combination of a dwarfer carpet with such things as Pæonies, Spiræas, Aquilegias, &c., which, although very beautiful in their season, are somewhat quickly over. In the case of beds that lie at the extremity of lawns it will generally be found advisable to fill them with tall-growing plants, as the taller of the Starworts, perennial Sunflowers, and Solidagos, whilst to give a little variety, room might be found for an occasional clump of Pampas Grass, of the hardy Bamboos, Bocconia cordata, Rhus Cotinus, or any other ornamental plant of similar size. If alterations of considerable extent are contemplated in the flower garden during the coming autumn and winter, and the plants are to hand, that is, if they are to be shifted from one place to another, the ground about them, and also the spaces to be occupied by new beds or borders, may be mulched with litter, Bracken, or rather long manure. The work of preparation may then continue irrespective of frost, and the lifting and replanting also, unless the weather is exceptionally severe.

Present work.—Besides the alteration of some borders and planting up others, there is not much to chronicle in the way of flower garden work at present, except the gradual digging up of beds that are to remain empty through the winter, and mulching those herbaceous borders that are in a satisfactory condition and require no alteration. A frosty morning is a good time for mulching. The workman should be instructed to break the material up well with his fork, so that it does not go on in lumps, and to avoid the use of leafy matter that would dry quickly and be scattered in all directions with the first high wind. The old stems that are cut away from the border Fuchsias and the stouter of the Starworts may be stacked in a shed, and will afford a job for the first wet day. If stripped, cut into lengths, and tied up in bunches they will answer well for laying in shoots at the summer training of wall trees. Any hardy plants that were sown in spring and shifted on into boxes may be transferred to permanent quarters with the clearing of the beds. The ground for their reception should be well broken to pieces, especially if the plants are small, and a surface mulching of cocoa fibre or leafy matter—partially decayed leaves, that is—is advisable for all things that might suffer from the attentions of slugs.

Richard Gilbert.

Pyrethrums.—A recent note on Pyrethrums suggested that spring instead of autumn planting was occasionally advisable, given certain conditions of soil, but I should be inclined to advise an alteration of those conditions rather than to defer the planting, the experience of the spring of 1895 being altogether against a waiting policy. The frost was not out of the ground until the middle of March and planting was not practicable until quite the end of that month. A spell of very dry weather followed, with the result that all stuff not well established made no headway, and was not seen to advantage at the time when it ought to have made a good show. If in connection with Pyrethrums a mass of colour on a large scale is deemed more advisable than a great variety of shades, three of the best sorts to plant are Aphrodite, Meteor and Celia, and, following up the idea of planting suggested earlier in these notes, three good Violas to associate with them would be J. B. Ridding, White Swan and Evelyn.

Begonia disease.—Thanks are due to correspondents who have furnished us with the necessary remedial measures to cope with thrips on Begonias, but so far as I am personally concerned they are not of any value, the disease that affected my plants not being caused by thrips or anything in the way of insect life. I have received specimens of leaves attacked by the minute form of thrips and examined them closely, and the inference drawn therefrom was that the two visitations were totally distinct. In my case the spot went right through the leaf, and the part so affected, apparently all right this morning, would at night resemble a piece of tissue paper or even of less substance than this. From the description given in several notes, I should imagine that others have suffered in a like manner and that I have yet to find a remedy. Begonia Worthiana was very badly attacked outdoors during one of the wettest summers of the century, a summer when drought-loving insects like red spider and thrips were conspicuous by their absence.
Claremont. E. Burrell.

Lapagerias in the open.—Lapagerias may be considered practically hardy in the south-west of England, and Mr. R. W. Nicholson's note (p. 369) shows that in North Wales in sheltered positions they are the same. I am acquainted with five cases where these beautiful climbers are growing out of doors. At Kingswear, on the banks of the Dart, both the red and white varieties were doing well a few years ago. This was, however, in an exceptionally favoured spot, entirely sheltered from the north and east winds—Plumbago capensis also growing in the open and flowering in the same garden. Fine plants of L. alba and rosea are now in flower against the north wall of the private chapel adjoining Gnaton Hall, near the river Yealm, S. Devon. They are planted in peat and have made vigorous growth, reaching the eaves of the building. The flowers are very large and handsome, those of L. rosea in particular being of far greater size and more brilliant in colour than blooms grown under the shelter of glass. I find that in no winter since their planting have these plants been afforded the slightest artificial protection, yet the severe weather at the commencement of the present year has had no deleterious effects on them, as they are now in the best of health. Many specimens of Escallonia macrantha have, however, been killed during the winter, and this shrub is evidently much less hardy than is generally sup-

posed. Given a deep bed of peat and sand, with good drainage and an ample supply of water during the growing period, no one need despair of growing the Lapagerias successfully as climbers in the southern counties. Care should be taken to prevent the slugs eating off the young shoots, of which they are inordinately fond.—S. W. F.

OBITUARY.

RICHARD GILBERT, OF BURGHLEY GARDENS.*

A good man and a good gardener has passed away to a well-earned rest, and some of those—and they are many—who best knew his life and his ways will feel that men may come and men may go, but that they are not likely to look upon his like again. To many, Mr. Gilbert's death on the 22nd inst., in his seventy-fifth year, will come as a surprise, but he had been ailing for some time, and a more than usually severe bronchial attack carried him off on the date named. In August last I had the pleasure of spending a happy day with him in the well-known High Park Gardens at Burghley, and found him seemingly hale and hearty as of yore, though even then he had symptoms that gave his family and personal friends some uneasiness, but his own character was ever the reverse of a doleful or complaining one, and his well-known cheerful conversation full of keen observation as to both men and things. Amusing it always was, but a ring of strong common sense that ran through all he said always redeemed his remarks from aught that was commonplace, uninteresting or unkind. His subtle and exquisite sense of humour was one of his personal charms, but it was used delicately and served to cheer and vivify; for even his strictures had a manly sympathy of tone that endeared him to all with whom he came into contact during a useful and honoured career. He was courteous and genial to all, rich or poor, and all gardeners had his aid and sympathy in their troubles, as well as generous appreciation of their success. To young gardeners especially he was a kind and considerate employer, and no foreman or journeyman ever left Burghley except to take up a better position, in many, even if not in most cases secured for them by our worthy friend. To say that such a man was popular is not enough; he was sincerely respected and deeply beloved. Many successful gardeners to-day owe their position to Gilbert of Burghley, who forwarded their interests with a peculiarly quaint professional pride. Mr. Gilbert was, I believe, a native of Sussex; at any rate he always referred with pride and pleasure to his early experiences at Arundel Castle and at Worksop Manor under the late Mr. John Wilson, of Mr. Myatt, and of the pleasant days in the old Chiswick Garden of the R.H.S., when Dr. Lindley held command there, and the gardens had not been shorn of their area and prestige.

As a gardener, his strength lay in the superb cultivation of all sorts of fruits and vegetables Flowers he loved, and could grow well also, but his real strength went to the fruit and kitchen garden. His own productions are now familiar to us all, and amongst many others I need only name Chou de Burghley, the Burghley Brussels Sprout, Tomatoes and the Universal Savoy. The Grapes, Figs and Melons at Burghley were specialities, but Gilbert was even more proud of his successes with his friend Laxton's new Peas, Potatoes, Tomatoes and Strawberries, and he was especially proud of his triumphs in the way of open-air Peaches in a cold midland climate, apparently not at all suited to such a culture. His strain of beautiful double-flowered Chinese Primroses is well known, and was figured in The Garden, vol. xvii., p. 176, and the Harbinger Primrose as grown at Burghley was an especial favourite with him. Mushrooms, both indoors and in open-air beds, were largely and well grown, and he had a knack of producing early Potatoes in January and February by selecting the sets in July or August and keeping them cool and dry for a year, after which they were planted in boxes of leaf-mould and placed in a warm, dark position, where they produced new tubers from the old sets without any haulm or top growth whatever (*vide* The Garden, February 15, 1879, p. 150).

We may also refer to his practical and handsome way of growing pot Vines bearing ripe fruit for dinner-table decoration (The Garden, vol. iv., Oct. 25, 1873, p. 333). Readers of The Garden will remember the original and pithy manner in which our friend announced his new productions. One of these may be quoted as a specimen from this paper, March 29, 1890 (p. 307), where his friends are offered the choice of "Potatoes without disease, Peas without mildew, and Cabbage that requires no bacon." As an inventor, Mr. Gilbert years ago gave us improved handlights or portable plant protectors that are most useful in gardens, both large and small.

Mr. Gilbert had considerable literary ability, his contributions to The Garden and other horticultural publications being remarkable for their short and pithy sentences and for their sterling common sense. The following note from Mr. Gilbert reveals a good deal of the man. It is from The Garden, vol. xxxi., March 25, 1887, p. 222:—

I am waiting to show round the Earl and Countess of Rosslyn, and I cannot employ my time better than in giving you a bit of my mind. In the first place you tell the public I should raise seedling Apples and get varieties to match the American. You certainly do not say as much, but I read between the lines that you mean as much. Let me tell you I have been raising Apples for twenty years, but, unfortunately, have not yet got a good one. At the great Chiswick Apple show I picked out two varieties out of 8000 dishes which I thought the best, ordered the trees (eight) at 7s. 6d. each, but they were reported as sold! I write to let you see I am preaching progress. I will send you a dozen seedlings by post. Now I hope in the next edition of The Garden that you will put me on my merits. Do not let it be said that I raise Cabbages alone! If you could see my houseful of Harbinger Primrose, you would say and think differently. Next week I am going in for Peaches outside, that nobody appears to grow. Depend upon it, this is a matter of overbuilding Peach houses, exactly the same as in the case of Melons. Nobody can grow Melons now in manure frames, because they have houses!

[An interesting and suggestive note, as most of Mr. Gilbert's are. We are glad to hear of all his doings. Peaches out of doors and Melons in frames are, we hope, not to disappear from our gardens, of which they were once the pride. The last time we were at Burghley we saw good Peaches on walls there. The place is not nearly so favourable for that fruit as many districts in the south and west of England.—Ed.]

As superintendent of the extensive gardens at Burghley House for nearly thirty years Mr. Gilbert met the most distinguished people of all ranks, and the late Marquis of Exeter not only valued him as a good gardener, but treated him as a faithful friend, and left him a substantial legacy upon his death some few months ago. By his fellow-gardeners Gilbert has for many years been recognised as a master of garden craft, and he leaves behind him a memory that will ever be green to all who enjoyed his genial friendship. He leaves a widow and a family of grown-up children to mourn his loss. A most lovable man has left the world richer than he found it, for his presence ennobled life, and he will long be missed from the locality he had made in a sense his own. Of sturdy build and full of energy, Gilbert always reminded one of the Oaks of his native county, not particularly large in size, but strong-hearted and sound to the core.

F. W. Burbidge.

* Died at Burghley, November 22; buried at Barnack Churchyard, November 25, 1895.

Mrs. Bruce Findlay.—We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Bruce Findlay, which took place at the Botanic Gardens, Manchester, on Wednesday, November 20.

Mr. James Walters.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. James Walters, of the Mount Radford Nurseries, Exeter, which occurred on the 20th inst. Mr. Walters was widely known, and his loss will be felt by many friends.

SOCIETIES AND EXHIBITIONS.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

November 26.

There was an appreciable falling off in the number of exhibits at this meeting, yet there were quantities of most interesting things staged for the inspection of each committee. The falling off was in the miscellaneous groups, &c., usually to be seen at these gatherings, leaving the chief points of interest to be centred in the newer or more uncommon plants. There was an excellent attendance, taking into consideration the busy season of planting now in full swing.

The floral committee had no finer exhibit placed before them than the group of hybrid Rhododendrons of the javanico-jasminiflorum hybrids of Veitchian origin. If anyone should previously have had doubts as to the decorative value of these charming flowers, such doubts should, after an inspection of this exhibit, be entirely dispelled. These choice hybrids will always remain one of the greatest triumphs of the hybridiser. In the exhibition in question there was a wide range of colour, whilst the whole of the plants were flowering in a small, and in several instances in quite a dwarf stage. Chrysanthemums constituted the next important feature here, several very promising novelties being staged by the best-known growers.

The Orchids were not numerous. Several good and choice things chiefly in hybrids were, however, staged; these consisted chiefly of Cypripediums and Calanthes, whilst of species the most notable was the new Catasetum imperiale from M. Linden, this being the only Orchid shown to which a first-class certificate was awarded.

Before the fruit committee the two chief exhibits were the collection of vegetables, chiefly of the Brassica family, of which some forty vars. were staged with other good vegetables in season from Syon House by Mr. G. Wythes, and the comprehensive exhibit of Apples and Pears by Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons, Crawley, most prominent amongst which were the grand fruits of Bismarck Apple, both size and colour being most noticeable.

Orchid Committee.

A first-class certificate was awarded to—

Catasetum imperiale.—A very distinct and noble-looking species, of which one plant with a spike of eight blooms was shown. The flowers are individually above the average size, the labellum, as usual, being the most prominent feature; this is large and of wax-like substance, incurved in shape, the pervading colour being a

1895.

GILBERT Richard of Holsworthy Devon yeoman died 17 October 1895 Probate **Exeter** 22 November to John Gilbert farmer Effects £99 2*s.* 6*d.*

GILBERT Richard of Burghley-park-gardens near Stamford Northamptonshire gardener died 22 November 1895 Administration **London** 7 December to Sarah Ann Gilbert widow Effects £287 16*s.* 10*d.*

GILBERT Simon of 31 Ordnance-road St. John's wood Middlesex died 12 February 1895 Probate **London** 19 March to Jane Gilbert widow Effects £227 16*s.* 5*d.*

GILBERT Susanna of 14 Marlborough-street Harrow-road Middlesex widow died 21 August 1895 Probate **London** 12 September to Alice Gilbert spinster Effects £1958 16*s.* 8*d.*

GILBERT Thomas of Fisherton Anger Wilts gentleman died 8 February 1895 Probate **London** 5 March to the reverend Joseph Gilbert clerk and William James Trethowan solicitor Effects £5779 13*s.* 1*d.*

GILBERT Thomas of Aston Flamville Leicestershire farm bailiff died 6 April 1890 Administration **Leicester** 9 October to Emma Gilbert widow Effects £350 17*s.* 8*d.*

GILBERT Unity Ann of Amersham common Amersham Buckinghamshire widow died 3 May 1895 Probate **Oxford** 24 May to Benjamin Gilbert labourer Effects £22 4*s.*

GILBERT William of Rugby Warwickshire paperhanger died 12 December 1894 Probate **Birmingham** 7 March to Mary Gilbert widow Effects £167 0*s.* 10*d.*

GILBERT William of 29 Thomas-street Briton ferry Glamorgan pilot died 11 October 1888 Administration **London** 19 August to Lydia Louisa Jane Gilbert spinster Effects £195.

GILBERT William of 59 Bradgate-road Lewisham Kent gentleman died 15 July 1895 Probate **London** 19 August to Albert Thomas Edward Mursell accountant Effects £229 9*s.* 10*d.*

GILBEY Eliza of Bosham Sussex widow died 7 October 1895 Administration **Chichester** 14 November to Harry James Gilbey mariner Effects £32 10*s.*

GILBEY King William of Hulver Suffolk grocer died 28 February 1895 Probate **Ipswich** 31 May to Alice Emma Gilbey widow Effects £693 8*s.* 6*d.*

GILBEY Sarah of 2 Cambridge-mews Cambridge park Twickenham Middlesex spinster died 3 March 1895 Probate **London** 20 June to George Plater coachman and Francis Walter Etherington poor law officer Effects £569 9*s.* 9*d.*

GILBURD Eliza of 46 Springfield-road Preston Sussex spinster died 28 February 1895 Probate **London** 4 April to Henry Rose timber merchant Effects £1824 1*s.*

GILBURT John of 21 Gainsborough-cottages Hackney wick Middlesex gentleman died 18 October 1895 Probate **London** 13 December to Alice Gilburt widow and Henry Gilburt commercial traveller Effects £1193 2*s.* 10*d.*

GILBY Edward of Essex house Barnes Surrey gentleman died 17 July 1893 Administration **London** 16 January to Laura Gilby widow Alfred Gilby merchant Henry Gilby gentleman and John Thomas Woodard surveyor Effects £292 14*s.* 10*d.*

GILBY Hannah of 43 Selby-road Anerley Surrey widow died 18 February 1895 Probate **London** 16 March to Frederick Turvill Norwich Bullivant insurance clerk Effects £154 15*s.* 9*d.* Duplicate issued same day.

GILCHRIST John of 25 boulevard Gazzino, Marseilles France telegraph clerk died 23 August 1894 Administration (Limited) **London** 8 January to John Gordon Macmillan telegraph clerk the attorney of Yvonne Marie Gilchrist widow Effects £815 15*s.*

GILDEA Edward Johnston of 38 York-terrace Regent's park Middlesex esquire died 11 February 1895 at Leipzig Germany Probate **London** 19 April to Thomas Gilbart Smith M.D. and John Randell Wood merchant Effects £1188 14*s.* 9*d.*

GILDIN Eliza of 16 miss Burton's homes London-road Nottingham spinster died 24 March 1895 Administration **Nottingham** 24 June to Maria Gildin spinster Effects £9.

GILES Alfred of 21 Grosvenor-place Middlesex esquire died 3 March 1895 Probate **London** 20 March to Jane Emily Giles widow Charles Tyrrell Giles barrister-at-law and Arthur Brooks Giles esquire Effects £22858 18*s.* 10*d.*

GILES Charles of 43 Homesdale-road Bromley Kent beer retailer died 24 October 1895 Probate **London** 30 December to Robert Humphrey bricklayer and Charles Gransden plumber Effects £2722 14*s.* 2*d.*

GILES Eliza of Kenwyn Cornwall widow died 17 May 1895 Administration **Bodmin** 20 June to James Bailey draper Effects £174.

GILES Eliza of Glinton Northamptonshire widow died 8 November 1894 Administration **London** 10 July to William Giles farmer Effects £92 13*s.* 6*d.*

For this reason the removal of loose bark and the spraying with caustic alkali wash in winter are also recommended. All fallen Apples should be gathered and burnt. If the fruit is punctured at the side, the insects have already escaped; but, if not, they will probably be found inside, near the pips. The moth itself is rather under an inch across the wings, the fore wings grey, with brown lines, and at their tips yellow patches, and the hind wings darker and more lustrous. As it remains quiescent during the daytime, it is not easily seen.

Notable Exhibition Roses.

June 12th.—In Mr. Mawley's analysis of the number of times different Roses were exhibited during the past year, I see that Bessie Brown comes out an easy first. The second and third positions are occupied by Mildred Grant and Dean Hole respectively. It is remarkable that all three were introduced by the same firm—Messrs. Alex. Dickson and Sons. All, too, are Hybrid Teas, a class that seems destined to drive all others out of the garden. Still, some of the Hybrid Perpetuals are high up in Mr. Mawley's list, Frau Karl Druschki being in the fourth place, and Mrs. John Laing the fifth. Other varieties, in their order, are Caroline Testout, Ulrich Brunner, Hugh Dickson, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, A. K. Williams, and La France. The list is very much longer, but the foregoing dozen may be regarded as what were considered the best for exhibition last year.

A Transformation.

June 13th.—A group of Pines forms a fine background for large, irregular beds surrounded by grass, and when some of them happen to be Abies Nordmanniana, as in the scene illustrated, the glaucous foliage enhances the effect immensely. It would be difficult to find a better instance of natural gardening. Seven years ago this was rough quarry land.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of Mr. E. Nettlefold.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. GEORGE GILES, AT HARBORNE HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE

ALTHOUGH within easy driving distance of the Midland metropolis, Harborne still retains some of its primitive features and charms. The fine church, with its lych gates, and the Hall, are quite in the country, and though, under the auspices of Mr. Edward Nettlefold, the latter has been enlarged, modified, and improved, the gardens might be fifty miles away from the smoke and noise of the city of Birmingham. There are excellent ranges of glass, and a well-planted kitchen garden, but, as Mr. Giles, the head gardener, explained, on my arrival, the first week in May, the interest centres in the seven acres of pleasure grounds. The variety and beauty of these can only be indifferently described on paper, though it may be said, in general terms, that remarkable natural advantages have been turned to the best possible account.

FRONT ENTRANCE TO HARBORNE HALL.

Starting in the Rose garden, which is enclosed by cultivated Yew hedges, I asked for the names of the favourite pillar varieties.

"Dorothy Perkins, Lady Gay, and Crimson Rambler," rejoined Mr. Giles. "The Roses in the beds are chiefly Hybrid Teas, because they are more useful for cutting than Hybrid Perpetuals, and we grow largely for house decoration. As you see, there is a corner for Lilies of the Valley, and in the centre bed are Narcissus (double poeticus), edged with Violas (Skylark). We keep the Violas on through the winter."

"What is the aspect of the gardens?"

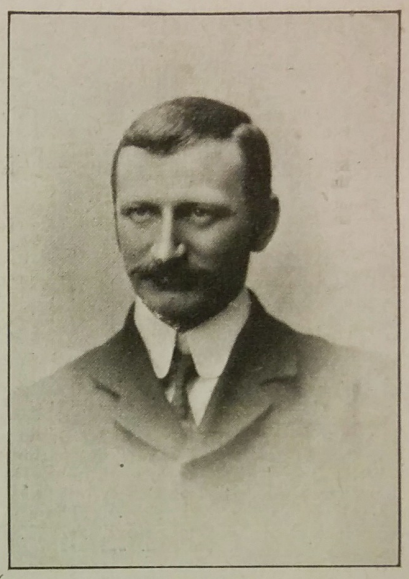
"They face south, and the soil is sandy loam."

"It seems to suit some of your Conifers," I said, as I noticed a fine specimen of Cerasus pendula.

"Yes, the Weeping Cherry, the Weeping Sycamore, and the Weeping Birch thrive here. Also many shrubs, such as Berberis stenophylla. The specimen of this on the lawn is, I believe, one of the largest in the country. The circumference is thirty-four yards, and the height twelve feet. The shoots are from three to four feet long. It is about seventeen years old."

"Tulips, I notice, are conspicuous in your bedding."

"In these beds they are June-flowering Tulips, including several new varieties. Some of the best are Inglescombe Pink, Inglescombe Scarlet, Mrs. Moon, The Fawn, Flame, and Leghorn Bonnet."



MR. GEORGE GILES.

Treatment of Phlox.

"What does best in the vicinity of the pool we are approaching?"

"There are several pools in the pleasure grounds. Here the Acers do well, and Spiræa palmata, also Polygonums. The groundwork of the rock garden is double white Arabis. Facing this pool is a large bed, consisting entirely of Phlox, and we have other beds elsewhere. There are about thirty varieties."

"Which are your favourites?"

"I am very fond of Tapis Blanc, Sylphide, William Robinson, Evenement, Tom Wells, and Coquelicot. The plants begin to flower in July, and continue till the frost cuts them down."

"What is your treatment?"

"We lift in the autumn, propagate in frames, and lift the second year for a new stock. The larger varieties get too bushy after two years. The adjoining bed consists entirely of Darwin Tulips, of which we have a considerable collection. The varieties include King Harold, Calliope, Salmon King, Grand Master, Le Candeur, Pride of Haarlem, President Perrias, Napoleon, Marie, Diamond, Brunette Lyacius, and Herschell."

"What is the name of the very pretty Viola with purple shade dominant?"

"Mrs. Chichester. It is one of the first Violas to flower, and one of the last to cease blooming. We use it for house decoration."

"How do you manage that?"

"We put the blooms in shallow bowls. Moreover, the stems are longer than most. The question of colour is very important, and the different shades are only selected after careful deliberation."

"Border Carnations, I judge from your very large bed, are also used freely for house decoration?"

"Yes; we have about six hundred plants, and about eighty varieties. The two best whites are George Macquay and Trojan; the two best scarlets, Danger and Cantab; and the

two best yellows, Lord Roberts and Miss Audrey Campbell. The best crimson is Sir Bevys; the best yellow-ground, Voltaire; the best white-ground, Miss Elsie; and the best pink, Crombie's Pink. The single plants of Holly forming a hedge are a protection to the Carnation bed. They are rather late in flowering, because we lie high—five hundred feet above sea-level—and are at their best in July and August."

A Wall of Double Arabis.

"Just beyond the duck pool," continued Mr. Giles, "is a new garden, which we only made a year ago. There are some choice Nymphæas in the pond, and beds of Azalea mollis and Golden Privet."

"The wall looks as if it were powdered with snow."

"It is covered with double white Arabis, though the wall was only planted last spring. We use double white Arabis for house decoration; the stems are quite good enough. The blooms continue for a month."

"You have a number of clumps of Daffodils under trees."

"Yes, we naturalise them wherever we think they will be effective. There are such varieties as Duc van Sion, poeticus ornatus, Emperor, Sir Watkin, Horsfieldi, Victoria, Barri conspicuus, and Stella. The bed with Azalea mollis and Rhododendrons at the corner is continued with herbaceous plants, such as Lupins, Delphiniums, and Poppies in variety, of which Salmon Queen is one of the best. These are all chosen with an eye to colour, as well as for value in cutting, and they are planted in clumps of one variety. At the end of the bed is a clump of long-spurred Aquilegias, grown from a mixed packet of seed."

"How much did you pay for the packet, to get such a big result?"

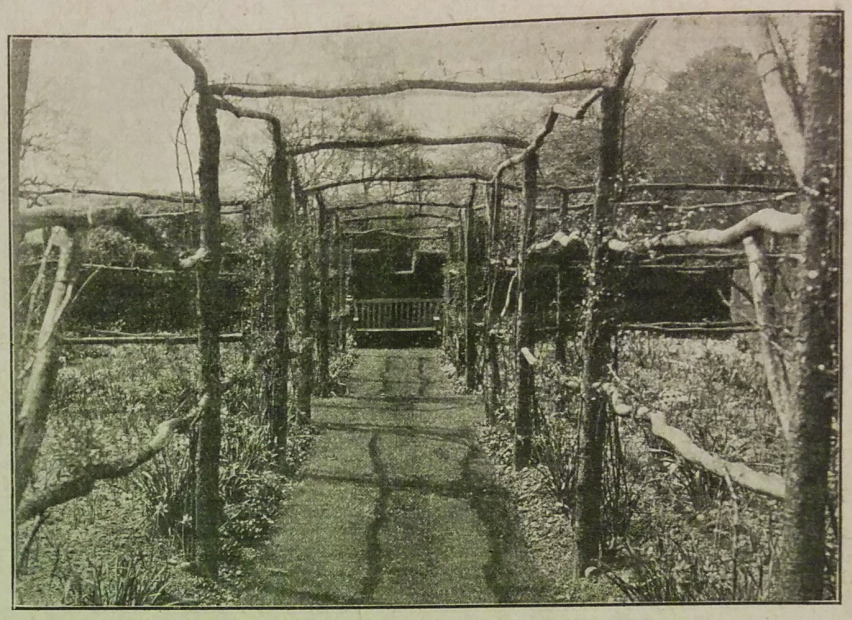
"Half a crown, and I did not use it all. The seed is sown in boxes, early in the spring. When they are pricked off in the autumn, I plant them in permanent beds, and they flower in the succeeding year."

"And what is your system with the St. Brigid Anemones which I see near the duck pond?"

"The seed is sown each year. The plants flower the second year at the end of May, and after that I replant them with other seedlings. It is better to renew Anemones than to have them permanent."

"You have more beds of Tulips?"

"Yes, these three are mixed with Polyanthus—Dean's hybrids. In two beds the variety of Tulip is Keizer's Kroon, and in the other Thomas Moore, which is splendid for decoration."



PERGOLA IN ROSE GARDEN AT HARBORNE HALL.

"Can you tell me approximately the number of plants in your immense and very pretty bed of Myosotis?"

"About two thousand. We use the Myosotis Victoria for table decoration, and get plenty of long stems. After the plants have flowered, I lay them on the ground where I wish them to seed, and they seed themselves. They are transplanted direct from the beds."

THE SERPENTINE POOL AT HARBORNE HALL.

At this point we came suddenly to the kitchen garden, which is below the pleasure grounds, and was only made five years ago.

"I should explain," said Mr. Giles, "that we neither grow hardy fruit, nor Potatoes. The situation is too open for the former, and we have no space for the latter. On the fences we have Red, White, and Black Currants, which do well."

"What about vegetables?"

"They all do well here, because the soil is light, and Peas revel in the exposed and sunny situation. For early use there is no Pea to beat May Queen, though I grow others, always trying a few new sorts each year. The later varieties are Carter's Quite Content, Sutton's Masterpiece, Eureka, and Unique, and Carter's Dreadnought and Autocrat."

"The Sweet Peas facing appear to find the soil equally congenial?"

"Yes, that is why we grow them here. They are in clumps of one variety, handy to cut. The varieties include Primrose Spencer, White Spencer, Agnes Eckford, Earl Cromer, Norah Unwin, Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes, Miss Nellie Masters, Herbert Smith, Queen of Spain, Lord Nelson, Mrs. Collier, Frank Dolby, Black Knight, Countess Spencer, Dorothy Eckford (the most useful white), King Edward VII., Miss Willmott (very good for table work), and Helen Pierce."

"Do your Strawberries fruit early?"

"Not until the end of July. Royal Sovereign does not answer outside, but Laxton is excellent, also President, and I think that Leader is the best. Except for forcing, I do not care about Royal Sovereign."

"What are your other principal vegetables?"

"Onions, for one. We sow the seed at the end of January, and transplant at the end of April, the varieties being Ailsa Craig, Rogers' Champion, and The King. Seakale we always grow from the root cuttings. It is started in gentle heat at the end of February, hardened off, and transplanted at the end of April, and after that we lift and force in the house. Brussels Sprouts (Sutton's Exhibition) are sown inside, during February."

At the end of the kitchen garden is a little nursery, and in a corner, on the way back, were clumps of Poppies and Helianthus. Beyond these on the lawns—which cover about four acres—my attention was attracted by a bed of Golden Elders.

"These require very severe pruning," observed Mr. Giles, "and, if they did not get it, they would soon run green. Just at the side here is the wild garden, consisting mainly of bulbs and Bracken Ferns. The bulbs are planted out after we have done forcing them. I

suppose we force from eight to ten thousand bulbs, chiefly Tulips and Narcissi."

"I should like to know which of the varieties do best in your big bed of flowering shrubs?"

"The Ribes, Spiræas, Berberis, Thorns, Magnolias, Weigelas, Lilacs, and Rhododendrons. The latter include such varieties as Catabiensis, Cunningham's White, and Pink Pearl. We do not use peat, but the soil must be deficient in lime, which is always fatal to Rhododendrons. In the bed of flowering shrubs are also white and yellow Tree Lupins, a quantity of Fuchsias, and some of the common garden white Rose, while opposite is a bed of Phlox, the cuttings of last year just throwing up their growth. These will be the best this year."

Passing up the lawns, I noticed a Judas-tree and Clematis Jackmanii growing on iron framework, with Daffodils below, the flowers of the Clematis being kept like a carpet.

Tulips, Arabis, and Violas.

"And more Carnations," I remarked, as we paused at another bed.

"Yes; the variety in the centre is Scarlet Danger, and, by way of contrast, it is surrounded by Mrs. Leigh-White (a white variety). Near this bed is one of Anemone japonica, and in the very long border, backed by Hollies, are Artus Tulips and double white Arabis, the idea being a combination of red and white."

"Do you call the pool here by any particular name?"

"The 'Serpentine.' On the banks are English Iris, mixed with white Violas—Seagull. The two varieties of Trollius—Excelsior and Orange Globe—are very ornamental, and there are clumps of Spiræa aruncus palmata, Pampas Grass, Gunnera scabra, and Osmunda regalis. On the rocks are Saxifrages in variety, Primulas in variety, Geums, and Funkias; and on the island in the pool is a bed of Tamarisk."

"Tulips again figure largely near the front entrance?"

"A good combination is a border of Parrot Tulips, with a carpet of Amy Barr Violas (plum colour). Another combination consists of Tulips Rex rubrorum, with a groundwork of variegated double Arabis. A third bed is filled with Murillo Tulips (blush white) and Daisies, and a fourth with Tulips Rex rubrorum and double white variegated Arabis. The house itself is chiefly ornamented with variegated Ivy (silver and golden) and Ampelopsis Veitchii, while just facing the door are two very fine plants of Yucca gloriosa. At the entrance there is a little rockwork, with such plants as Alyssums and Saxifrages, chosen because they like the shade. There are still more beds on the lawn, which you have not seen."

"You appear to use Violas largely for borders?"

"There is one way in which they are particularly useful in borders. As you know, the flowering season for Rhododendrons is short, and, in order to brighten the foliage afterwards, we have borders of Violas all round the Rhododendron beds. One of the best of these is Marian Waters, a lavender variety."

"What are the features of your extensive borders, broken up by clumps of Ribes?"

"On one side, always in clumps, are Tritomas aloides nobilis, Campanulas in variety, Pyrethrum Tasso, Papaver orientalis Mrs. Marsh, and Chrysanthemum King Edward VII. On the opposite side are clumps of Pyrethrum Jubilee, Delphinium King of Delphiniums, Scabiosa caucasica, Eupatorium purpureum, Campanulas persicifolia and glomerata, English Iris, Statice latifolia, Helianthus Miss Mellish, Achillea The Pearl, Veronica subsessilis, Pyrethrum Robert Bruce, Monarda didyma, Geum Heldreichii splendens, Inula glandulosa, Eupatorium ageroides, Heuchera sanguinea, Bocconia cordata, Lupins (light and dark blue, bicolour, and white), ending with Chrysanthemum Shasta Daisy, while at the corner is a clump of Azalea mollis, with Narcissus Pheasant's-eye underneath, and a border of Myosotis Victoria. With regard to these borders, I watch carefully for the best varieties as they come out, and buy if they are useful for cutting."

A PICTURESQUE DUCK POND.

A Collection of Pæonies.

"Then you have a couple of large beds of Pæonies?"

"They are quite a feature, upwards of thirty varieties being represented. These include Modesty (pink), nivea plenissima (white), rubescens (ruby), Bacchus (single, crimson), The Queen (silvery rose), Rose Quintal (rose colour), rosea superba (rose), and Canary (sulphur)."

"Have you any special varieties of rock plants near the house?"

"There are several kinds of Alpine Phlox, Tiarella cordifolia, Veronica repens, Corydalis (white), Iberis, and Androsaces in variety, and, at the end, a collection of Aubrietias, including Dr. Mules, Bridesmaid, Fire King, græca, hybrida, Moerheimi, and Leichtlini. At the back of these is a hedge of Ribes, which was planted two years ago. It is in place of Privet, and has the advantage of both flower and berry. There is no necessity to cut the Ribes hard in, and they certainly form a prettier hedge for a change."

The houses are at the rear of the Hall, and quite apart from the pleasure grounds and kitchen garden. We first went into one containing Carnations.

"The favourite Malmaisons," said Mr. Giles, "are Sir Charles Fremantle (scarlet), Princess of Wales (pink), and Prime Minister (light scarlet). Of Trees, which succeed them, flowering in October and onwards to the end of April, we grow quite eighty of Mrs. S. J. Brooks, the best white variety—for this district, at any rate. The best scarlet Trees are Robert Craig, America, and Cardinal; the best pink, Mrs. Burnett, Enchantress, and Fair Maid; the best cerise, Monarch, Mrs. Lawson, Nelson Fisher, and Floriana; the best dark crimson, Harlowarden, Harry Fenn, and President. We have several good plants of a fine scarlet seedling called Marie Giles. I find that English varieties raised from American plants break more freely after being stopped than do the Americans."

"Which do you find the most useful of your Crotons for decorating purposes?" I asked, in the stove house.

"Everestianum. It keeps its colour and foliage better than any others, and is very useful for table. A pretty combination of colour may be obtained by mixing Plumbago rosea and Roman Hyacinths, which come in nicely in December. Our Eucharis amazonica flower three or four times a year, so that we are always able to cut blooms."

"You have Gloxinias in flower in the corridor. Are they named?"

"Yes; the varieties are Her Majesty, Duke of York, Duchess of York, and Royal Scarlet. On the walls, smothered with buds, is an Oleander, which was planted three years ago. I only cut some of the strong wood back, and we get a mass of flower in June and July."

Chrysanthemums for Christmas.

"Have you anything special in the heated frames?"

"A few Odontoglossum Orchids, Calceolarias, Cyclamen, Verbenas, and Chrysanthemums. The best decorative varieties of Chrysanthemums are Margot (pink), Lord Brooke (bronze), Mrs. Greenfield (yellow), Heston White (white), Mrs. J. A. Thompson (white), A. L. Stephens (yellow), Niveus (white), Moneymaker (white), Lady Violet Beaumont (crimson), and Madame R. Oberthur (white). The last I find very useful for large blooms. I grow it on naturally, three or four blooms to a plant, and do not pinch it at all. I got about a hundred blooms off twenty-five plants in Christmas week. For the larger blooms, some of the best are Mrs. A. T. Miller (white), J. H. Silsbury (reddish-bronze), Norman Davis (crimson), Buttercup (yellow), F. S. Vallis (yellow), Valerie Graham (pink), Magnificence (crimson), Mary Donellan (yellow), and Mrs. J. Heygate (white). I have also another variety for Christmas, called Guy Hamilton, of which I grow twenty plants. Here are half a dozen of the best singles: — Bronze Pagram, Edith Pagram (mauve), F. W. Smith (pink), Sunbeam, Fair Rosamund, and Reine des Roses."

"I see that you grow some fruit under glass."

"We have two Peach houses, growing Barrington, Grosse Mignonne, and Alexandra Noblesse Peaches in one, and, in the other, Royal George Peach and Early Rivers' Nectarine. In one of the Peach houses we have some Sweet Peas in pots, the varieties being some of those grown outside. Hydrangeas are grown largely, two varieties being Hortensis and

Thomas Hogg. In the Orchid house, Cattleyas, Lælia-Cattleyas, and Dendrobiums are grown for cutting, and here, also, are Spiræas Queen Alexandra and Peach Blossom—new varieties, shown last year for the first time. The plants look as if they would throw up scores of good flowers."

"Do you go in for many Grapes?"

"No, there is only one Vinery, and the three varieties grown are Muscat of Alexandria, Black Hamburgh, and Madresfield Court."

"How do you contrive to get such a magnificent show of Schizanthus in your greenhouse?"

"I save my own seed, and select my own varieties. There are about eight different colours, and, as I select them, I number them. They last in flower for six weeks, and are largely used for house decoration. My experience is that the popularity of the Schizanthus continues to increase. As you see, the house is practically devoted to this flower, but on the opposite stage are collections of Streptocarpus (Sutton's strain), Spiræa astilboides, Geranium Paul Crampel, and herbaceous Calceolarias. As I told you at first, ours is essentially a flower garden, and everything else gives place to the cultivation of ornamental, decorative varieties. Mrs. Nettlefold takes a very great interest in the garden, and in the choice of shades of colour."

"Where did you start your gardening career, Mr. Giles?"

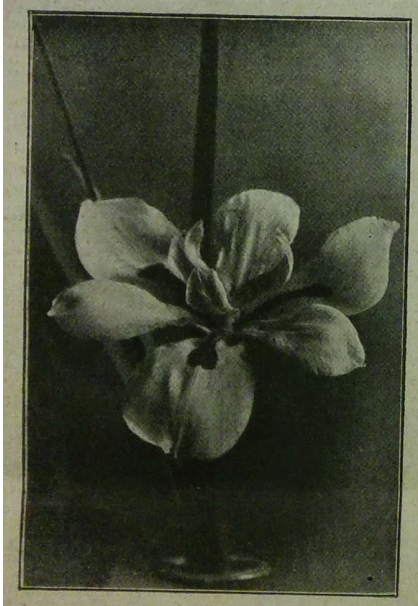
"Under my father, at Longhills, Lincoln. Then I went to Welbeck Abbey for five years, proceeding subsequently to Elvedon, Suffolk, where I remained a year. I was next foreman at Hesslewood Hall, Yorkshire, for a year, and afterwards for nearly five years foreman at Impney, Droitwich, under Mr. Jordan; then for nearly two years fruit foreman at Mentmore; and four years ago I was appointed head gardener at Harborne Hall."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No 306.—CANNAS AND MORÆA IRIDIOIDES JOHNSONI.

DEAR KATE,—Cannas (Indian Shot) are now very conspicuous in the garden and in the conservatory, and I hope you have plenty of them. There are but few flowers which have gained more under the attentions of hybridists than Canna indica, which I first saw growing in my Indian garden in Madras many years ago. That plant I did not greatly admire—I thought it lanky, and the flowers too small, the petals too narrow for such a tall plant. This is now completely changed. Our modern Cannas are quite dwarf (about two feet high), and the blossoms are large, with



MORÆA IRIDIOIDES JOHNSONI.

road petals, in the most gorgeous tints of red nd gold, so that they are amongst the best ossible plants for many purposes. Another reat merit, too, is that they do not require uch warmth in winter, when the roots be- ome dormant, and can be kept safely in any ostproof place, although they should never be llowed to become quite dust-dry, or dry-rot will set in; so that a very occasional watering is all that they need from November to February, unless they are given plenty of warmth, when the plants will often continue to throw up fine spikes of flower until Christmas.

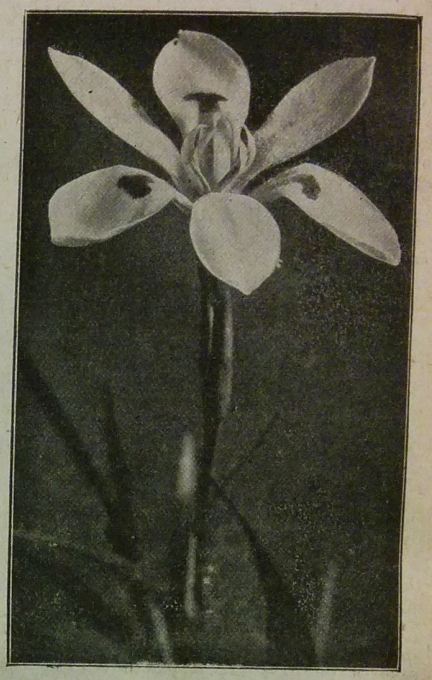
Starting Cannas.

As soon as February arrives, we shake the soil from the roots completely, dividing them, if necessary, and repotting the finest crowns separately, each in an 8-in. pot, with rich soil, and leaving plenty of room at the top for ample supplies of water and liquid manure, as soon as their buds show. A mixture of good loam, leaf-mould, and well-decayed cow manure, in equal quantities, suits these plants, for they are hungry feeders, and a little crushed charcoal and sand can be added to this compost with advantage. The odd pieces, and smaller crowns, which are taken off the plants at potting-time, are grown on in a box for planting out in June, when they should be strong, and in bud.

After repotting, it will be necessary to give the Cannas very careful watering until they start into growth, and also they should be plunged in a hotbed, or given as much fire heat as possible. They must not be allowed to become very dry, nor yet watered when already saturated. Cold water should not be used for them, tepid or lukewarm water being substituted for it, according to the warmth of the atmosphere they are started in, for the water given to all plants should be a few degrees warmer than the air. As soon as the green shoots make their appearance, you should increase the amount of water gradually as they need it, until, when the plants are a foot high, you cannot give too much water, and a daily syringing is very good for them, too. Anything like want of water, or a dry, hot atmosphere whilst they are in growth, will be followed by an attack of aphides, and these should be cleared away at once, by sponging or vapourising. In fact, we find it the best plan to treat Cannas as semi-aquatic plants in summer, for the garden here is terraced, and with gravel soil and much sunshine it is one of our problems how to keep the border plants from wilting in dry, hot weather. So the out-of-door Cannas are given comfortable quarters in a bog-tub, and very handsomely they fill it, whilst those in the conservatory are accommodated with saucers, which retain a little moisture about their roots. As soon as the blossoms are faded, they are cut off (unless used for hybridising), and a rich mulch is added around the roots, to help them to throw up more blooms quickly. They should also have soot-water once or twice a week when in pots, with plenty of clean water between the doses.

Cannas from Seed.

We have raised several handsome hybrids of fine form by selecting two of the best varieties to experiment on, and the seeds should be sown as early as possible (in a hotbed of eighty



MORÆA IRIDIOIDES OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

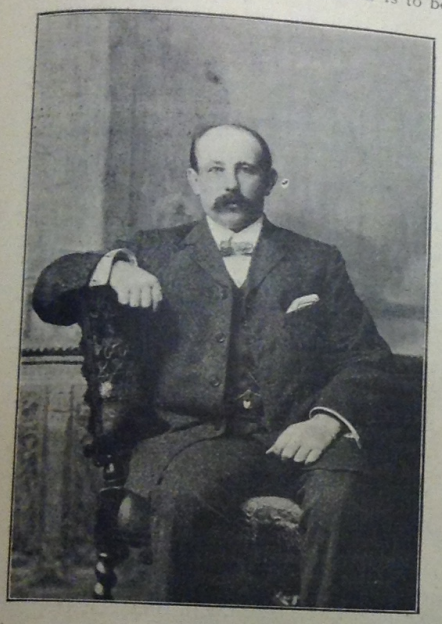
degrees) the following spring, first soaking them for two days in a small jar of lukewarm water on the pipes of the greenhouse, so as to keep them at an even temperature. First of all we tried filing the seeds (which are extraordinarily hard), but that did not answer well, as we often went too far with the operation, and the seed then rotted. Ample warmth, and plenty of warm water in the soil, will usually bring the seeds up in about a fortnight (after soaking), and the little plants should be potted up singly as soon as they have four leaves, still keeping them warm and moist. After one or two shifts as they grow, early-sown seedlings will bloom the same year towards the autumn, and it is an interesting moment when they open their first buds. All our plants are dwarf, with large heads of bloom. If you wish to start some now, you should go to a good nursery, and choose those which you admire the most, and of the best types.

Moræas at the Temple Show.

You may possibly remember the new Moræa iridioides, which flowered here (for the first time in Europe) four years ago? I think I sent you a photograph of it at the time. It was exhibited before the Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society last month, and also on the second and third day of the Temple Show; but, unfortunately, refused to open (being sent in bud) for the Floral Committee on the first day. The beautiful spray of four blooms was greatly admired, and if you belong to the Royal Horticultural Society you will see a highly appreciative mention of this new variety in the next report of that society.

It is truly a lovely flower, Iris-shaped, with creamy-white petals, blotched with orange,

not infrequently committed when making a Strawberry bed is to dig in a layer of fresh manure. As the gases resulting from decomposition are injurious to the roots of all plants, fresh manure should never be used where anything is to be planted immediately afterwards. It is rightly used at the autumn digging or ploughing, in preparation for sowing or planting in the following spring, but not when the ground is to be



MR. GILL.

occupied at once. In the case of Strawberries it has another serious disadvantage, for it makes the soil loose and spongy, whereas they must be planted firmly and solidly, otherwise they will produce great quantities of leaves instead of fruit.

September 15th.—A Pear tree on the wall of a house is a fine idea, but, like many other fine ideas, it has, in practice, its drawbacks—among the number, wasps. They would not have occurred to me had not I tried. An immense Pear of great age covers the whole of one end of this house; it is a magnificent sight, I am told, in spring, and in autumn the small boys of the neighbourhood throw stones up at it, in the hope that some of the fruit may drop on their side of the wall. The conservatory is below the tree, practically in the middle of its span, and the astonishing thing is that the Pears, dropping from a great height, with a loud report, on the glass—sometimes regular volleys—do not break the glass. I am getting over my first feeling of alarm, but the whole place hums with wasps. That is distinctly unpleasant.

September 7th.—Another photograph of a fine lawn, showing an admirable arrangement of shrubs and border plants, advancing upon the grass in waves, as they often do in Nature. I don't know who originally planned this garden, but I am quite sure he was an artist. The photograph is reproduced on the front page.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

NICOTIANA sylvestris is a decided improvement on the old N. affinis, although the blossoms are not quite so large. It remains open during the whole of the day, possesses a delicious perfume, and bears its blossoms in bold numbers.

THE beautiful Lapageria, a native of Chili, is an almost hardy plant, and succeeds best in a cool and shady position, where the sun seldom reaches it, and may even be grown in the open air (on a north aspect) in the warmer parts of the country.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 207.—MR. G. GILL, AT THE GARDENS, CHEAM PARK, SUTTON.

AT the Cheam Flower Show last month Mr. G. Gill, gardener at Cheam Park, took the first prize for a model garden, five other firsts, four seconds, and one third prize, out of thirteen entries. This proves that his work is appreciated in the locality where he resides, and a few weeks previously I had the opportunity, thanks to the courtesy of Mr. Charles Bethell, the owner of Cheam Park, of going over the gardens which are under his charge. At the outset, the pretty little lodge in which Mr. Gill resides attracted my notice, and then we walked through a delightful avenue of Elms and Beeches towards the front lawn. On the lawn are more Elms, including one monster, and close by are five Cedars, as well as an excellent specimen of Araucaria. Between two beds of Geranium Raspail and Lobelias is a large bed, in which Bracken Ferns, Saxifrages, Hollies and Ivies are allowed to grow as they please, with a very pretty effect.

"You keep your lawn in excellent condition," I observed.

"We try to do so," rejoined Mr. Gill. "Last winter we put about twenty loads of London horse-manure and road sand upon it. The smell is unpleasant at first, but there is nothing better to make a bottom for the lawn, and keep it in a good condition."

"Have you any idea of the size of the golden-leaved Holly on the lawn near the house, facing the clump of four Elms?"

"It is about thirty yards round. Hollies do remarkably well here, and I believe that this tree is considered a very fine specimen."

"Most of your beds are round?"

"Yes; that is our system. Two of the beds consist of Coleus and Geranium Mrs. Pollock; two of single Begonias, Echeverias, and grasses, and another is made up of Geranium Flower of Spring, dwarf Lobelias, and Lobelia cardinalis, with Marguerites in the centre of the old tree, which has Ivy planted round."

"And the border under the Holly hedge at the side?"

"Under the Golden Elder, Bays, and Brier Roses, we have in spring chiefly Irises, and in the summer herbaceous plants, including Phlox, Gaillardias, Rudbeckias, Scabiosas, Stocks, and Heleniums, also a few white Sweet Peas."

Passing a block of Portugal and common Laurels to the right of the house, leading to the stable yard, we proceeded to the south side, which was bright with Geraniums Henry Jacoby and Flower of Spring. On the walls of the house itself are Ivy and Ampelopsis Veitchii, while close to the front door are beds containing two varieties of Heliotropes.

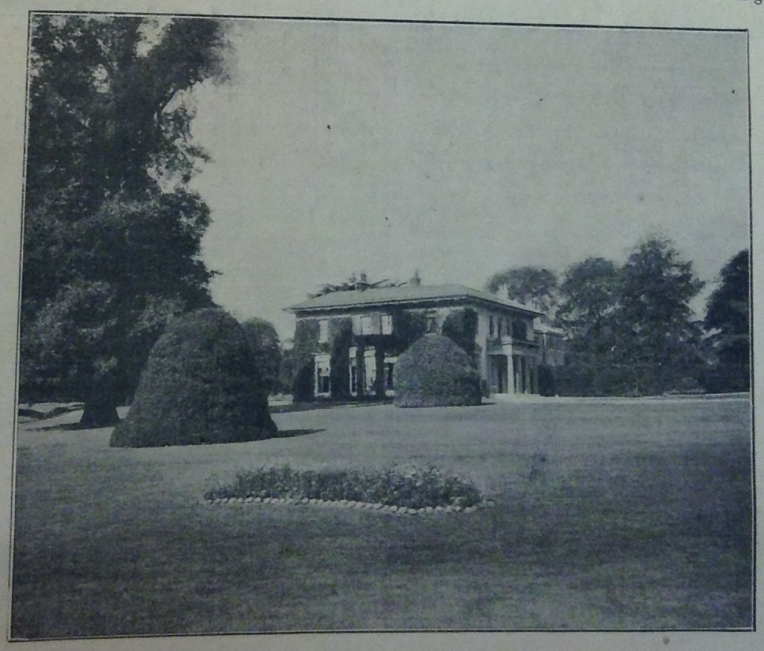
I remarked on the clump of Rhododendrons in the front park, and Mr. Gill said:

"The bed was made especially for them. They do not thrive naturally, whether ponticums or named varieties. As you see, there are planted at the back of the same bed a number of Golden Elders, looking very well. To break the walk, some old tree stumps have been planted with Marguerites and Ivy-leaved Geraniums."

Turning to the west side, I noticed Magnolia conspicua, Clematis Jackmanii, and Ampelopsis Veitchii growing on the house, while facing the drawing-room is a charming croquet lawn. In the conservatory adjacent, at the time of my visit, were Grevilleas, Cobæas, Eucalyptus, Hydrangeas, Abutilons, and Francoa ramosa. Beyond the billiard-room is a path, with Ferns on one side and Brier Roses and shrubs on the other, also Petunias and Fuchsias.

"What are the varieties of Roses in the bed which has also Roses on arches?"

"They are numerous. The only variety on the arches is Crimson Rambler, and with it is grown Clematis indivisa. Nicotianas and Scabiosas are planted in between, edged on one side with Geranium Charles Turner, and on the other with Cistus in variety, including early and late kinds. The Clematis is allowed to grow natur-



CHEAM PARK, SUTTON.

The shrub nearest the house is a golden-leaved Holly, which has a circumference of thirty yards. Hollies "do remarkably well" in the Sutton district.

ally, instead of being trimmed, and is at its best in the middle of June. Along the other side, further down, is a border of Mrs. Sinkins' Pinks and Carnations, border varieties, including Raby Castle, Miss Audrey Campbell, Salamander, Mrs. Joicey, and Triton. Behind these are Pentstemons grown from cuttings struck in the autumn, and there are in the background Cactus Dahlias, with trailing Nasturtiums between, to hide the ground."

"The Nasturtiums make a brave show."

"Last year this bed was entirely filled with them, and looked very pretty. They are grown from seed, and give little trouble, with the additional advantage of remaining a long time in flower. They will also do well on a dry soil."

Having crossed the rustic bridge over the ditch which separates the gardens from the park, in order to see better the beauty of the Ampelopsis on the house, we returned to the garden, and, on our way to the tennis court, stayed to look at a remarkable specimen of a Japanese Thuja.

"How old is it?" I inquired.

"About forty-three years. It is only two and a half feet high. We potted it last year, as a change. I suppose there is no tree so slow-growing as the Japanese Thuja obtusa."

The fine old Beeches and a nice specimen of Weeping Ash near the tennis court were in contrast to this diminutive tree. Here, too, is another border containing Hollyhocks, Golden Privet, and Golden Gem Calceolarias.

"You have two tennis courts, I notice."

"Yes; one was made for winter. The material used was burnt ballast, with a little Portland cement, painted tape being used for marking. The five young trees were planted by visitors at the time of the King's coronation. One is a Lombardy Poplar, another a Silver Birch, the third a Lime, the fourth an Elm, and the fifth a Plane. They were all grown in tubs for the purpose. The summerhouse facing the other tennis court was thatched with Heather."

Among other trees here are two fine Planes, and, having noted these, we reached the outside kitchen garden, in which varieties of Potatoes and several kinds of fruit are grown.

"What are your chief Potatoes?"

"Up-to-Date, Reliance, Syon House, Northern Star, Prolific, Snowdrop, Puritan, Satisfaction, Harbinger, and Ninety-fold. For the main crop I think Up-to-Date the best; and for early work Ninety-fold and Harbinger."

"You grow Cherries on walls?"

"Yes; Morellos, and we had a nice crop this year. Red Currants are also grown on the south wall. In front we have Strawberries—Royal Sovereign, British Queen, and President. Apples, Pears and Plums are grown here, but this year the cold winds and spring frosts made havoc with all the fruit crops. The varieties of Apples grown are Blenheim Orange, Cox's Orange Pippin, Cox's Pomona, Dumelow's Seedling, Golden Noble, King of the Pippins, Lord Grosvenor, Lord Suffield, Keswick Codlin, Kentish Fillbasket, Warner's King, Quarrenden, and Ribston Pippin."

"You might also give me the names of your Pears?"

"One of the best for storing purposes is General Todtleben. We also grow Beurré d'Amanlis, Beurré Diel, Beurré Hardy, Beurré Gifford, Beurré Superfine, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Clapp's Favourite, Conference, Duchess d'Angouleme, Winter Nelis, Vicar of Winkfield and Marie Louise. The Plums are Victoria, Pond's Seedling, Magnum Bonum, Black Diamond, Monarch, Jefferson, and Coe's Golden Drop."

"How many varieties of Onions do you grow here?"

"Four—Giant Rocca, Ailsa Craig, Bedfordshire Champion, and James's Keeping. There is nothing to beat Ailsa Craig, but the flat Onions will keep a long time."

Entering the kitchen garden proper—of about two acres—where also are the glasshouses, I was impressed with the picturesque appearance which it presented. Far from being formal, it is planned with the idea of making it attractive to the eye, and in almost every direction plants in flower are a feature.

"You grow Peaches on the south wall," I observed.

"Peaches, Nectarines and Apricots. The Peaches are Prince of Wales, Sea Eagle, Royal George, and Dymond; the Nectarines, Pineapple, Lord Napier, and Stanwick Elruge. The Apricots are Moor Park, and we have had a nice crop of them this year. Underneath the south wall, early Peas, early Potatoes, early Turnips, and Carrots are grown."

"What fruit do you grow on the east wall?"

"Three varieties of dessert Cherries, Pears, Apples, and Greengage Plums. Underneath are bulbs, chiefly Narcissi. Pears and Apples are also, as you observe, grown on each side, on the espalier system."

"I see also that your vegetables seem to be doing remarkably well."

"The Carrots are Carter's Favourites and Perfection; the Beetroot, Blood Red; the Parsnips, Student and Hollow Crown; the Cauliflowers, Autumn Giant; the Broad Beans, Leviathan; the Turnips, Lilywhite and White Star; the Runner Beans, Carter's Jubilee, Champion Scarlet, and White Advance; the French Beans, Early Prolific and Canadian Wonder; the Cabbages, Enfield Market and Ellam's Early."

"Did you have a good crop of Asparagus?"

"Yes; very. The Asparagus was planted many years ago."

"Then there are the Peas?"

"We have quite a dozen varieties—Carter's Early Forcing, Carter's First Crop, William the First, Gradus, Duke of York, Telephone, Telegraph, Duke of Albany, Alderman Selected, Ne Plus Ultra, Autocrat, and British Queen."

"When do you begin to pick Peas in the garden?"

"The middle of May, with Early Forcing, grown in pots, and we go on until the end of October. In fact, I have gathered them in November."

"You have a large breadth of Artichokes?"

"The variety is the Globe. We only divide the roots about every four years, and spread them out."

"Sweet Peas seem to be grown largely?"

"We grow Carter's Special Mixed, which are very effective, and flower at the end of June. We had some earlier than these in 48-sized pots. The named varieties, which last the whole of the summer, include Black Knight, Navy Blue, Lady G. Hamilton, Countess of Cadogan, Coccinea, Countess of Lathom, Gorgeous, Lady M. Currie, Lovely, Miss Willmott, Prima Donna, Salopian, Aurora, Hon. Mrs. Kenyon, America, Mont Blanc, and Sadie Burpee. The long border on both sides, now filled with Ten-week Stocks, will later on become bright with Asters."

"Another border is devoted to Montbretias?"

"Yes; they are just coming into bloom, and mixed with them are a few seedling Dahlias. By the way, the Raspberries, over which there is a framework of nets, are exclusively Baumforth's Seedling, which we find an excellent variety."

"What is the width of the herbaceous border along the central wide walk?"

"About four yards on each side. There is a new border, six yards wide, at the side, with clumps of Sweet Peas, Coreopsis, Phlox in variety, Asters, and Oriental Poppies, intermixed with Calceolarias, Antirrhinums, Stocks, Rudbeckias, and Lupins, a few Gladioli being planted among them. In the borders along the centre are Delphiniums, Phlox (scarlet and white), Tropæolum, Echinops, Erigerons, Hollyhocks, Sunflowers, Marigolds, Asters, Coreopsis, Godetias (in clumps), Alstrœmerias, and a few Roses."

"Your yellow and scarlet Hollyhocks in clumps are very fine."

"They are single plants; each little stem of the plant has from fifteen to twenty flowers, and on the main stem there are upwards of seventy. That means thousands of flowers on one plant. We do not suffer from the mite. This is the first year of flowering. We first planted them out from the seed-bed. They are Veitch's Superb Seedlings. In front of the stove and Vineries is another herbaceous border full of flowers similar to those in the other borders; also some very large clumps of Lavender."

"How many Chrysanthemums do you grow?"

"About two hundred, Japanese chiefly, for the house. We get about six blooms on a plant. The Rose bed just here, which contains Hybrid Perpetuals in variety, is bordered with Mrs Sinkins Pinks and the Marguerite Carnations."

"You grow your Lettuces under the west wall?"

"Yes; and they have stood the hot weather well. The varieties are Sugarloaf, Jumbo, and All the Year Round."

There yet remained the houses. We commenced with the stove, in which was a fine specimen of Allamanda Schottii.

"Other plants here," continued Mr. Gill, "are Crotons of many varieties, Dracænas, Stephanotis on the roof, Bougainvillea glabra, Begonias (Arthur Malet), Clerodendrons fallax and Balfouri, Pandanus, Aralia Veitchii, Aralia Chabrieri (ten feet high), and Nepenthes Mastersiana (with six or seven pitchers)."

"Palms are, of course, the feature of the Palm house?"

"But it also contains Caladiums, Acalyphas, Ferns in variety, and a few Orchids, including Oncidiums, Lælias, and Cœlogynes. There is a fine specimen of Ficus growing up the roof; it has only been here two years."

"You grow fruit in pots in the Vinery."

"Yes; Pineapple and Lord Napier Nectarines, and Sea Eagle and Royal George Peaches. The Vines, which were only planted this year, are Alicante, Lady Downe's, Madresfield Court, and Black Hamburgh."

"How many varieties do you grow in the Cucumber house?"

"Three—Cardiff Castle, Royal Osborne, and Carter's Earliest of All. In the Melon house are Victoria, Little Heath, and Blenheim Orange."

"Is there anything special in the flowering house?"

"Justicia carnea, a stove plant with pink flower, which is not very widely known, but is quite easy to propagate. Then we have Trachelium cœruleum, a pretty light flower; the Monarch of the East, which we pot after it flowers, because of the striking leaves which succeed the flower; and a good number of Cockscombs."

"How do you treat Cockscombs?"

"The seed is sown in February, and the deep crimson flowers appear about the beginning of July. They are quite a feature of the flowering house. The Geraniums here include Achievement, Pink Domino, Miss H. Brown, Sea Eagle, Major, and Lady Emily."

"How many varieties of Tomato do you grow in the house?"

"Three—Duke of York, Early Ruby (for early fruiting), and Chemin Rouge. We get a good crop in little pots. The Tomatoes grown outside are Ham Green and Carter's Out of Doors. In the frames are double Begonias (just in flower), Cinerarias, double Primulas, Salvia splendens, and Tree Carnations."

"How long have you been at Cheam Park, Mr. Gill?"

"I came here as head gardener five years ago last May. My previous experience embraced two years as head gardener at Belsize Court, Hampstead, foreman and decorator at Coton House, Rugby, and foreman at Buckland, Breconshire. I also had two seasons finishing and decorating in London, and was at Osberton Hall and Ossington Hall and other places."

"Have you shown much?"

"Only at the local show, groups of miscellaneous stove and greenhouse plants, collections of fruit, vegetables, Grapes, and Sweet Peas."

"Also your model garden?"

"Yes; this will be the fifth year I shall have shown a model garden. It consists of a miniature house, lodge, lawn, bedding, rockery, with waterfall, lake, with small swans and fishes, herbaceous border, small beds, and carriage drive. One year it was called by the judges a Swiss chalet. It is all done in a box the size of a square table. I have taken first prize each time I have shown."

ALFRED WILCOX.

C.J. Gleed

WHAT SOUTHAMPTON IS DOING FOR HORTICULTURE.

EARLIER in the year an account was given in GARDEN LIFE of the work which is being done under the auspices of the Essex Education Committee of the County Council, in promoting the study of horticulture. In September I had the opportunity of visiting the horticultural headquarters of the County of Southampton Education Committee, and of hearing from the instructor and staff lecturer in horticulture the progress which is being made in Hampshire. Mr. C. J. Gleed, who has held his appointment for nearly a year, and has therefore obtained a grip of the possibilities to be achieved, suggested, on my arrival at Basingstoke, that we should proceed without delay to Old Basing, where the farm and horticultural school has been established. Old Basing is two miles and a half from the flourishing town which takes its name from the village, and the farm and school are situated on the banks of the little River Loddon, in quite a delightful part of the country. The buildings comprise a hostel, with classrooms for the accommodation of pupils, a farmhouse for butter and cheese-making, and convenient outbuildings. The headmaster and chief of the entire staff is Mr. J. C. Newsham, F.L.S., but as my object was to discuss the horticultural side of the work, I did not turn my attention to the farming and general operations, further than to observe that all the conditions appeared to be highly favourable.

Making our way to the garden on rising ground, in which the horticultural pupils pursue their practical training, we first entered the greenhouse, which is used at one period of the year for raising seeds and bedding plants, next for Tomatoes, and then Chrysanthemums and the storage of bedding plants, etc.

The School Garden.

"This year," said Mr. Gleed, "we have Sutton's A1 Tomatoes, and last year a fine crop of Best of All was obtained. Both in the house and on the plots we grow, as far as possible, things which can be consumed in the hostel, while, at the same time their cultivation affords the experience which is needed by the students. The garden itself is about two acres in extent, and, as you see, is divided into plots. Here, for example, is a plot devoted to a collection of vegetables for comparison. The plot is really an enlarged type of school garden plot, containing less common vegetables (in addition to the ordinary ones grown in such gardens), such as Kohl Rabi, Celeriac, Salsify, etc., and different sorts of Kale. Next to the vegetable plot is one for practising budding and grafting."

"Referring to vegetables, do you go in for trenching?"

"Yes, the students get plenty of practice in trenching. We had a piece of ground this year with Peas on it, trenched three feet deep, also for the Onion beds. Peas, we impress upon the students, are an excellent preparation for Winter Greens or Cabbage. We make rather a speciality of Onions. In fact, the whole of this neighbourhood is great on Onions. Our best this time are eighteen inches round."

"Which do you consider the best variety for your purpose?"

"Ailsa Craig. We have splendid results from Carrots, Sutton's Early Gem, which were sown on June 30th, our earlier sowings having been unsatisfactory. All our water was brought from the river, so we do not use more than is necessary. We usually exhibit at the Basingstoke Root Show, Onions, roots, green vegetables, etc.; also diagrams, sketches, and specimens of common weeds, fungoid pests, spraying materials, etc."

A TRIAL PLOT OF PEAS IN SCHOOL GARDEN.

"Some of the other vegetables seem to be doing well, such as Celery."

"A portion of the Celery is all right—the rows that have been watered—and the Beet looks rather well. A batch of late Cauliflowers promise well, and Brussels Sprouts are coming on satisfactorily. We give them three feet each way, and they quite fill the space."

A Plot of Herbs.

"You may like," continued Mr. Gleed, "to note a plot which is filled with various common herbs. There are nearly twenty varieties. The importance of growing these may be gathered from the fact that a class of lads, between sixteen and seventeen, were asked the names of herbs, and none could give more than three."

"Do you do much flower bedding?"

"Only enough to show how the plants should be grown. In one of the flower borders, Gaillardias, Chrysanthemums, Border Carnations, Marguerites, and single Violets do well. A number of annuals are also grown. We save a good deal of our own seed. Everything is done with an eye to utility and economy. Marrows are grown and sold to the hostel, for the use of the pupils, as are most of the crops in the garden."

"Your own hostel?"

"Yes, and the payments, whether for vegetables or fruit, figure in our receipts. Then, we grow Cucumbers in a frame, so that the students may know how to cultivate them under such conditions. We want them, when they leave, to be able to make the best of the means at their disposal. It is comparatively easy to grow crops under model conditions, but such conditions are rare in practice."

Roses and Fruit.

"You have a number of Roses?"

"The soil, clay loam on gravel, suits Roses well, so the students have a little practice in Rose pruning, budding, etc. The Rose bed has an edging of Pinks in variety in the spring; and the row of standard Roses just budded, a show of Asters below."

"Does the soil suit fruit?"

"It suits Black Currants, Apples, and Strawberries very well, and there are plantations of Red Currants and Raspberries. We summer-prune the Raspberries, which has the result of throwing all the strength into the young shoots. As to Apples and Pears, I am doing away with the old trees by degrees, and substituting new ones. The position is too cold for Pears, but we have several varieties, and do our best to show how they should be treated. Neither Plums nor Cherries do very well. The ground between the rows of young fruit trees we use to raise Seakale, Rhubarb, etc., from seed. Apples have done well this year; we have record crops of Bismarck and King of the Pippins. Cox's Orange Pippin has also done well. Other varieties are Newton Wonder, Golden Noble, Golden Spire, and many more."

Manurial Plots.

"Your manurial plots are rather a feature?"

"Yes, but they are mainly interesting to farm students. There are a dozen, which are worked out on an extension of the eight-plot system. The crop on trial this season is sugar Beet, but lack of rain has interfered with our anticipated success. The plots, although but 1-268th of an acre in area, serve to demonstrate the value of the principal artificials, and in supplying nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash to plants, either separately, in composition, or in conjunction with the principal natural manures. We find that the best all-round manure is a mixture of a light dressing each of farmyard and chemical. One practical advantage of artificials is that the cost of haulage is so trifling, while that of farmyard manure is so heavy. Close to our manurial plots is a collection of twelve of the newer varieties of Strawberries, including New Pineapple, Pioneer, and Record."

"Then there are your Potato experiments?"

"We grow four rows of a dozen varieties. Here are the respective yields of eight of them last year, from which you will observe that there was a marked falling-off in the yield of third year's and fourth year's seed. This is always the case. The varieties are Supreme (a seedling), Satisfaction, Flourball, Ninetyfold, Centenary,

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British Queen, Abundance, and Up-to-Date, whose stocks are the heaviest yielding."

The Holiday Class.

"The students are away now?"

"August and September are the vacation months. There is one session lasting from October to Easter, and the other from Easter to the end of July. But in August we have a holiday class for teachers and schoolmasters. It lasts a fortnight. Last month we had thirty in the class."

"I should like to have an idea of the time-table?"

"An hour is given to nature study. Half devote themselves to the borders, and half to woodwork, for a few hours, changing round the second week. Altogether, there were from nine to six in residence, spending about five hours in the garden. On two or three occasions they were taken to see trees and shrubs in large gardens in the neighbourhood, and also for botanical rambles, the district being rich in wild flowers."

"On what conditions are they received?"

"They must belong to the county, and they must pay a fee of 12s. 6d. per week, which covers board and lodging at the hostel."

"I suppose your work in the school garden occupies only a small portion of your time?"

"Between two and three days a week during the session; but, of course, I am entirely responsible for the teaching of horticulture in the county. These are only our headquarters. Perhaps, before we go on to talk about the lectures and demonstrations, it might be desirable to note that these, and the practical instruction in the garden schools, are especially intended for people engaged on the land, allotment holders, etc."

"Roughly speaking, what is the particular instruction given in the school garden?"

"The propagation, planting, pruning, training, harvesting, packing, and marketing of hardy fruits; the indoor forcing, general outdoor cultivation, and marketing of vegetables; the preparation of potting composts, staking, potting, and watering; the application of liquid and solid manures to fruit, flowers, and vegetables; economic entomology; and the use and application of insecticides and fungicides."

Evening Lectures.

"When do your courses of evening lectures and demonstrations mostly take place?"

"Between the end of September and the end of March. There are very few in the summer, because audiences cannot be got together, whereas in the winter the attendance varies from between two dozen to seventy and eighty. During the winter I also give several courses of lectures to gardeners' associations."

"How many lectures usually constitute a course in these evening schools?"

"Four to six. They are generally illustrated by a lantern, diagrams, or specimens, and I accompany them, if desired, by outdoor practice classes. In the latter case, however, an experimental plot or allotment has to be established, and the arrangement for the services of an instructor made by the local committee. With respect to the lectures, both amateurs and cottagers attend. The charge of admission is one penny."

The Syllabuses.

"What is the syllabus of the lectures?"

"It depends as to which syllabus is chosen by the district. When a school applies for a course of lectures, I send the three different syllabuses for the purpose of selection. I am always open to suggestions, and invite questions, so that we may know the exact difficulties of those who ask them."

"How long does the lecture last?"

"Forty to fifty minutes if the class is for one hour, and in that case I give the remainder of the time to questions. If there is no set time, I generally go on until I have to leave to catch a train, or cycle home before midnight."

MR. C. J. GLEED, F.R.H.S.

"You might tell me how the lectures are made up."

"To take Syllabus I. My first lecture would be on soils, manures, and the rotation of crops; the second on the cultivation, raising, selecting, storing, and marketing of Potatoes, with advice as to the treatment and prevention of disease; also the cultivation of Tomatoes; the third lecture deals with the general cultivation of green vegetables, hints respecting exhibition, and the most profitable varieties for cottage gardens; also the cultivation of Celery for market and exhibition, and how to avoid attacks of Celery-fly. In the fourth, bush fruit, Gooseberries, Black, Red, and White Currants, their cultivation, and marketing are the subject. In the fifth, exclusive attention is given to the cultivation of Apples, including gathering, grading, packing, and storing, and the treatment of diseases and insect pests. The sixth lecture is on the propagation of plants, the saving, storing, and sowing of seeds."

"And the other syllabuses?"

The Fascination of Crossing.

"In the second, vegetables are largely dealt with; also fruit, such as Raspberries, Strawberries, Pears, Plums, Cherries, and Peaches. One of the series is devoted to the cultivation of Roses and Violets. Then, in the third syllabus, questions of draining and manures; the cultivation of Mushrooms, Vegetable Marrows, Cucumbers, and Rhubarb; the flower garden, hardy Ferns, and the culture of bulbs and tubers; the renovation of old fruit trees, root pruning, and transplanting; crossing, varieties of flowers, fruit, and vegetables, selecting and storing seeds, and the cultivation of Chrysanthemums; and the construction of greenhouses and frames for small gardens, the action of light on plant growth, and the cultivation of window plants, are the principal features. My special themes are fruit and crossing. Amateurs are particularly fond of the last. It gives them a chance to break away from tradition. At Alton, and other centres where there are a number of keen amateurs, it has met with warm appreciation. Instead of a lecture, a demonstration is often given, wherever it is practical, and you may like to know that sixteen exhibitions are awarded to students attending these classes, each being of the value of one month's instruction at the garden school."

The Practical Classes.

"Then, there are the practical gardening classes."

"At present there are five centres working under the committee's regulations. Last year upwards of fifty-three pupils attended the full season, and twenty-five obtained certificates. To augment the interest, prizes are given for the best-kept notebooks of the pupils, as well as prizes for cultivation. It is not always easy to get the pupils to take notes, but an excellent rule is in force at Petersfield that no vegetables or flowers are to be taken away until the notebook is written up. As you may imagine, this has a considerable effect. The class with the highest percentage of marks wins the silver challenge trophy. The present centres are at Crondall, Petersfield, Botley, Grayshott, and Romsey, the winner of the challenge trophy. The local instructors are generally professional gardeners or schoolmasters, and very favourable reports are given by them to the instructor."

A PRUNING LESSON—MR. GLEED AND HIS PUPILS.

"Have you any other duties to discharge, Mr. Gleed?"

"I have not yet mentioned the secondary schools, in which courses on horticulture are given at various times right through the year. For example, at Winchester County School and Basingstoke High School, I teach the young ladies gardening once a week for a couple of hours, and they have

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plots of their own, similar to those cultivated by the pupils in the elementary schools. They do all the trenching and digging, and some of them are very keen. Then I give instruction in some of the secondary schools for boys, always making the difference of giving a rod or less than a rod of ground in the case of a girl, and a rod and a half in that of boys. In the grammar schools the boys who receive instruction in gardening go on to the end of the series, and some get to be very useful. In the boys' schools, I have to teach a certain amount of botany. It makes the work very varied. I try to get them to understand plant diseases, notably those from which Hampshire chiefly suffers, such as the Gooseberry mildew, which has done so much mischief this year."

The Travelling Difficulty.

"You must do a good deal of travelling?"

"In the winter, travelling occupies quite four days in the week. It is the great difficulty in the prosecution of the work. In one week I may have to visit places as far apart as Ashmensworth, near Newbury, Petersfield, Ringwood, and Cadnam. (This is my list for this week.) The use of a bicycle is indispensable, though as I have often to carry specimens in my bag, it is sometimes rather laborious. I travel by rail whenever I can."

"But, in spite of the travelling difficulty, you like the work?"

"On the whole, I like it very much. It is both attractive and healthy. But, then, I have always been fond of gardening. I was trained at Swanley, and after getting my diploma, I obtained the Royal Horticultural Society's scholarship for two years, and went to Chiswick. From Chiswick I proceeded to gain further experience at Cliveden Gardens, Maidenhead, and from Cliveden I proceeded to Forest Farm, Windsor. I was then for two and a half years foreman of one of the indoor departments at Veitch's nurseries, and was appointed here last February. There is no doubt that the movement is steadily growing in importance, and that, as time goes on, the number of centres will be materially increased. Very few pupils who start to work the plots drop out. Many of the plots are kept in splendid condition; excellent crops are, as a rule, obtained, and there is a spirit of enthusiasm prevalent which augurs well for whatever efforts are made to promote the study of horticulture, and raise the standard of training."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Next week some famous Warwickshire gardens will be described—those of Mr. F. E. Muntz, at Umberslade Hall, Hockley Heath.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS.

NOW that these beautiful subjects have given us their best, in the shape of flowers and foliage, and signs of weakened effort are beginning to be apparent, it is time to think of their disposal for the winter months. It is of little use to grind every ounce of energy out of this class of Begonia, by continual forcing by heat and stimulant; a rest is as necessary to them, as it is to all other plants, and care should be taken to give them such rest.

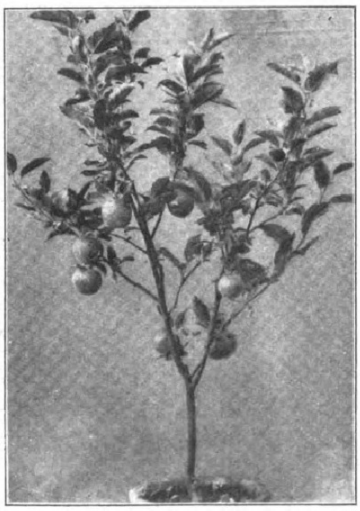
Wintering the Tubers.

As soon as the plants begin to assume a sickly or spent appearance, and the leaves lose their colour, preparations should be made for their accommodation. This is accomplished in the first place by withholding water supplies gradually—the process of decay or quiescence in Nature is always gradual and easy—not suddenly.

Then the roots must be carefully stored. There are two ways of doing this. The tubers may be lifted, and after shaking the soil away, placed in boxes of silver sand; or they may be left in the pots, which procedure will answer just as well, as they may then be placed under the staging of the house, or in any frost-proof position that may be available. Do not neglect them, or forget all about them, however; a little water should be given occasionally—not too much or too often, as excess of moisture will cause decay to set in.

Starting Growth.

When the period of rest decreed by Nature has passed, signs of returning activity may be looked for; and through the early months of the year a sharp look-out must be kept for such awakening, or drawn and weakly shoots will be the result. As soon as the shoots appear, the tubers should be potted. In all stages the size of the pots is regulated by the size of the tubers. The pot should be no larger than will take the roots without damage. In a warm, humid atmosphere, the fine rootlets will quickly fill the sides of the pot; then the tubers should be turned out, most of the soil shaken off, and finally planted in the pots they are to remain in. A good compost for this



WORCESTER PEARMAIN IN A POT.

purpose is made up of rich fibrous mould, leaf-mould, and a good proportion of sand.

The essentials in connection with the winter treatment of tuberous Begonias are, as will be seen, not at all complicated; a frost-proof position; a not too dry, yet certainly not wet, medium for the storage of the tubers; and watchful care generally.

Avoid Damp.

Great care must be taken not to break or bruise the tubers, for then wet enters and decay will surely set in, and the plant be lost. Also, do not allow the pots or boxes containing the roots to catch the drips from the plants on the stage above them.

When growth is started, give plenty of air and sunshine Special attention must be given to watering from this period onwards, and particularly when the plants are coming into bloom; lack of moisture will mean fallen blossoms and disappointment. Liquid manure, or an artificial watered in once a fortnight, will give good results.

Tuberous Begonias in baskets should receive similar treatment, but on no account allow the tubers to remain in the baskets after they have ceased their work, for they are exposed to the influences of air and heat much more than plants in pots. Turn them out early.

Where these subjects have been summer-bedded in the open garden, their removal should be effected at the first suspicion of frost.

M. A. BENNINGTON.

APPLE TREES IN POTS.

APPLE trees grown in pots are exceedingly ornamental when covered with ruddy fruit in autumn. By this method of culture it is possible to obtain perfect samples, and it is almost possible to guarantee a crop every year.

The cultural season begins in autumn. As soon as the fruit is gathered, the plants are knocked out of pots, carefully removing as much soil as possible, repotting with fresh material, and returning the plants to a sunny, open position in the open, in order thoroughly to mature the wood.

In taking up this method for the first time, stock plants may be obtained as soon as the trees admit of moving in autumn. They may be had already established in pots, although open-ground maidens are equally suitable, and much less expensive, but do not, as a rule, fruit the first season. When potting them up, the roots should be carefully trimmed, using pots that accommodate them comfortably. Those nine to ten inches in diameter are suitable.

General Treatment.

The potting compost should consist of fibrous loam, three parts; sand and baked cow manure, one part each, with a handful of bonemeal to each pot. Have all in readiness some time in advance. The soil, when used, should be free from stickiness, and must be firmly worked among the roots by aid of a rammer.

After potting, the plants are placed out of doors. On the advent of frost, plunge the pots overhead in a bed of coal ashes, where they may remain till spring. With warmer conditions in March, expose the pots to the weather, and give water when required, this being greatly reduced by keeping the pots half plunged so long as they are in the open.

When the flowers begin to open in May, give the plants the protection of a greenhouse, if possible, as this facilitates setting of the fruit. Care must also be exercised in keeping the foliage clean and free from insects. As soon as the blossom falls it is advisable to fumigate the plants, using nicotine compound in the form of vapour, or, in default of this, syringe with a nicotine insecticide.

To Obtain Choice Fruits.

When it is desired to obtain fruit of maximum size and weight, the plants are kept indoors throughout June and July, admitting abundance of air to the house, and syringing the plants morning and evening with clean water. Frequent and liberal top-dressings of some approved fertiliser should be given to the roots, from the time the fruit sets until it is ripe. Under these conditions the fruits swell rapidly, with a fine, thin texture to the skin, and immediately the plants are exposed to the open air, at the end of July, begin to take on colour. Then, after a month or six weeks' exposure, the brilliancy and richness of colour of the variety is fully developed, and the plants stand forth as a revelation to those unacquainted with the possibilities of Apple culture in pots.

Apples grown under this system should be obtained on Paradise stocks, as then they develop a plentiful fibrous root system, and this stock is naturally inclined to fruit early.

Practically any variety responds to this treatment, but preference should be given to those of merit, and particularly those of good keeping qualities, such as James Grieve, Lady Sudeley, Cox's Orange Pippin, Allington Pippin, Ribston Pippin, and Mere de Menage; and of kitchen sorts, Lord Suffield, Stirling Castle, Bismarck, Lane's Prince Albert, Gascoigne's Seedling, and Peasgood's Nonsuch.

THOMAS SMITH.

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Glenny, George (1793–1874), *landscape gardener and writer on horticulture*
by Anne Pimlott Baker
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Glenny, George (1793–1874), landscape gardener and writer on horticulture, was born in Hoxton on 1 November 1793, one of at least two sons of a watch-case maker in Clerkenwell, London. Apprenticed in the same trade as his father, in 1815 Glenny married Hannah Brookes, the daughter of a watch-case maker. He worked at this craft at home in Clerkenwell from 1815 to 1820, when he became secretary of a new insurance company in the City which provided benefits for workers. His wife died in 1823, leaving him with two children. In 1825 he founded the Royal Union Association, a friendly society and charity, which survived until 1839. He also became a wine merchant in 1826, but subsequently went bankrupt. Following his second marriage in 1828 to Louisa Marianne Whiting (1802/3–1871), Glenny moved to Twickenham. There were seven children from this second marriage.

Glenny became interested in gardening at an early age, after seeing a bed of tulips in Walworth, and helped by his father he started a garden in Spitalfields and began to grow tulips, hyacinths, and auriculas. In 1832 he helped to found the Metropolitan Society of Florists and Amateurs, and in 1833 he became a fellow of the Horticultural Society. He began to exhibit flowers at the Chiswick shows, with great success. The story was told that he once entertained fifty-seven guests at his table, and was able to set before each individual a silver cup won as a prize for showing auriculas, dahlias, tulips, and roses as an amateur.

However, because Glenny criticized the judging at the Chiswick show in 1838 he was censured by the council of the Horticultural Society in 1839. He also organized shows himself for the Metropolitan Society and in his own garden at Worton Lodge, Isleworth, where he had moved in 1835. Glenny was bankrupt again in 1839, after three shows in his newly built floricultural hall at Stafford House, Chiswick, failed to attract many people. Glenny spent many years trying to improve the English tulip, publishing details of the ideal tulip towards which growers should aspire; during his lifetime, probably as a result of his efforts, the appearance of the English tulip changed dramatically.

Glenny's first writings appeared in the *Antigallican Monitor*, and he subsequently edited a number of other journals. With the consent of Queen Adelaide he started the *Royal Ladies' Magazine* in 1830. He began to write seriously on horticultural subjects in 1832, when he started the *Horticultural Journal*, which was published until 1839. He also began the papers entitled ‘Properties of flowers’, originally published in the *Horticultural Journal* between 1832 and 1835. These were reprinted in 1864, and were his most important works. Glenny started the *Gardener's Gazette*, the first weekly gardening newspaper, in 1837, and edited various other periodicals, including the *Garden Journal*, the *Practical Florist*, and *Glenny's Journal*.

After his bankruptcy in 1839 Glenny was forced to sell the *Gardener's Gazette*; but he remained as editor for a time. From 1841 he earned his living by writing on

horticulture and did much to popularize gardening among the working population. He was the first garden journalist to have a column in a popular newspaper, *Lloyd's Weekly London Newspaper*, for which he wrote from 1852 until his death in 1874. In addition to journalism, Glenny was engaged in publishing many books, including *Gardening for the Million* (1838), which went into its seventeenth edition in 1849, *Cottage Gardening* (1847), *Glenny's Handbook to the Flower Garden and Greenhouse* (1850), and *The Gardener's Every-Day Book* (1863). Glenny was one of the founders of the Royal Gardeners' Benevolent Institution in 1839, and he subscribed the first 20 guineas.

Glenny died at his home, Paxton Villa, Colby Road, Gipsy Hill, Norwood, Surrey, on 17 May 1874. His son, George Glenny, a gardener at Paxton House nurseries, Fulham, continued to publish *Glenny's Almanac*, which his father had started in 1837.

ANNE PIMLOTT BAKER

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—— In the neighbourhood of London the reading of the barometer at the level of the sea increased from 29.79 inches at the beginning of the week to 30.37 inches by noon on the 13th, decreased to 29.99 inches by the morning of the 15th, increased rapidly to 30.38 inches by 9 A.M. on the 16th, and was 30.35 at the end of the week. The mean reading for the week was 30.20 inches, being 0.42 inch higher than that of preceding week, and 0.28 inch higher than that of the same week, as deduced from eighteen years' observations. The highest temperatures of the air at 4 feet above the ground were all between 56° and 61°. The lowest temperatures varied considerably; they were 31°, 33½, 32°, 44°, 46°, 38½, and 34¼°. Their mean for the week was 37°. The mean daily temperatures were below the average throughout; the values on each day were as follows:—10th, 43°.7; 11th, 45°.3; 12th, 44°.7; 13th, 50°.4; 14th, 49°.7; 15th, 45°.5; 16th, 46°.8; and their respective departures in defect of their averages were, 7°.6, 5°.9, 6°.5, 1°, 2°, 6°.5, 5°.5 The mean temperature for the period May 1 to 16 contrasts very strikingly with that which immediately preceded it, viz., from April 14 to 30; the mean daily departure in defect of average during the former period, May 1 to 16, being 6°, and that in excess of average during the latter, April 14 to 30, was 6½°. The highest readings of a thermometer, with blackened bulb in vacuo, placed on grass in the sun's rays, were 138° on the 16th, 129° on the 11th, and 126° on the 15th. A thermometer placed on glass with its bulb fully exposed to the sky read as low as 21¾°, 23¼°, 24°, and 24¾° during the early morning hours of the 10th, 12th, 16th, and 11th respectively. The general direction of the wind was N.N.E., its strength was gentle, except on the 15th, when a brisk breeze prevailed; on this day the greatest pressure on the square foot was 9.4 lb., the mean pressure for the day 1.3 lb., and the horizontal movement of the air between midnight on the 14th and midnight on the 15th was 428 miles. From the afternoon of the 12th to the morning of the 15th the sky was generally overcast, and at other times large amounts of cloud were prevalent. Rain fell on two days, the 11th and 15th; the amount measured was eight-hundreths of an inch.

In England the extreme high temperatures observed by day varied from 63¾° at Wolverhampton to 49° at Newcastle-on-Tyne, the general average over the country being 58¾°. The extreme low temperatures observed by night ranged between 38° at Liverpool, Leeds, and Newcastle-on-Tyne, and 30° at Eccles, the general average being 34°. The mean range of temperatures in the week from all stations was 24¾°. The mean high day temperatures ranged from 59½ at Manchester to 47¼° at Newcastle-on-Tyne, with an average value of 55½°. The mean low night temperatures varied from 41½° at Liverpool to 36° at Eccles, with a general average of 38½°. The mean daily range of temperature in the week was 17°, varying from 22½° at Wolverhampton to 8¼° at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The mean temperature for the week was 45½°, the highest being at Bristol and Manchester, 47½°, and the lowest at Newcastle-on-Tyne, 41½°. The amount of rain measured at the several stations varied from 1¼ inch at Newcastle-on-Tyne to eight-hundredths of an inch at Blackheath; the average fall over the country was four-tenths of an inch. The weather during the week has been fine, with slight showers of rain.

At Glasgow the highest temperature was 60½°, the lowest 36°, the mean 45½°, and rainfall 0.20 inch.

At Dublin the highest temperature was 63¾°, the lowest 29½°, the mean 49°, and rainfall 0.19 inch.

JAMES GLAISHER.

Obituary.

Another celebrity in the gardening world, Mr. George Glenny, of floricultural fame, has just passed away from amongst us. Mr. Glenny was brought up to a mechanical business, but being from his earliest years a great lover and a good cultivator of flowers, he soon gave up business, and devoted himself to literature and floriculture, amongst which he passed a most active life. He was the originator of garden newspapers, and for several years conducted the first which was established, and was called the *Gardeners' Gazette*. He was the founder in 1832 of the Metropolitan Society of Florists and Amateurs, a society to which is to be attributed much of the success which has distinguished floriculture during the last forty years; he was also one of the founders (Mr. John Keynes, of Salisbury, being another) in 1839 of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution, to which he subscribed the first twenty guineas; while as the editor of the *Gardeners' Gazette*, of the *Horticultural Journal*, of the *Gardener and Practical Florist*, and of thirty-seven issues of the *Garden Almanac*, besides contributions to other papers and works, it cannot be denied that he has left his mark on the history of gardening. It was, however, on the authorship of the *Properties of Flowers and Plants* that he most prided himself, and we find him continually protesting against these "properties" being copied without acknowledgment by other writers on floriculture. This work, which no doubt had great influence on the advance of floriculture, was followed by another, entitled the *Properties of Fruits and Vegetables*, in which the qualities constituting perfection in these were also attempted to be laid down. Besides the foregoing Mr. Glenny was the author of various small popular works, or at least furnished the materials on which they were based; he, moreover, contributed original articles and treatises on all the florists' flowers, during the last fifty years, to this journal amongst others, and also to the *Gardeners' Magazine of Botany*, *Gardeners' Journal*, *Scottish Gardener*, *Horticultural Magazine*, *and Lloyd's Newspaper*. To the latter journal he has furnished the horticultural colunm for more than twenty-two years. Mr. Glenny was an original and powerful writer, but his great fault was that he could not avoid personalities, for which the late Dr. Lindley, while editor of this journal, came in for his full share. During the last few years of his life Mr. Glenny's literary work was chiefly confined to the preparation of his almanac, and his contribution to *Lloyd's Newspaper*. He died on the 17th inst., after about a week's illness, at his residence, Gipsy Hill, Norwood, aged 81 years.

Garden Operations.

(For the Ensuing Fortnight.)

[The subjoined directions are intended to supply general information, and must, of course, be adapted to the peculiar circumstances of each locality. Other departments of the garden will be treated on from week to week in succession, according to the requirements of the season. Special directions for the management of "The Villa Garden" will be found in the preceding columns.]

PLANT HOUSES.

Plant Stove.—The nature of hard-wooded stove plants is so different from that of such as are indigenous to cooler regions, and are in this country subject to greenhouse treatment—their tenacity is so much greater so long as they receive the necessary amount of heat to keep them living—that they will in many other things bear treatment that in the case of *greenhouse* plants would quickly end in death. One of the greatest differences that exists between these sections of plants is the great amount of rooting power that the stove subjects have as compared with the greenhouse plants. This permits of many things being done in their management and cultivation it would not be safe to attempt with greenhouse plants. If, for instance, the potting of stove plants has been through any cause deferred past the usual season, it may be carried out even in the hottest weather without fear of injury, if reasonable care is taken in the performance of the operation. Where it is found necessary to pot any of the inmates of the stove at this late season, even if they have become pot-bound, the principal precautions to be taken are to see that the ball of earth is sufficiently moist so as not to require water for some days; and to lower the temperature of the house by using less fire-heat so as to be able to keep the house, or end of the house, which the newly potted plants occupy comparatively close, by not admitting much air, without running up the temperature so high as to injure the plants by forcing them to push growth before their roots have recovered from the more or less injury which removal entails. Small stock that were potted early, of such things as *Clerodendrons*, *Bougainvilleas*, *Allamandas*, *Gardenias*, and similar free growing plants, that have now filled their pots with roots, should at once be moved into others two or three sizes larger according to the more or less vigour of the plants, or the purposes they are intended for; in their case, as with larger plants, keeping the house they occupy a little closer, as also keeping them a little more moist overhead with the syringe, will have a tendency to to keep down red-spider, which most generally makes its appearance upon any plant subject to it at this season if any check in growth occurs. The higher temperature which the advancing season produces will also cause an equal increase of the worst insect pests that affect stove plants. Where mealy-bug has got thoroughly established on a collection of stove plants that are large in size, and has also got into the woodwork of the house in every crack and space that permits of its finding shelter, and where in addition there is an insufficiency of labour to cope with its rapidity of increase, the task of keeping it within bounds is no easy one. Many of the remedies recommended, such as the use of fluids that will destroy the insect, laid on to the affected plants with a brush or similar contrivance, are simply useless, as the time required in such applications is much more than can be spared or, in some cases, the plants are worth. This points to the necessity of employing some vessel big enough to admit of even the largest affected plants being laid down on their sides over it, so as to catch whatever solution is used, otherwise serious waste will occur. There are few stove plants when in flower so well adapted for the decoration of moderately cool houses as *Bougainvillea glabra*, but unless specially prepared it is for this purpose useless. If not started in a brisk heat it is late in the season before it flowers, and then seldom freely. To show the full-flowering capacity of the plant it should have plenty of heat at the commencement of its growth, and until the bracts are formed in quantity and are beginning to show colour; then, before the flowers begin to open, the plant should be removed to a house where the temperature is some 10° or 15° lower than where it has been so far brought on, but for a few days comparatively little air must be given it, nor too much water at the root, or the chances are that the flowers will fall off in quantity; after a few days it will become inured to its new quarters, and a little more air must be given. Keep it as near the glass as possible, without any shade, which this plant never requires. This exposure to light with the lower temperature will give colour to the flowers almost equal to B. spectabilis, and they will stand good upon the plants for five or six weeks, when they can be again put into heat: here they will quickly grow and flower again, when the cooling process can be again repeated. All twining stove plants should be gone over every week so as to keep their young shoots from getting entangled; if once allowed to get twisted together for any length of time the young flowers that show are certain to be injured or destroyed in their liberation, if let to run too long without attention in this matter: it also entails a considerable loss in labour, as the work is much more difficult to perform. Where *Dracænas* are grown in quantity for conservatory or room decoration, by the end of the month they will bear removing from the stove to at first somewhat cooler quarters, where they will become inured to a lower temperature. This must be done gradually, or the leaves will get disfigured, which renders them unsightly and useless. Care must also be taken that they are kept clear from red-spider, which the check they receive by this treatment frequently induces. The different varieties of *Coleus* make useful summer decorative stuff for cooler situations than the stove, if prepared for such purpose by being gradually inured to a lower temperature. Grown as standards on a leg some 12 or 15 inches high, they associate well with dwarfer plants.

Stove plants intended for exhibition should be gradually submitted for some days to a little lower temperature, with plenty of light. This prevents their suffering by the exposure. If they have been plunged in fermenting material, or submitted to bottom-heat of any description, they should be removed from such for some weeks before they are taken from the stove; but where stove plants are required for either exhibition or conservatory decoration, they should never be submitted to bottom-heat, and under any circumstances it is unnecessary. Flowers for cut purposes, taken from plants grown with bottom-heat, and through that cause comparatively soft, will not stand nearly so long as if the pots stood above the surface nearer the glass.

Devoid of gay flowers, yet nevertheless one of the most interesting and singular plants in existence, and which deserves a place in every warm stove, is the Lattice-plant of Madagascar, *Ouvirandra fenestralis*, yet, as will be understood from the country where it is indigenous, it must have a house where a good heat is at all times maintained, or it is no use attempting its cultivation. When the plant was first introduced, the greater number who attempted to grow it failed through trying to keep the plant in too small a body of water. Water in any country, hot or cold, is not subject to the fluctuations of temperature from day to night, or even in the summer and winter seasons, which is experienced in the case of the small vessels it was tried to grow in, containing only a few gallons of water, which would naturally fluctuate nearly as much as the temperature of the house in which it was placed, precluded the possibility of its succeeding. Where the plant is placed in a tank or any vessel containing 50 gallons or more, where a night temperature is kept up of 65°, or a little more through the winter months, it is grown as easily as a piece of Horse-radish, flowering and seeding freely, the young plants coming up by hundreds. Good loam, with a little sand added, is the best material to grow it in. The water should be moderately clear, and there should be means at command for gradually renewing it without reducing the temperature by running in too much at a time—a tap just kept dripping is the best; if the water is stagnant long, the leaves get covered with sediment. *T. Baines.*

FLOWER GARDEN, &c.

Parterre and Mixed Garden.—At the time we write (May 18) the weather is anything but favourable for bedding-out, and in this district there has been frost nightly for the last fortnight; there are, however, indications of a change, and we sincerely hope warmer and more genial weather is at hand: till then defer planting anything of a tender nature, but all hardier plants may be got out at once. We have

overgrown; but whether he gets more pleasure out of his garden than the latter—even whether he is pursuing a more natural method of cultivation—is, I think, open to question. At any rate, there is plenty of room in the world for both methods, and where they can be combined the effect will probably be the greatest.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 61.—MR. GEORGE GLIDE, AT BARTROPPS LODGE, WEYBRIDGE HEATH.

BOTH on account of the excellent work done by Mr. Glide himself, and because of the associations of "Bartropps," I welcomed the opportunity of paying a visit to the charming place on Weybridge Heath, which was for so many years the home of Mrs. Harrison, a lady who shared the enthusiasm for gardening which made the name of her brother (Mr. G. F. Wilson) a household word among English amateur gardeners. Mrs. Harrison died two years ago, and Mr. Wilson in the early spring of the present year. But the keen, practical interest they took in everything appertaining to horticulture, and their love for flowers, will not soon be forgotten. Happily, so far as "Bartropps" is concerned, its gardening traditions are likely to be perpetuated. Mr. Philip E. Pilditch, who lately purchased the property, is having the mansion enlarged and beautified, and is introducing the electric light and telephone. But, except that Mr. Pilditch proposes to put a vinery of considerable size, he contemplates leaving the general character of the garden unaltered, and he has retained the services of Mr. Glide. For the benefit of those who do not know the locality, it may be said that "Bartropps" is situated in one of the loveliest spots in Surrey. Within a few minutes' walk of Weybridge station, it is on the highest part of Weybridge Heath, adjoining the St. George's Hills; and while there is a magnificent view from the windows, extending to, and including, Windsor Castle, the seclusion of both the residence and the grounds is absolute enough to satisfy every desire for privacy. The scent of the Pine trees perfumes a fresh and exhilarating air, and the woods, covering some fifteen hundred acres, constitute a constant source of delight.

When we had concluded a singularly pleasant walk, and I was able to realise the attractions of the gardens and grounds, separated only from Weybridge Heath by a low Ivy and Creeper-clad wall, I asked Mr. Glide, who lives in the picturesque lodge at the entrance, to tell me about his own experiences.

MR. GEORGE GLIDE.

THE GARDENER'S LODGE AT "BARTROPPS."

"I have all my life," he said, "been employed by members of the same family. I began work as a gardener under Mr. John Wilson (Mrs. Harrison's brother), at The Laurels, Upper Tooting, and when I had been there four years I went to Wandsworth as under-gardener to Mrs. Barchard, mother-in-law of Mr. G. F. Wilson. I was at Wandsworth for two years, when Mrs. Barchard died, and then Mr. Wilson offered me, on behalf of his sister, the post I still hold at 'Bartropps.'"

"How long ago was that?"

"Thirty-two years since. The house was built about forty-one years ago. At the time Mr. and Mrs. Harrison came to live here, the site of the residence and grounds was a portion of the Heath, and everything had therefore to be laid out."

"It was all done, then, on Mrs. Harrison's own lines?"

"Yes, she was herself an accomplished amateur gardener, and not only loved all flowers, but raised several hundred Rhododendrons, and named them after her friends. Her tastes were, in fact, similar to those of her brother, Mr. Wilson."

"Did Mr. Wilson raise many things?"

"A great many, including a blue Primrose, which he sold to Messrs. Veitch for a hundred pounds. It was the first of its kind, and is still sent out."

"Mr. Wilson lived at Wisley, not far from here?"

"Yes, both at Oakwood, Wisley, and Heatherbank, close by 'Bartropps.' He planted thousands of flowers from all parts of the temperate world. It was in consequence of the success of Mrs. Harrison's orchard-house that he put one up, and himself pruned the trees by candle-light. Then he went in for a quantity of Japanese Lily bulbs, supposed to be sea-damaged, which he purchased at a sale. He planted and put them in the orchard-house, and they turned out well."

"That was his start as a Lily-grower, then?"

"It was, and he did so well that he grew Lilies both in the house and in the open, obtaining from some of his friends the name of 'Lily Wilson.' He raised a very beautiful Lily called L. Wilsoni."

"Did he also raise Rhododendrons?"

"He had a large number, but though he had plants and shrubs of all kinds in the gardens at Oakwood, Japanese Irises were, next to Lilies, the feature. All his life long—which lasted eighty years—he spent most of his leisure in his garden, or in writing about his garden work to the horticultural papers. On one memorable occasion, Mr. W. E. Gladstone visited Oakwood, and expressed himself highly pleased with the great variety of flowers he saw. Mr. Wilson was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and a member of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society. He was the originator of the guinea subscription."

"Mrs. Harrison, I conclude, was specially fond of Rhododendrons?"

"They were her principal hobby, though she admired all flowering shrubs as well as all herbaceous plants. There are still in the garden all the best sorts of named Rhododendrons, and a quantity of the seedlings, which Mrs. Harrison raised."

"Is the soil exceptionally suitable for them?"

"Yes, it is sandy soil, similar to that at Bagshot, where the best varieties grow."

"How do you treat your Rhododendrons?"

"I generally top-dress them with peat-moss manure, which is obtained from London during the winter. When they are rearranged, and we want them to do well, I give them a little peat, which we get off the hills, and a little leaf-soil."

"What is your present number of plants?"

"Quite a couple of hundred. In the woods the common Ponticum grows wild. You may be pretty sure that wherever the Ponticum flourishes, other varieties will grow."

"Had Mrs. Harrison a favourite variety?"

"The Queen was a great favourite with her. She liked the white varieties, of which she raised some herself."

"What is the extent of the garden?"

"Nine acres. As to other features, the most notable specimen is the Araucaria on the lawn."

"It is indeed a noble-looking Conifer?"

"Gardeners and hurserymen who have come here in order to see it say that it is the finest in the country, or, at any rate, that they have never seen a better specimen."

"Then you have a very striking specimen of Magnolia conspicua?"

"Yes, that also has been much admired. The other trees include Copper Beech, Scarlet Oaks, Taxodium, Spanish Chestnut, Cedrus Deodara, variegated Hollies—which have been on the lawn for forty years—Silver Birch, Drooping Birch, Catalpa, Weeping Willow, and Weeping Beech."

"The lawn, I notice, is divided by a ha-ha. What do you fill it up with?"

"All the best sorts of Narcissi of the Trumpet variety in the early spring, and later with the Iceland Poppies, which make a show. It is bare now, but, of course, when the bulbs come up it will look very different."

"Do all shrubs grow well?"

"If they are trenched deeply and well manured. With one exception, we can, I think, grow everything here."

"What is the exception?"

"Onions. I have tried all sorts, but the maggot gets at them all. This year Sutton's Reading Giant and Ailsa Craig have done better, but we have devoted a deal of time and trouble—almost in vain—to the fight with the Onion-maggot."

"You have a considerable collection of herbaceous plants?"

"They have looked exceedingly well. We grow, among others, Delphiniums and Michaelmas Daisies. The favourite Aster is Amellus bessarabicus, a deep blue. I have had patches of these, and also of Madame Desgranges Chrysanthemums, which were very effective. The herbaceous border has always something interesting in it. The different sorts of Carnations and Pinks are grown, but they suffer from the rabbits, which take their flowers before any others. I have had good collections spoilt by the rabbits from the preserves in St. George's Hills."

"And Gaillardias and Pyrethrums?"

"Yes, both. I like the single Pyrethrum the best. We also have a nice bed of Roses. The Crimson Rambler is on its own roots. I cut all the old wood out, and have fresh young wood every year. The same treatment is applied to the Maréchal Niel Roses in the orchard-house. After they have done flowering I cut them back right to one eye, and I suppose that they make a growth of twenty feet."

"You have found this way answers best?"

"I have tried all others, and I certainly obtain the finest Roses by cutting the plants well back after they have done flowering."

"I see you have Dahlias—Cactus and Pompon?"

"For many years they have been grown. As the new varieties come in, we do away with the old. British Ferns, of which we have several fine old clumps, last very well under the trees."

"With regard to the orchard-house, you grow Peaches and Nectarines with the Maréchal Niel Roses?"

"And Chrysanthemums, too. As to Peaches, I find the Dymond, which we have grown three or four years, a very fine fruit, not to say the finest. It is a free-setting, mid-season Peach. Of late varieties, I prefer Rivers' Princess of Wales; and another not so late, and not quite so good as Princess of Wales, is Barrington."

"Which varieties of Nectarines do you prefer?"

"For early work Lord Napier, and for mid-season Humboldt. In the summer we cannot grow anything under the Peaches, because the house is dark; but in the autumn and winter we fill it up with Chrysanthemums and Arum Lilies, and afterwards with bulbs, principally Narcissi, for cutting purposes."

"Do you grow any Freesias?"

"I usually pot about a hundred each year. Some people prefer the imported bulbs. I ripen the bulbs off after they have done flowering. This year I have bought a hundred imported bulbs, and intend to try them side by side with the others next year. My experience is that the white variety does the best. I am quite sure that the secret of success in cultivation is to well ripen the bulbs when they have ceased to flower."

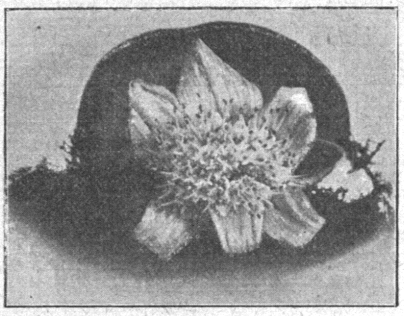
"Cinerarias, also," continued Mr. Glide, "do well in the orchard-house. They are nice for conservatory work, but do not stand when they are cut. For bedding stuff we grow Geraniums Henri Jacoby and Charles Turner. I have a few Camellias, which stand out of doors during the summer."

"But you do not grow them in the open?"

"No, I use a number of Cannas, and have all the best varieties. Begonias were a distinct feature. We have a very good strain of flowers. But when Mrs. Harrison died they were given away to members of the family. A mixed bed of Heliotrope and Cannas has taken their place. Speaking of beds, a little dwarf red Nasturtium, and a little white Geranium called Dandy, show up admirably for hedging purposes. We grow a quantity of Violets, Princess of Wales, Marie Louise, and the old Neapolitan."

"You have the usual kinds of fruit and vegetables out of doors?"

"Yes; of vegetables, Peas, Asparagus and Celery do remarkably well, but the Celery needs a quantity of water. As to fruit, you observed that the fruit garden is covered with galvanised wire-netting on Spanish Chestnut wood. As you may imagine, the birds are the cause of this protection. The bullfinches come, and would pick out the buds if we left them exposed, and the blackbirds and thrushes would take the fruit. Mrs. Harrison used to feed the birds in the bad weather, and that attracted them here in large numbers."



HŒMANTHUS ALBIFLOS.

And then, with an excellent idea of what can be accomplished in nine acres, carefully planned and carefully tended, I left "Bartropps," not in the least wondering that the new owner, who is well-known in Weybridge, is anxious to take up his abode as soon as possible in such a beautiful home, with such enchanting surroundings.

ALFRED WILCOX.

MR. T. KIME, the well-known grower of and dealer in Potatoes, etc., of Mareham-le-Fen, Boston, Lincs., informs us that he has just paid the probably unprecedented price of £500 for one ton of seed-tubers of a new variety called Northern Star. This, we believe, establishes a record in the Potato trade, and if the Potato proves as good as the price it is certain to take a foremost place in the future. This variety, which was raised by the noted Findlay, is a "disease-resisting" maincrop Potato, and has already produced as much as 149 pounds from twelve roots, or an average of over twelve pounds per root.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

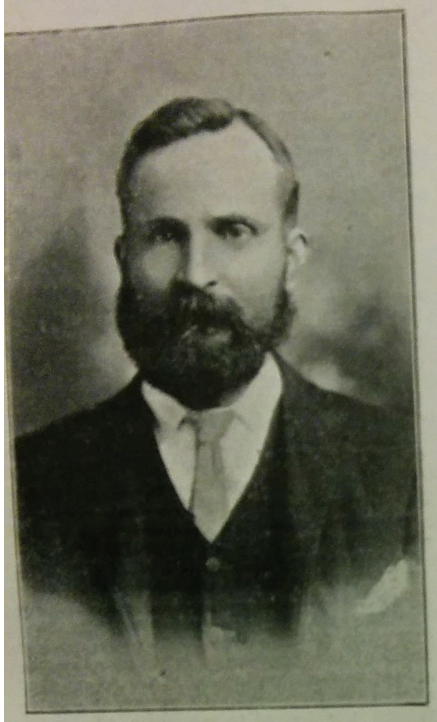
XVII.—CHRYSANTHEMUMS FOR CUTTING.

DEAR KATE,—You ask which are the best Chrysanthemums to get cuttings of for next year? Well, every year the specialists in this flower bring out new and gorgeous varieties, but very few of them are desirable for an amateur to try; nor do they excel in beauty some of the older and more tried plants, as a general rule. Madame Carnot, Nellie Pockett, and Florence Molyneux are three first-rate white Chrysanthemums, none of which are difficult to grow; G. J. Warren (a yellow sport from Madame Carnot), and Charles Davis (a sport from Viviand Morel, in rich yellow-bronze) is a very old flower, producing blooms on the same plant in pale apricot, if another bud than the first is selected. Lady Hanham (also a sport from Viviand Morel), is one of the loveliest of all, in tints of vieux-rose, apricot, and creamy-white. We have several dwarf plants of this variety (cuttings struck in March) with only one flower on each. The one whose picture I send is thirteen inches across, and makes a handsome plant for the drawing-room, being about two feet high, with very fine foliage. Mary Molyneux is in pale pink, with an enormous star-like flower, with long petals; Miss Hetty Dean, a new variety of last year, is in blush-white, a lovely flower; Duke of York has broad petals, deep crimson, with a fine habit of growth; Reginald Godfrey is in crimson-chestnut, also a sturdy plant; Sœur d'Ete is a glorious colour, but indescribable, a kind of golden-orange; and Triumph is a very beautiful flower in deep pink. Now, I have given you a dozen names of Chrysanthemums which are fairly easy to grow, and all good; but I warn you, if you go in for growing these flowers, you will not only have to give them daily care for a year, but also you must study the mysteries of "taking the buds" about August, for it is largely on this selection that success depends, and, unluckily, every plant has its special cultivation, proper dates of the time to pinch it back, and various other things, so that you should read up all these particulars of each variety you grow, and it is a good plan to write them each out separately for reference. In fact, Chrysanthemum-growing is a science for which (I am sometimes inclined to think) life is too short. But it has its fascinations, and just now the gorgeous blossoms are rewarding us for a year's study and care.

I send you a photograph, too, of a very queer plant which was sent to me from South Africa two years ago. It is a bulb, called Hœmanthus albiflos, and I think it is more like a white Sea Anemone than anything else. It only possesses two leaves, both of which are very broad, and about eight inches long; they are covered with soft down, and the flower pushes up at the side of them, about October. I keep it in the greenhouse until June, watering it regularly, and then stand it out of doors in a hot, sunny position, where it is kept almost dry whilst it ripens off its leaves. It is repotted early in September, giving it a mixture of peat, loam, and charcoal, and then placed in the greenhouse again. There are scarlet Hœmanthuses (coccineus and tigrinus) which are grown in the same way, besides several kinds which need a hothouse.

In the garden we are busy covering up all the tender bulbs, and the collars of delicate shrubs, with little piles of sifted ashes, about eight inches high in the middle. With this protection all sorts of uncommon things can be safely grown in my garden; but, then, you know, it is in Devonshire, and the situation is a sheltered one, with a gravel soil. Still, I feel pretty sure that, with an extra inch or two of ashes perhaps, many things would do well in the garden in colder places, except in a wet, clay soil; for the

scand treatment which would kill most other ts. There is no need even to repot them, pt at long intervals. Mr. Charles T. Druery, ident of the British Pterodological Society, that he has a fine Lady Fern which for twenty years has remained in the same in a small cork pocket attached to a slate



MR. H. GOLDSMITH.

roof. There is one piece of advice which he gives to those who grow Ferns in windows—always to keep the same side towards the light. If a plant is moved round, the greener and more plant portions of the fronds bend sharply towards the window, and each fresh movement causes another bend. Of course, this spoils the appearance of the Fern. "This indiscriminate turning and shifting is the main cause of non-success in growing handsome specimens, and the proper cure—prevention—is to insert a peg or label in the pot, and see that it is always retained in the same position." This applies, it must be remembered, only to Ferns, in which straight fronds are desirable. Most other plants are improved by being turned, for in them a branching habit should be encouraged.

February 24th.—A week or two ago I alluded to the fact that many bulbs when sunk to an excessive depth in the soil produce new bulbs nearer the surface. This peculiarity, it appears, is not confined to plants which are cultivated for their flowers. There was exhibited before the Royal Horticultural Society, two or three years ago, an Onion which developed a second bulb about six inches above the ordinary one. Whether deep planting had anything to do with this abnormal growth, I do not know; but in this case apparently the secondary bulb replaced the flower-bud.

February 25th.—The first impression which one usually gets, on entering any of the glass-houses in a nursery, is that the plants are grown very close together. This naturally suggests the question why they are grown so well. No doubt, one reason is that the houses are so constructed that they admit the maximum amount of light, while the plants are generally so arranged that it falls on all of them equally. Amateurs, as a rule, naturally consider the immediate effect of the *tout ensemble*; nurserymen, on the other hand, look to the ultimate effect of individual specimens. Hence the difference in the two methods.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 178.—MR. H. GOLDSMITH, AT THE GARDENS, FIRCROFT, BRIGHTON.

THERE is no lack of variety in the gardens at Fircroft, the pretty residence of Mr. Daniel Hack, J.P., the pioneer of technical education in Brighton, who also takes a great interest in horticulture. On the day of my visit, in the second week in January, I spent a good deal of time with Mr. Goldsmith, the head gardener, and gathered from him much information concerning the cultivation of plants for conservatory decoration, upon which subject he is a recognised high authority, and has lately read papers. But he is also a successful exhibitor of Sweet Peas and Carnations; and, as it will be seen, there are many interesting features out of doors at Fircroft.

The gardens are far larger than would be supposed by a stranger passing the lodge door at the entrance to the carriage-drive, and, in fact, extend to between four and five acres on the slopes behind the house. Emerging from the drive, which is sheltered by a belt of trees, principally Elms, my attention was at once attracted by the singularly well-kept lawn, and Mr. Goldsmith, replying to my inquiries, said that a great deal of time is spent upon it, both in weeding and in watering.

"In summer and autumn," he continued, "a large bed of Yuccas is quite a feature here, and forms a magnificent spectacle. Earlier in the year there is a good show of Irises, in a bed containing some fifty varieties. You may have observed a large Irish Yew close to the drive, and, among other Conifers, there is a nice specimen of Cupressus Lawsoniana. In the herbaceous border, which runs on either side of the lawn, there are chiefly, in the season, Achilleas, Eryngiums, Dracocephalums, Scabious, Potentillas, Montbretias, Heleniums, Liliums in variety, some of the larger forms of Lychnis, Asters, Phlox in variety, Helianthus, Lobelias, and Fraxinellas."

"The house appears to be pretty well covered with climbers?"

"Yes; yellow Jasminum is interspersed with the white variety; a large plant of Clematis montana covers the greater part of the front; and on the south side there is a nice piece of Wistaria. Between the Jasminum and the Wistaria comes the Passiflora, in two varieties. In the beds close to the house are Wallflowers, Auriculas, Polyanthus, and Tulips."

Leaving the glasshouses and the conservatory until later, we strolled up the first kitchen garden, of which a feature is the arches of Apples of the best varieties, along the centre paths, grown on the cordon system, which suits chalky soil the best. Pears and Plums are grown on the south wall on the cordon system, Plums in variety on the west wall, stewing Pears and Morello Cherries on all the available part of the north wall, and Figs and Apples on cordons on the east wall.

"Do Figs thrive?" I inquired.

"The Brown Turkey variety does admirably. We grow Figs on what is known as the French system. The wood that carries the fruit this year will be pruned right out next winter, so as to allow the young growth to develop the following summer. It is an alternative to the extension system, and, in my opinion, preferable. There are only two varieties of Strawberry that suit the soil, Trafalgar and Royal Sovereign."

"You have a fine Magnolia tree in the corner?"

"The variety is M. grandiflora, and last year I cut a good many flowers from it. We use Magnolia to decorate; the blooms last some days. Anemones are rather a feature. Our bulbs were obtained from Messrs. Gilbert and Son, of Dyke, Bourne, and they promise well."

"In your second kitchen garden I notice that the small orchard attached to it consists of Apples on the bush system?"

"Almost exclusively. The plantation of Currants and Gooseberries is worth a note. We generally have heavy crops, but we have to feed well at the tops to keep the roots up. Surface cultivation in this chalky soil is a vital matter. There is nothing like the free use of the hoe. As to other fruit, Raspberries (Superlative) do well, as a rule; Plums are on one side of the west wall, and Pears on the other."

FIRCROFT, BRIGHTON.

"The herbaceous border, I see, runs along the side. Do you back it with anything?"

"With the earliest-flowering of the old varieties of Chrysanthemums. They make a big display; indeed, we cut them by the barrowload. Just now I am preparing a big Carnation bed for about five hundred plants, all border varieties."

"Which are the favourites?"

"Some of the best are Trojan (white), Bella Donna (red), Miss Audrey Campbell (yellow), and one of my own seedlings is a very vivid crimson. The Picotees include Mrs. Tremayne (crimson-edged), and Mohican (scarlet-edged). Harlequin (rose-edged), Virgil and Miss Constance Graham are good Bizarre varieties, and Goldilocks a good Fancy, also the Czar and Czarina. Carnations flourish here, but we have to make new beds every year. It is no use keeping old plants. Altogether, we shall have about a thousand plants this season."

"Have you raised any seedling Border Carnations?"

"Several. One is a cross between the old Raby Castle and Duchess of Fife, with the colour of the former and the character of the latter. It is almost a perpetual flowerer and a grand doer. I have adopted two ways of keeping Border Carnations for the winter. One frame is full of plants in small pots; and I also lay a number of plants in the soil in another frame. Those laid in the soil are stronger and of better colour. By the way, we have one herbaceous plant which is little known. It is called Gaura Lindheimeri, and has long sprays of delicate, small white flowers. They are very graceful, and in shape like, but much smaller than, Fraxinellas."

Next we inspected the half-wild garden, with a border twenty to thirty feet wide running round three parts, and containing, through the spring, summer, and autumn, a succession of flowers.

"We begin with bulbs," proceeded Mr. Goldsmith, "Wallflowers and Polyanthus. Later we have Campanulas, Aquilegias, Hollyhocks, and various kinds of the more hardy plants; with these are interspersed Monthly Roses. We also grow a large assortment of hardy and half-hardy annuals, which give us a fine display, and are very valuable for cutting through the summer and autumn months. Here is our large water tank, which holds ten thousand gallons, and supplies the garden with water, and, as you see, the rockwork, or Alpine garden, forms a screen for it."

"How many varieties are there in the Alpine garden?"

"About three hundred. It took thirty tons of stones to make the garden, and no pains have been spared to make it representative. The varieties of Androsace include A. lanuginosa, A. sarmentosa, and A. Chumbii. Edelweiss we raise from seed, and it does remarkably well. Most of the varieties of Dianthus and of Saxifrages are grown. I am just making a start with Lithospermum prostratum, after a good deal of trouble. Helianthemums are quite a feature, and two of the best Gentianas are G. verna and G. septemfida. Soldanella alpina thrives, and the Sea Heath (Frankenia lævis) is very pretty. We only made the Alpine garden three years ago, and it has, so far, succeeded beyond our expectations."

"Have you many Lilies in the big tank?"

"Three large tubs are full of the rose-coloured, white, and yellow varieties. The old hardy Water Lily (Nymphæa lutea), planted in a little soil in the front, does remarkably well. Last year, for the first time, Tropæolum speciosum, the climber on the cave built in the rock—which is half full of flowers—bloomed beautifully. I may tell you that we are raising a great many of our Alpine plants from seed procured direct from Switzerland. I have about forty varieties sown, a good number of them almost ready for pricking off, and I have sixty more varieties to sow as soon as I can get room."

Then, as we retraced our steps, I asked about vegetables.

"We have all the sorts which are usually cultivated. With the majority, everything depends upon cultivation, but most vegetables do very well indeed. Our cool house is on the site of a belt of trees. We grubbed them up ten years ago. The house was put up to winter the Chrysanthemums, but we have planted Peach and Nectarine trees, so it should not be idle during the summer. The Peaches grown are Barrington and Royal George, and the Nectarine is Pineapple. I picked a hundred and eighty Peaches off Barrington last season."

The conservatory is commodious and excellently arranged, and it was as bright with flowers on that January afternoon as some conservatories are in summer. The chief features were Euphorbia jacquinæflora, Poinsettia pulcherrima, Coleus thyrsoideus, and Begonias Gloire de Lorraine.

"My aim," said Mr. Goldsmith, "is to have all through the year a good supply of plants in flower in the conservatory, and I do not think that at any period it is wanting in brightness."

"How long will the Euphorbia jacquinæflora remain in flower?"

"Until the end of March. They started to flower just before Christmas. There are from eighty to ninety pots. They are easy to propagate, and to grow. I grew them all in 5-in. or 6-in. pots, striking the cuttings in 'sixties,' six or seven in a pot. They are then potted straight on, one of the most important points being to give them plenty of sun."

"What is your treatment of Coleus thyrsoideus?"

"Just after they have done flowering, I cut them back, and break them in the growth. As soon as cuttings can be obtained, they should be struck in a little gentle heat, and the tops should be pinched directly they are of sufficient length. The plants should be potted on as required, and through the summer they should, if possible, be kept in a temperature of not more than sixty degrees Fahr."

"Which do you consider the best mode of propagating Begonias Gloire de Lorraine?"

"From leaf-cuttings as soon as they can be got. To give them a start, I place them in a little bottom heat. The leaf-cuttings seem less liable to take the rust than the ordinary cuttings. Of course, they must be potted on as required, but it is better to give them smaller shifts, and frequently, than sudden big shifts, because the soil is then prevented from becoming sour."

"What do you follow on the Poinsettias with?"

"Arum Lilies, double and single Primulas, and Cinerarias. The Arums and Primulas last to the end of April, and the Cinerarias into May. My system of propagation with the double Primulas is to chop up some sphagnum very fine, mix it with sand, and pack it right round the neck of the plants, also in amongst the leaves, perfectly tight. They will soon root into this. I saved two old plants last year, and from them I propagated four dozen. My experience is that this system is more certain than taking ordinary cuttings. Later in the year Tree Carnations, Amaryllis, Show Pelargoniums, and Gloxinias are largely used to decorate the conservatory."

"When do you begin to take cuttings of Tree Carnations?"

"In January, and I continue through February and March. I usually put the cuttings in small pots, and place them in a little bottom heat. As soon as they are rooted, I pot them off into 2½-in., pinch them at a height of four and a-half inches, and pot on again when the pot is full of roots. Then, I pinch again to get nice-shaped plants, generally putting the plants into flowering pots about the end of July or the beginning of August. The last two seasons I have tried growing Tree Carnations partly in pots all the time, and partly planted from small pots straight out of doors. The latter were kept in the open border until the end of August, and I then potted them up. My opinion is that those planted out of doors are better for late spring flowering; but anyone growing a number of Tree Carnations should adopt both methods, so as to prolong the flowering season.

"I should be glad if you would name some of the varieties which you consider the best?"

"Pride of Exmouth, America, President Rooseveldt, C. H. Crane, Henry Gibbons, Melba, Lana, Sir Redvers Buller, Lord Kitchener, Shazada, C. A. Dana, Madame Leopold de Rothschild, and Winter Cheer. I have several seedlings of my own unnamed, but I raised a scarlet one which we have named Miss Carter. Among the unnamed is one large purple—a splendid flower. We have about five hundred Tree Carnations."

"How many Amaryllis?"

"About sixty in good varieties, and some older varieties, varying in colour from almost pure white to the deepest crimson. I start Amaryllis in February, with the view of prolonging the flowering season to May. I repot the bulbs every year, but never give them too much space. Large bulbs I only repot in 6-in. pots. I think that Amaryllis ought to be more extensively grown, if only because during three-quarters of the year they take up but very little space. To do this successfully, however, they must be kept growing steadily after they have flowered, by means of plenty of manure-water. For a compost, I use three parts good, rich loam, two parts well-rotted manure, and one part leaf-mould and sand. All our Amaryllis are seedlings. One is nearly pure white, with just a slight tinge of pink down the centre veins of two petals. The flower measures ten inches across now, and the first year the plants flowered, the blooms were eight inches across."

"Are you very fond of Gloxinias?"

"I consider that the Gloxinia, when well grown, is one of the most beautiful of summer-flowering plants. I never keep bulbs beyond four years at the outside, and so I raise a new batch of seedlings every other year, and have always a succession in hand. We do not trouble about named varieties. Of course, if one has a variety it is desired to propagate, the leaves of the variety must be propagated. I start the first batch of Gloxinias the second week in January, and, providing that rust does not injure them, they will make plants by June so well that the 6-in. pots are hidden under the leaves. I generally sow the seed for the seedlings about the end of January, in a temperature of seventy degrees, and prick them off in pots as soon as they can be handled. I transfer the plants into 2½-in. pots as soon as they are large enough, keep them growing briskly on, and by June they are ready for 4-in. pots, while in August they flower. As a rule, however, I do not let seedlings flower the first year. If kept growing till the second year the flowers are superior. My compost consists of two parts of good loam, two of leaf-mould, with baked cow manure and sand in equal proportions."

"How many Show Pelargoniums do you grow?"

"There are about sixty plants, old and young. For nice, free-flowering plants, if not wanted too large, I prefer striking at the time of cutting down, growing them on as quickly as possible. When the plants are old, they should be placed, after they are cut down, where they do not get wet; and as soon as they are well into growth they should be shaken out and repotted. If they are then put into cool quarters, and have plenty of air and sun, by the end of April they will be good plants."

"What other plants do you use for the conservatory?"

"Streptocarpus is another favourite. All the plants are hybrids raised from Sutton's seeds. My system is to sow about the same time as Gloxinias, and the after-treatment is similar; but Streptocarpus should not be kept quite so warm. The flowering season begins in May, and lasts until August. I sow a fresh lot of seed every alternate year, at the least. Streptocarpus pays for generous treatment. The varied colours are an attraction. They vary from white through violet and mauve to deep crimson. Like most other flowers, they want massing."

"You are an advocate of massing?"

"A very strong one. Only by massing can the

full beauty of colours be realised. Another plant I grow largely is the herbaceous Calceolaria. I sow my seed in the middle of June, and, as soon as I can, I handle the plants. I prick off four or five round the sides of a small pot. As soon as they have made sufficient growth, I pot them separately into 3-in. pots, and place them in a secluded spot where the sun cannot reach them. I repot as required, and about the end of February or the beginning of March the plants should be placed in their flowering pots. At the end of May we have something worth looking at. Amateurs and

A POT OF NARCISSI.

others should be very careful to keep the plants clean and free of aphis by fumigating. The season of flowering is short, but in my judgment you are well repaid for the trouble involved in cultivating herbaceous Calceolarias by the gorgeous display you get of flowers. I find that the best heads of flower are obtained by picking out the top of the leading growth."

"What do you use for purposes of fumigation?"

"Nothing is better than XL All vapouriser. The compost I use for final potting consists of two-thirds of good, rich loam, one-third of baked cow manure, one-third of leaf-mould, and a small sprinkling of sand."

"Do you go in for Caladiums?"

"We have about fifty. I begin to grow about the end of March or early in April, in good, brisk heat of about seventy degrees, growing them on in that temperature. A little extra heat gives intensity in colour to the leaves. Care must always be taken to keep plenty of moisture, or Caladiums will soon flag in growth, and the leaves become small. They must not be allowed to get pot-bound until the end of July; then, with careful hardening off, they can be moved into the conservatory without any injury, and will stand for some weeks. Caladium argyrites, grown in 2½-in. pots, makes a splendid plant for facing up any groups, or staging of any description. Whoever grows Caladiums must be careful to give them a rich soil, and plenty of water at the roots while they are growing. I recommend a compost of about half good loam, and half leaf-mould and well-rotted manure, with a fair sprinkling of silver sand."

"What about Gesneras?"

"We have about sixty plants. Gesneras ought to be more extensively grown, and they are worth careful culture. If started in April, they commence to flower in August, and continue until October. The first Gesneras I ever saw were in Mr. Chamberlain's gardens at Highbury. They were in 8-in. pots, the plants measuring nearly two feet high, and nearly two feet through. The colours included various shades of yellow, orange, scarlet, and some were almost pure scarlet. For ordinary conservatory work good plants can be grown in 5-in. or 6-in. pots."

"What is your system?"

"I start three tubers in a 4-in. pot, and as soon as this is filled I pot them into 6-in. pots, giving them a medium temperature. Too much sun is very bad for them. They make a very pretty picture arranged in a good, bold mass, and a packet of seed of the hybrid varieties will produce all the colours that are known. The compost should be similar to that used for Caladiums."

"Have you anything to say about Fuchsias?"

"I propose to strike a batch of cuttings as early as I can get them, and to grow on young plants. They can easily be grown from cuttings into serviceable plants measuring thirty inches high and nearly two feet through by July. Then, we also grow bulbous Begonias. I commence them in April, and when they begin to move I shake them out and repot them into a good compost, but not too large pots at the outset. As soon as they fill these pots with roots, I move the plants into their flowering pots."

"How long have you been at Fircroft, Mr. Goldsmith?"

"Nearly ten years. My previous appointment as head gardener was at Broxmead, Cuckfield."

"Have you done any showing?"

"I did a little at the local shows when I was at Broxmead, and two years ago I began doing a little at the Brighton Horticultural shows. I may mention that I have been a member of the committee of the Brighton and Sussex Horticultural Society for six years. As to prizes, I have taken first for Amaryllis, and I have generally been first or second for other exhibits. In 1904 I was awarded first prize for Sweet Peas, there being ten entries in open competition. I have shown Tree Carnations as a non-competitive exhibit. Last year I won the silver medal, and the year before a certificate, also for Tree Carnations."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 134.—GOOSEBERRY BUSHES, AND SPRING FLOWERS.

DEAR KATE,—Have you enough Gooseberry bushes in your garden? If not, there is no time to be lost in putting them in, and I advise you to get the earliest and best varieties, for everyone has plenty of late Gooseberries, but those which come into use in the middle of May are none too common, and at that time the fruit is dear. May Duke is the name of one of the best of the early Gooseberries, and Keepsake is another; both of these come in a week before Whinham's Industry, which is a splendid variety, however, to produce a large and regular crop. Gooseberry trees are too often neglected in our gardens, and many gardeners do not understand how to prune them, and so take a pair of shears and cut them close. But, as the fruit is mostly produced on the growth of the last season, this, of course, is a fatal proceeding, as all the embryo flower-buds are then cut off.

Thinning out of the central shoots from the stems, and those which cross each other, is all that is needed, except on bushes too young to bear fruit; but any extra long growth (which would touch the ground with the weight of the Gooseberries) can be shortened a little.

You can put in cuttings from the prunings; they should be about a foot or more long, straight pieces of last year's growths, and you should put them six inches deep in the soil, and one foot apart, in a small nursery bed. They will quickly grow, if you keep them moist, and only the shoots towards the top must be left to form the bush, rubbing out the lower ones, as there should only be one stem to it. The tips of the two or three branches allowed to grow can be nipped off later on, and the sideshoots regulated so as to make a good bush; and in two years' time you will have plenty of nice young Gooseberry bushes to plant out in rich soil in the autumn. If you had any trouble with the Gooseberry caterpillar last year, you should now remove all the soil from around the bushes to the depth of four or five inches (without injuring the roots of the trees), and burn it, or bury it more than a foot deep in another part of the garden, mixing lime with it, then cover the surface of the ground under the bushes with freshly-slaked lime, and fill up the places where the soil was removed with good, fresh loam from a distant part of the garden. You should keep a sharp look-out for any stray caterpillars that may appear, and, if necessary, syringe the trees hard with salt and water, a teacupful of waste salt to two gallons of hot water. All caterpillars hate salt, and if touched by it wriggle and tumble off the bush, when they are easily destroyed. Here, in my garden, there are so many birds (which I love and encourage, by feeding them in winter) that we are not at all troubled with caterpillars—the tom-tits and robins are excellent birds for clearing off insects, and the thrushes and blackbirds keep down the snails and slugs, besides giving us sweet songs; in fact, I believe all the birds do good in their way, for even the sparrows destroy millions of the seeds of common weeds, which would, otherwise, swamp our flowers; and I have never lost a Crocus from their attacks. Probably when they eat these flowers it is because there is nothing else to be had; but it must be provoking to the owner, I grant. To return to the Gooseberries; don't be persuaded to use hellebore powder or

IRIS RETICULATA.

any other deadly poison on your Gooseberries; a poisoned pie is not desirable, and I never knew a boy who would not munch a sour, green Gooseberry long before it is fit to pick, so that one might easily poison a child in this way—horrid thought! Waste salt and water used warm is just as effectual, and adds nourishment to the soil, as well as destroying the insects. Gooseberry bushes which have not been newly-planted should now have a mulch of manure laid down two feet each way from their stems; in many gardens these plants are starved, because they are so long-suffering, and will manage

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Good, Peter (*d.* 1803), *horticulturist and plant collector*
by D. J. Mabberley
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Good, Peter (*d.* 1803), horticulturist and plant collector, was settled near London by 1794, working under William T. Aiton at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. In that year Sir Joseph Banks engaged him to be assistant to Christopher Smith (*d.* 1807), then being sent out to the East India Company's garden at Calcutta as botanist. They arrived with a consignment of useful plants from Kew on 27 February 1795 and then collected plants for Good's return voyage in 1796, as a result of which at least fourteen plant species were successfully introduced to British gardens. Good also collected herbarium material in India and this survives.

About 1800 Good was appointed gardener to Lieutenant-General William Wemyss (1760–1822) at Wemyss Castle near Kilmarnock, but within a few months he was recruited, again by Banks, as gardener and assistant to Robert Brown, naturalist on Matthew Flinders's *Investigator* voyage to Australia (1801–3): his salary was 100 guineas, a quarter that of Brown. In correspondence with Banks, Good, although considered a very pleasant, unassuming young man, felt it necessary to press for recognition should he discover or introduce new plants.

The *Investigator* carried cases of seeds and, in a greenhouse, soft-fruit bushes in pots. When Flinders discovered Kangaroo Island, South Australia, Good planted seeds of European fruits and vegetables there for the benefit of subsequent mariners. Also on board was a prefabricated greenhouse for new plants but it and its contents, some forty-eight species of live Australian plants for Kew, were lost in the wreck of the *Porpoise* on the barrier reef in August 1803 (though some seeds were saved). While generally assisting Brown at points touched during the voyage to New South Wales, Good also collected without him in the Sydney area and, at every opportunity, sent seeds back to Banks (including some collected at the Cape), thereby introducing into cultivation some ninety-seven species, mainly Leguminosae and Proteaceae, fifteen of them of outstanding horticultural merit. These were the basis for Kew's later pre-eminence in the cultivation of Australian plants.

During the subsequent circumnavigation of Australia, Good contracted dysentery; he died on 12 June 1803 in Sydney Cove, four days after reaching Sydney, and was buried the next day at St Philip's, York Street. He is commemorated in *Goodia* (Leguminosae), a genus of Australian shrubs which he introduced to cultivation, as well as in *Banksia goodii* and *Grevillea goodii*, both Australian Proteaceae named by Brown. Flinders named Goods Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria after him, and in 1988 a gully in which Brown, Good, and their colleagues had spent the night of 10 March 1802 after reaching the summit of Mount Brown, Flinders Ranges, South Australia, was officially named Peter Good gully.

D. J. MABBERLEY

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Archives NHM, journal and notebook; herbarium

Wealth at death chattels sold to crew: Robert Brown's diary, NHM

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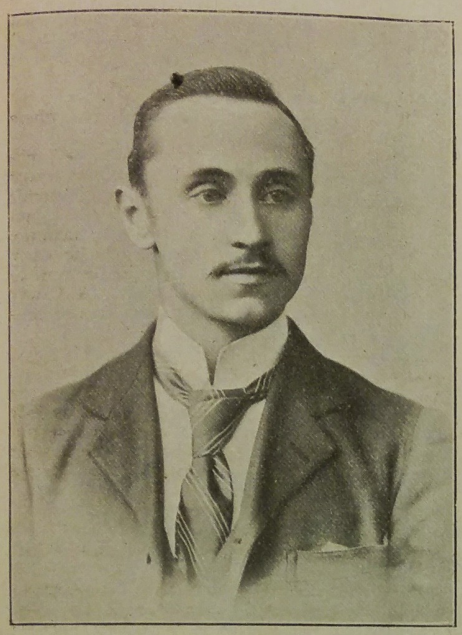
D. J. Mabberley, 'Good, Peter (*d.* 1803)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/57837, accessed 12 Nov 2014]

Peter Good (*d.* 1803): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/57837

and may almost totally disappear. A case of this sort came under my own observation in a small pond at the Glasgow Botanical Gardens, where it is now almost extinct, though some five or six years ago it choked the whole of the rest of the vegetation." This is interesting; but is



MR. R. GOODBOURN.

it evidence of deterioration caused by "vegetative reproduction"? It bears some resemblance to those mysterious epidemics of many human beings—epidemics which gradually increase in virulence and then die down, the reason being that the bacteria which cause them either have exhausted their food supply, or else, as crowded organisms of any kind will do in time, have produced in their surroundings a condition in which they can no longer live. There is yet another possible explanation. Every plant has some special organism which feeds upon it. If the former is the stronger, no great harm may be done; but, if the latter increases enormously in number, the plant must disappear. I do not know that either explanation fits the case of this Canadian weed, but its partial disappearance from ponds is hardly on all fours with the deterioration of a Potato variety.

Rhododendrons.

May 2nd.—"I have sene thys tre in diverse places of Italy," says Turner, writing in his "Herbal" of the Rhododendron; "but I care not if it never com into England, seyng it in all pointes is lyke a Pharesy; that is, beauteous without, and within a ravenous wolf and murderer." If it had not come to England, many of our woods and shrubberies would have been strangely lacking in colour. There is no shrub to be compared with the Rhododendron for planting in masses, especially on broken ground, as shown in the photograph. It is supposed that Turner was referring to Xenophon's story of the retreat of the Grecian army, when large numbers of the soldiers were rendered delirious and afterwards insensible by eating honey in the neighbourhood of Trebizond, where R. ponticum abounds. But Azalea pontica is equally abundant there, and it has since been proved that the poisonous honey is produced by this plant, and not by the Rhododendron. Fortunately, in this case the dog has grown out of its bad name.

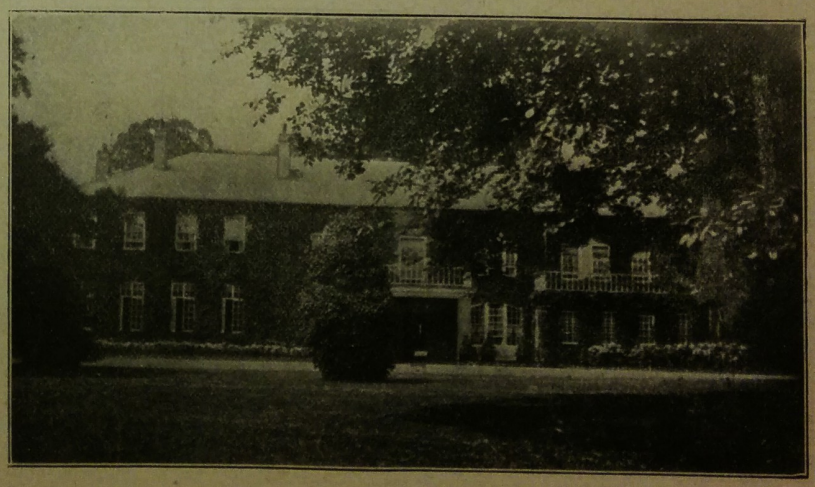
May 3rd.—Those curious insects popularly known as frog-hoppers, or cuckoo-spit, will now be found on many plants, especially Pinks and Carnations, which they often seriously injure by sucking the sap. They belong to the aphis family, and may be destroyed in the same way as the common Rose aphis—by syringing with a decoction of quassia chips or of tobacco. The liquid must, however, be forcibly applied, so that it may penetrate the froth with which the insects surround themselves. Fortunately, they are very easily killed. It is sufficient to remove the froth, and to expose them to the drying influence of the air and sunshine. When that is done they soon die. Spring is the time to deal with them, for they are then readily seen, and are confined to one place. The later generations produced in autumn have wings, and are thus enabled to fly from plant to plant, and to distribute their eggs. They are nearly always found in the axil of a leaf, which no doubt holds the froth in position. H. C. DAVIDSON.

Fruit and Plants Under Glass at Ankerwycke, Wraysbury.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. R. GOODBOURN.

THERE are two head gardeners at Ankerwycke, the pretty riverside residence of Mr. A. H. Benson, one being entrusted with the charge of the glass, and the other with the outside work. The houses are an important feature, and, on the occasion of my visit in March, I spent my time in going through them under the auspices of Mr. Goodbourn. Although Mr. Goodbourn has enjoyed the advantage of outdoor experience under his father, and in other places, he is particularly entitled to be regarded as an expert in fruit and plant cultivation under glass. He was three years and a half Orchid grower at Castle Hill, Englefield Green; foreman and Orchid grower at Rougham Hall, Bury St. Edmunds; decorator at Lea Park (when the late Mr. Whitaker Wright was at the zenith of his prosperity), spending most of his time in the mansion itself, for fifteen months; he was for four years in the Orchid houses at Leyswood, Groombridge; and he was in the plant-houses at Waddesdon Manor for a couple of years. To Grapes he has devoted special attention, and we therefore commenced our round of the houses with one of the admirably-constructed Vineries. As I commented on the exceptionally fine foliage of the Black Hamburghs, and the satisfactory appearance of the bunches of fruit, Mr. Goodbourn informed me that the Vines used to suffer from shank very badly, but that he thought he should now be able to get rid of the trouble.

"What steps have you been taking in order to obtain exemption?" I inquired.



ANKERWYCKE, WRAYSBURY.

"I made holes in the wall, to allow of drainage. In one corner I had all the brickwork up, examined the roots, and found them apparently dead. I treated the roots as far as I dared, and gave them nine inches of top-dressing. This fetched the roots up. I also had the top of the border raised nine inches."

"How many rods are there in this Vinery?"

"Five. I purpose this season to graft Madresfield Court on three of the strongest of the rods."

"I see that you have a number of Geraniums in this house?"

"Yes, we grow an enormous quantity. I am responsible for all the bedding plants. Here are some of the principal varieties used: Henry Jacoby, Flower of Spring, Vesuvius, Mrs. Pollock, and a new bright scarlet, with a white eye, of which I had sixty plants last year, and have two hundred this, Charles Turner, Madame Crousse, Tom Thumb (for the edging), Black Douglas, and Raspail."

"When did you lift these rods?" I asked, as we entered the young Muscat house.

"Twelve months ago last October. When I did so I found that there was no drainage under this, and they were gradually going back. I gave them a fresh start, and they are coming away very strong this season. During the two years I have been here, I have examined all the Vine borders."

"I see that on the front stage you have a batch of early Tomatoes?"

"They are most of them a variety of my own saving, and Earliest of All. Near the Tomatoes is a batch of seedling Begonias, Semperflorens, which I am growing entirely for bedding; they will be bedded out in June. There are quite five hundred plants of Nicotiana Sanderæ, and hybrids in boxes; I only started growing this last year."

"How many Hydrangeas do you bed out?"

"Seventy; the variety is Hortensis, the

ordinary pink. When there is iron in the soil, the flowers are frequently blue. Of Deutzias, which are just coming into flower, we have a couple of dozen in pots. These we find very useful for church decoration at Easter."

"Have you many varieties of winter-flowering Carnations?"

"I am only growing about four this year. There is a batch of T. W. Lawson, which I shall allow to flower, and grow them on for next winter—about sixty plants. The other varieties are Enchantress, Flamingo, and S. J. Brooks. Now we come to the stove."

"You seem to have had a good time with your Begonias Gloire de Lorraine?"

"Yes, we have been very fortunate. I had as many as ten pots in the mansion from October to March. I measured a few plants, and some were two feet across, the bloom extending upwards of two inches. For next year I am saving plants of a deeper pink for seed, and also some of the larger-growing plants."

Pots of Isolepsis Grass.

"You have created a very pretty effect with the Isolepsis Grass in pots, the dark green contrasting effectively with the pink."

"It was potted up in February, in 'forty-eight' pots, and will last all the summer. I shall use it in the other houses for the same purpose of decoration. All these seventy pots were made out of half-a-dozen plants split up. I split every piece last year into three or four, and this year into two or three. With regard to the Pilea, I had these two plants given me last year, from which I shall work up a stock for next season. Pilea is also a very serviceable plant in small pots for decorative purposes."

"You grow Malmaisons in another Vinery?"

"These are two-year-old plants, and the principal varieties are Princess of Wales, Prime Minister, and Princess May, scarlet and pink being the two favourite colours. The Muscats in this house, which are young canes planted twelve months last October, are breaking very strong, and promise well. The Strawberries are Royal Sovereign, of which we force about three hundred. Generally speaking, we go in more for flavour than for obtaining fruit early, Grapes being an exception. Until the Vines got up in this house, I grew Tomatoes here. Last year I had a row on the back wall, and three on the stage, the varieties being Earliest of All, Princess of Wales, Best of All, and the Tomato raised here."

"What do you do with the specimen plants of Ivy-leaf Geraniums?"

"They are put out in front of the mansion in the summer-time; the variety is Charles Turner. The Spruce which you see here quite six feet high, and from which we get a mass of bloom, we put out at the end of April."

The Early Vinery.

"You have several varieties of Grapes in your early Vinery?"

"Beginning with Black Hamburgh, which we shall cut in May. The bunches I consider most promising. I only hope that the berries will be as large as last year, which were the size of Gros Colmar. The Vines in this house have hardly suffered from shank at all; that may be due to the fact that the last two winters I covered up the borders outside with galvanised tins. The two rods of Foster's Seedling in this house were planted in October, 1905, and I hope to fruit them next year. There are a few Figs in pots, principally Brown Turkey."

"Then you have Beans on the lower stage?"

"Those are the early batch coming into flower, and on the higher stage is another batch, both Sutton's Early Forcing. This is the first time I have tried the variety."

Smilax in Pots.

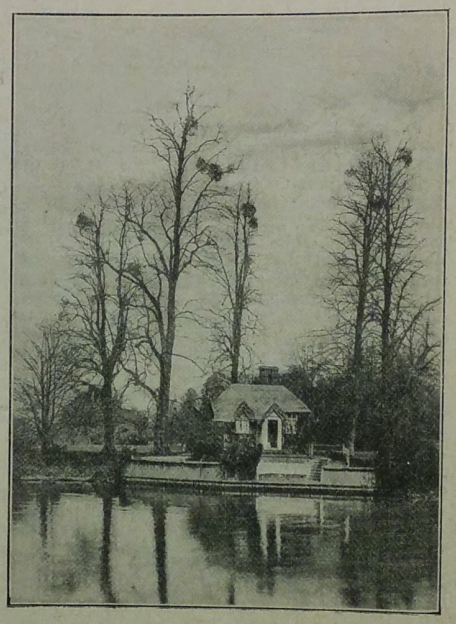
"On the stage," continued Mr. Goodbourn, "are about fourteen boxes of Lobelia, the dark blue, the azure blue, and L. gracilis. These are largely used for hanging-baskets in the boat-houses and the picnic-house, which is one of the features of the picnic grounds."

"I notice that you have Smilax in boxes trained on string?"

"My experience is that it does much better grown in this way. It wants something to twine round, and, grown in pots, it hangs down. Both Smilax and Adiantum cuneatum are very useful for table decoration. Ferns generally are in great demand here, and are wanted for the table."

How to Get Rid of Red-Spider.

Just outside this Vinery were Violets in wooden frames, and Mr. Goodbourn said, "I left these open to the frost all through the winter; they were practically smothered with red-spider when I put them in. I tried syringing them with insecticide, but could not get rid of it by that means. Then I resorted to the expedient of exposing them to frost, which had the desired effect, and may therefore be considered a remedy for red-spider; at least, it has nearly all gone. When I divide the plants in summer, I shall dip them all in some solution, with the idea of getting rid of it."



"The Picnic" at Ankerwycke.

"What are the single varieties now in flower?"

"Baroness Rothschild, Princess of Wales, and Princess Beatrice. The doubles are Marie Louise, Neapolitan, and Mrs. J. J. Astor. I have tried two or three others, but they were not to be compared with any of these. I picked ten large bunches of doubles to-day, March 23rd."

Herbaceous Calceolarias.

Noticing, as we passed along the kitchen garden path, a pergola of Roses, with Ramblers of different varieties, and an old sundial in the middle, with a pan of Geraniums, we entered a compact little house devoted at the time of my visit to herbaceous Calceolarias.

"How many do you grow?" I asked.

"Two hundred in pots this year, which is an increase of fifty over last. The seed is sown in June, and I keep the plants well potted on. Care must be taken, in the cultivation of herbaceous Calceolarias, not to let them get any sun, because it soon spoils them. Some of the plants last year, when they were staked, measured from two to three feet across, and some of the blooms over three inches across. I use both Veitch's and Sutton's strains."

"And whose strain of Cyclamen?"

"Sutton's, choosing three varieties of colour, namely, Salmon Queen, Giant White, and Giant Pink. With regard to Hyacinths, about a dozen and a half only are grown; they are put in their pans in vases in the mansion, and the varieties are L'Innocence (white), Gigantea (flesh), Grand Mater (blue), and General Pallissier (deep pink)."

The Cultivation of Amaryllis.

Next we entered the flowering house, where Amaryllis were just coming into flower.

"We grow Amaryllis in another house," observed Mr. Goodbourn, "and bring them here as they come into flower. They are Veitch's hybrids. As to treatment, I pot them in loam and leaf-soil, using also a little rotten manure. Until this year they were grown in the early Vinery, but I strongly advise people not to grow Amaryllis in a Vinery at all. A Vinery can never be kept free from bug if it also contains Amaryllis."

"How many bulbs do you flower?"

"I grow one hundred, but, as to flowering, fifty per cent is a good average. Up to the present time I have counted about fifty-four spikes, some of the plants having two spikes. The scarlet flowers are the most gorgeous, but the white stripes, pinky-scarlet, and one almost white are rather effective."

Pelargoniums and Cinerarias.

"Do you go in largely for Zonal Pelargoniums?"

"I had a batch in flower since last summer, and I largely depend upon Zonals for table decoration in the winter. We grow between two and three hundred of various colours, six of the best varieties being Captain Holford, The Mikado, General Wolseley, Lady Roscoe, Madame Patti, and Monsieur Calvert. The centre stage of this house contains a batch of winter-flowering Carnations, from which I have been cutting all through the winter; also a number of Arums, from which I have cut one to two dozen blooms every week for a number of weeks."

"What else do you grow for cut bloom?"

"About three hundred Cineraria stellata. When they flower, I cut them, and take them indoors. They do just as well in 'thirty-two' pots as in larger ones. After the Cinerarias I have a batch of Pelargoniums in variety, the object being to keep the house as bright as possible. There are eight old specimens of Azalea indica in large pots, which yield a quantity of flower."

Gloxinias and Stocks.

"Do you find that your Callas all flower?"

"Nearly all. I have known these to throw up two spikes each, which is unusual for this variety, C. Elliotiana. On the stage of his house is the first batch of Gloxinias."

"How many do you grow?"

"At least two hundred. They are put in the stove in the summer. The other stage, you see, is occupied entirely with Amaryllis before they flower. I took some of the smaller bulbs off the large ones when they were potted; that is the way to increase the supply. I think it is very important that the foliage of Amaryllis should be carefully watched—some people admire it almost as much as the flowers. In this house we have also a lot of the Stocks for summer bedding."

"What varieties of Stocks do you recommend?"

"Queen of Mauves, Bedding White, Bedding Scarlet, Rivers' Market White, Mont Blanc, and Beauty of Nice. As to other summer-bedding plants, we have Coreopsis Drummondii, Coronation, and Dwarf Twin; of Nemesia strumosa, we have rich orange, rose-pink, scarlet, crimson, pale yellow, and white. They go off soon, but are very pretty while they last, generally a little time at the beginning of July."

"Do you use Zinnias?"

"Yes, three varieties, double scarlet, salmon-rose, and delicate rose. Then we have a number of Antirrhinum, the varieties being Crimson King, White Queen, Coral-red, and Rosy Morn. Of Scabiosa, the colours are brick-red, white, dark purple and white, cherry-red, and white and black-purple. Other plants used for summer bedding are Verbenas, Giant Pink, Scarlet, and Giant White; also Pansies and Violas in great variety. Some of the best of the Pansies are Lord Beaconsfield, Purple, Peacock, and Blue. The Violas are Baker's mixed. I may mention that we have a number of Gloxinia seedlings, which flower from the time Begonias are over to the end of the summer. The varieties are Reading Scarlet, Her Majesty, and Erect-flowered. The next is the Cucumber and Melon house."

"Where also, I notice, you grow Vines in pots?"

"The latter are a batch newly planted, and consist of Madresfield Court, Muscat of Alexandria, Black Alicante, Gros Maroc, and Foster's Seedling. The only Cucumber grown is Improved Telegraph. I started cutting early this month. The Melons following are Hero of Lockinge, Ringleader, and Royal Jubilee. I am trying the Emerald Green this year."

"What varieties of Grapes do you grow in your late Vinery?"

"They are all Muscat and Lady Downe's, and were replanted in October, 1905, having been planted five years before. It is risky to replant, but in this case it was necessary, as there was no drainage underneath. The Vines broke very well last year, and are getting on all right this."

Peaches and Cherries.

"You have a fine set of Peaches in the early Peach house?"

"Yes, they are very old trees, and I do not know the names of the varieties, but the fruit is very good. The Nectarines on the back wall are Cardinal (the earliest), Pitmaston Orange, and Pineapple. I have lately planted a dozen dessert Cherry trees, six of them being planted out in the borders, and the other six in pots. The varieties are Belle d'Orleans, Early Rivers, Bigarreau de Schreken, Elton, Black Tartarian, Bigarreau Napoleon, Black Eagle, Early Red Biggareau, The Noble, May Duke, Frogmore Early Biggareau, and Governor Wood. The old Fig tree in this house is Brown Turkey, and in pots there are a quantity of plants for bedding, including Cannas (mixed), and Fuchsias, of which the old Charming is one of the best. The Rose at the end is Gladys Harkness, one of the best, and there is now coming into flower a Maréchal Niel which yields an enormous quantity of blooms. All the Roses are taken into the mansion as soon as they open."

"You have quite a blaze of colour in your late Peach house."

"The varieties of these Peaches include Royal George, Stirling Castle, Dymond, Hale's Early, and Osprey, a very late variety which wants a great deal of sunshine to bring out the fine flavour. The Nectarines are Victoria, Lord Napier, Early Rivers, Pineapple, and Balgowan."

Chrysanthemums for Cut Flowers.

"You might say something about any vegetables you force, or Chrysanthemums."

"We grow about five hundred Chrysanthemums, bush and singles, the principal colours being pink, white, and yellow, because they are the best for decorating. Some of the best varieties are F. S. Vallis, Mrs. Greenfield, Rose Wynne, Miss Alice Byron, Elaine, Mrs. G. Thompson, and Source d'Or. The practice with Chrysanthemums is to plant the old stools out in the grounds, and bring them in in the autumn. By this method we get a large quantity of cut blooms. It may interest you to learn that I tried this year with winter-flowering Carnations, the experiment of striking out a batch in a pit of sand, and I hardly lost a cutting. Of course, there is a hot-water pipe underneath. Another point, perhaps, is that all our Violets out of doors are grown from young runners. Much finer flowers are obtained from these than from old plants."

"There remain the vegetables?"

"I am getting some frames ready for planting Lettuces in. Two good varieties are Earliest of All and Golden Ball. There are six lights of early Potatoes, the only variety being Duke of York, a yellow Kidney. Now, I think I have told you practically all that is done under glass at Ankerwycke." ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 248.—SPRING-FLOWERING SHRUBS.

DEAR KATE,—Surely there is nothing more desirable in the garden than a good selection of early-flowering shrubs and small trees, each one of which is just now a thing of beauty, if not a joy for ever. The extra amount of sunshine which we had last summer has ripened the wood of these shrubs better than usual, so that the show of bud and blossom on all sides is magnificent.

It always provokes me to come across the shrubberies which contain no brilliant blossoms, but only greenery, which is all very well at Christmas, but we want flowers now, and every shrub which does not produce them at some time of the year should be rooted up in favour of something which will turn into a great bouquet of colour and sweetness before the year is over. Of course, this is not the time of year to plant shrubs, but it is the time to begin taking notes of those plants which are the best to grow, so as to be prepared with a list of them when October arrives.

CYTISUS PRAECOX.

Even in London the spring is greeted early by the lovely sprays of the pink Almond (Amygdalus persica fl. pl.), and how welcome they are! Why does not every garden contain some of these delightful little trees instead of one in a hundred, or one in a thousand, perhaps, growing them. Then there is the double yellow Corchorus (syn. Kerria) japonicus, a plant which will grow in any soil, climate, or situation, which covers itself with masses of apricot rosettes before the winter is over, and expands them with the first sunshine. This is an old-fashioned but most valuable plant, which all should grow, for its long sprays of bloom are most decorative, and it is one of those good-tempered plants which will adapt themselves to circumstances in a charming way.

The Gay Rhododendrons.

Then come the splendid trusses of crimson bloom on Rhododendron arboreum and R. Nobleanum, often showing colour in February, and, once these grand things have started, there is no lack of warm colour in the garden, for they are quickly followed by the opening buds of many fine hybrids, such as R. mirabilis, in pink, R. Prince Camille de Rohan, and others. But Rhododendrons do not like a soil which contains lime, and should have a rather shaded and sheltered position, if they are of the early-flowering varieties, to save their exquisite blossoms from severe winds; they also enjoy moisture.

Next to them in value, I reckon Choisya ternata, the Mexican Orange, just now a perfect mass of snowy orange blossom, well shown on its handsome foliage. This is the bountiful shrub which provides us with flowers for eight months out of the twelve, for we can cut it all the spring months, until the middle of June, when it takes a rest, but starts again to open fresh flowers in September, which are available in sheltered corners until the weather becomes severe, when they go to sleep like floral dormice until the sunshine wakes them up, when the great mass of them open their petals. This most desirable plant should have a sheltered position, with plenty of sunshine, when it is as hardy as the Laurustinus.

With May, the shrubs and small trees become gigantic bouquets, and, if they have been well arranged to enhance each other's colouring at the time of planting, nothing can excel their beauty at this time of year. Japanese double Cherries (Cerasus pseudo-cerasus), of which the variety named after James H. Veitch is the best, are now covered with pink or white blossom, most beautiful to behold; the Japanese Quinces (Cydonia, syn. Pyrus japonica), in variety from carmine to pale pink, are gorgeous; the more homely Golden Chain (Laburnum) hangs its blossoms over the great bunches of Lilac; the pink Hawthorn (Cratægus coccinea plena, Paul's double scarlet) is a mass of bloom on the lawn; the golden balls of Buddleia globosa (the Honey-ball tree) are full of bees feasting on their sweet contents; the Weigelas, in deep pink, or in pure white, are equally lovely; and the Barberries (Mahonia aquifolia, Berberis Darwinii, B. stenophylla, etc.) are hung with yellow or fire-coloured blooms all over their sprays.

Amongst the more uncommon shrubs now in bud is Olearia nitida, by far the best of the Daisy bushes, which produces large trusses of fine Daisies in sprays a foot in length; Olearia Gunnii, too, will be covered with a mass of small Daisy-like flowers very soon, in extraordinary profusion. Near them is a large single Pæony named King Alfred; the colour of its blossoms is intense carmine, and their effect is grand in May.

Last autumn we planted a Callistemon speciosus (the scarlet Bottlebrush of Australia), which had outgrown a large pot, in a sheltered sunny border. This we did with some misgivings, but I am glad to say that it has come

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Gordon, George (1806–1879), *gardener and horticultural writer*
by B. D. Jackson, *rev.* John Martin
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Gordon, George (1806–1879), gardener and horticultural writer, was born at Lucan, co. Dublin, on 25 February 1806, the son of the land steward and gardener at Sterling House, near Dublin. Trained by his father, Gordon entered into service at fourteen years of age. From 1823 to 1827 he was employed in the gardens of two country gentlemen, then he worked briefly in the nursery of J. Colville in King's Road, Chelsea; in February 1828, he joined the staff of the Horticultural Society, Chiswick. Working as an assistant in the kitchen garden department, he was responsible for classifying the 130 named varieties of peas into forty-three distinct kinds. His subsequent study of beans enabled him to identify eleven distinct kinds from the forty-three reputed varieties grown at Chiswick. His task, he acknowledged, was

> to reduce the discordant nomenclature of the seed shops to something like order, to enable the gardener to know the quality of the sorts he is unaccustomed to cultivate and above all to prevent his buying the same kind under different names. (*Transactions of the Horticultural Society of London*, 2nd ser., 1835, 369)

Gordon rose to be one of the foremen at the Horticultural Society, and with the exception of a brief period he remained on its staff for the next thirty years. He was an associate of the Linnean Society from 1841 until his death. His particular responsibility at Chiswick was the management of the arboretum, and having paid special attention to coniferous trees he brought out his *Pinetum* in 1858; Robert Glendinning was his associate in this and in the supplement of 1862, and a second edition appeared in 1875. John Lindley drew on Gordon's practical knowledge in some papers on conifers in the *Journal of the Horticultural Society* in 1850 and 1851, and the writings of Lindley and Gordon became the authoritative guide for certain species and varieties. However, the *Pinetum* was very much the work of a practical gardener, and was neither popular nor scientific. Gordon also assisted John Claudius Loudon in the preparation of *Arboretum et fruticetum Britannicum* (1838), and the *Encyclopaedia of Trees and Shrubs* (1842). At Chiswick, rationalization of the gardens in 1858 led to the abolition of Gordon's post.

Gordon died of apoplexy on 11 October 1879 at 86 Corfield Road, Bethnal Green, London, the house of his sister-in-law, Charlotte Gordon. His herbarium was bought at his death by Sir Joseph Hooker, who then presented it to the herbarium of the Royal Gardens, Kew. Georg August Pritzel, in his *Thesaurus* (1851), confuses him with the Revd George Gordon who published anonymously *A Collectanea for the Flora of Moray* at Elgin in 1839.

B. D. JACKSON, *rev.* JOHN MARTIN

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Wealth at death under £450: probate, 8 Nov 1879, *CGPLA Eng. & Wales*

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George Gordon (1806–1879): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/11043

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Gorrie, Archibald (1778–1857), *agriculturist*
by Anne Pimlott Baker
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Gorrie, Archibald (1778–1857), agriculturist, was born on 15 May 1778 at Logiealmond, Perthshire. He was educated at the local school, and from 1797 to 1807 he held various gardening posts; for a time he was in charge of the hothouse at the Leith Walk nursery in Edinburgh. From 1807 until his death he was manager of the estate of Annat, Kilspindie, near Errol, Perthshire, farming also on his own account at Shanry. He was responsible for introducing into gardens the pansy, known in the wild as 'love-in-idleness', and he raised new fruits, including the Annat Park apricot, the Annat scarlet apple, and the Annat beurré pear. He introduced the Perthshire red potato, and also cultivated grasses such as wood millet grass (*Milium effusum*).

In his early years Gorrie was associated with George Don, who published *A System of Gardening and Botany*, founded on Philip Miller's *Gardener's Dictionary*. Gorrie contributed to many agricultural and horticultural magazines, including the *Gardener's Magazine*, and wrote monthly agricultural reports for the *Perthshire Courier* and the *Dundee Advertiser*. His paper, 'Preventing the depradations of the turnip fly', was presented to the Caledonian Horticultural Society in 1811.

On 6 November 1809 Gorrie married Euphemia Moyes. They had two sons and two daughters. He was an elder of the Free Church of Scotland and was chosen as a representative at its general assembly. Gorrie died at Annat Cottage, near Errol, on 21 July 1857, and was buried nearby in the churchyard at Rait, Perthshire. His wife survived him.

ANNE PIMLOTT BAKER

Sources *Cottage Gardener*, 18 (1857), 333–4 · *GM*, 3rd ser., 3 (1857), 344 · private information (2004)

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Archibald Gorrie (1778–1857): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/6350

GC, 1857

ARCHIBALD GORRIE.

BY GEORGE LAWSON.

Abridged from the Northern Warder of August 6.

We have already recorded the death of Mr. Archibald Gorrie, which occurred at Annat Cottage, near Errol, on July 21. We must not let this event pass by without indicating briefly his character as a contributor to the Rural Literature of Britain, whose writings have been long justly admired, and as a Christian naturalist, who, regarding his Bible as his best book, and the glory of God as the great purpose of his life, laboured hard to elevate the tone of science, and to make wiser and better men of all who came into contact with him. Mr. Archibald Gorrie was born in the district of Logie Almond, Perthshire, in the year 1777. In boyhood he received what was then considered "a good country-school education." This was afterwards supplemented by various studies in his early life, to an extent which will be indicated by the facts we have to mention respecting his discoveries and writings. Although "by birth an agriculturist," yet horticulture soon became his most favourite pursuit, and he was placed as an apprentice in the gardens of Logie House, under Mr. Peter Barnet, father of the Mr. Barnet who afterwards became Superintendent of the Experimental Garden of the Horticultural Society, Edinburgh. From Logie House gardens Mr. Gorrie removed to Dupplin Castle, also in Perthshire, where, under the then superintendent Mr. Miller, and with George Don, the celebrated Forfar botanist, as a companion, he enjoyed every advantage for prosecuting his favourite study of British Botany and other departments of the natural history of his native land. Towards the end of the last century he had charge of the hothouse department in Leith Walk nursery, where he first became acquainted with the late Mr. J. C. Loudon, who succeeded him in that charge; an acquaintance which was again renewed when Mr. Loudon commenced the publication of his "Gardeners' Magazine," and was continued till the close of that talented writer's useful life. And we believe that after his death a lively remembrance of that friendship was cherished by Mrs. Loudon, who continued to correspond with Mr. Gorrie. A knoll near Annat Cottage is called "Loudon's brae," having, we believe, been planted with Coniferæ chiefly obtained from Mr. Loudon. During the last 50 years Mr. Gorrie resided on the estate of Annat, in the Carse of Gowrie, acting successively as gardener, general manager, and factor, on the property. During a considerable portion of that period he rented the neighbouring farm of Shanry, and his previous acquaintance with horticulture was of great service in prompting to the introduction on his farm of improvements in cultivation and of novelties in cropping. He reached the ripe old age of 80, and was cut off by an attack of bronchitis on July 21. The introduction and improvement of useful and ornamental plants was always a favourite pursuit, as will long be testified by the numerous fine specimens of Coniferæ and other rare trees, which adorn the estate, where he spent most part of his life. Among his contributions to fruit trees may be mentioned Lawson's Golden Gage Plum, Annat Park Apricot, Annat Beurré Pear, Annat Scarlet Apple, &c., while as a florist he was the first to introduce the cultivation of that now general favourite, the Pansy, into Scotland, if not into Britain. Several notices of Mr. Gorrie's efforts in agricultural improvement occur throughout Messrs. P. Lawson & Son's "Agriculturist's Manual," in which we find the following notice of the celebrated Annat Barley:—"This new and very superior Barley is the produce of two ears picked in a field on the farm of Flaw Craig, Carse of Gowrie, in 1830, since which period it has been grown by Mr. A. Gorrie (its discoverer), at Annat Garden, hence its name. In 1834 it was sown on a ridge in the middle of a field, with common Barley on the one side and Chevalier on the other. In bulk of straw it seems to have the advantage of both these kinds. It was five days ripe before the former, and about a fortnight before the latter. It was also about 2½ lbs. per bushel heavier than the Chevalier. (See "Quarterly Journal of Agriculture," March, 1835.) The grain is even more round and plump than that of the Chevalier, of a bright yellow transparent colour."—Lawson's "Agric. Man.," p. 40. In 1834 Vicia villosa was added to the list of British forage plants by Mr. Gorrie, who discovered its seeds in a cargo of Dantzic Wheat, and pointed out its applicability as a winter Tare. In the same year he discovered a fertile-seeded variety of the tall Fescue Grass (Festuca elatior fertilis), which was subsequently propagated; and in 1840 he introduced the wood Millet Grass (Milium effusum) to cultivation (Lawson's "Treatise on Cultivated Grasses," &c., p. 17). In short, the cultivation of the natural Grasses, and herbage and forage plants, afforded him a constant source of profitable recreation. Few rural writers who originate in his sphere of life ever acquire a style of writing so appropriate to the subject as that which characterised Mr. Gorrie. To say that his mind was well stored with knowledge would be an inaccuracy of expression, for his knowledge was not laid up as in a storehouse, but was so completely assimilated that his mental character grew, as it were, upon it, so that in communicating his thoughts to others he did not merely deal out facts and ideas in the crude form in which they had been received; they became so elaborated by the (perhaps to him insensible) operation of his powerfully original mind, that it was impossible to draw the line of distinction between what was acquired knowledge and what was spontaneous thought. And in this (as in the case of every popular writer), lay the secret of his success in rendering interesting the most barren details of rural operations. We have long regarded Mr. Gorrie as one of the most intelligent writers on rural affairs and natural history which Scotland has produced; and Scotchmen will do well to cherish his memory as that of one who in his quiet and unobtrusive life has done great and lasting good to their country, by his personal influence, by his genial writings, and by his improvements in the art of rural industry. Annat Cottage has long been in our minds the Selborne of Scotland, and Archibald Gorrie the Gilbert White thereof.

THE GARDENS OF SIR GILBERT GREENALL, BART., AT WALTON HALL, WARRINGTON.

Interview with Mr. Charles Goves.

IF agriculture has in Sir Gilbert Greenall one of its most enthusiastic patrons, the President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England is also keenly interested in horticulture. Both he and Lady Greenall do their utmost to encourage competition at the flower show which is annually held in Walton Park, and, as may be imagined, the gardens at Walton Hall are not only extensive, but beautiful. Visiting them shortly before the show was held in August, I was able to see them at their best, and thanks to Mr. Charles Goves, the head gardener, to obtain full information as to the principal features. And, first of all, we turned our attention to the outside, beginning with a very charming border, of considerable expanse, against the houses, which at Walton are situated at the bottom of the undulating lawns approaching the mansion. It is about twenty-seven yards long each side of the houses, the conservatory being in the centre, and it is backed by a hedge of Privet, with Acers negundo in front.

"Then follow," said Mr. Goves, "a row of Gladiolus Brenchleyensis, four rows of Antirrhinums Black Prince, two rows of the white-leaved Geranium, Salleroi, two rows of Geranium Charles Turner, and two rows of blue Ageratums, edged by Alyssum."

"What is the length of the long border on the north side of the lawns?"

"Quite a hundred yards. It is backed, as you see, by trees, such as the Birch and the Beech, with several specimen Hollies from thirty-five to forty feet high, Laurels, and Prunus Pissardi, also by two rows of named Rhododendrons."

The Care of Hollies.

"The soil seems to suit the Rhododendrons and Hollies."

"We have to make a good deal, but the natural soil, though heavy, is free from lime. With regard to Hollies, these are pruned into shape with a pruning knife every May, except the top, which is done by means of the guillotine. All growths crossing and growing thickly together are removed. The remainder are pruned back in order to form a pyramid, the top running quite to a finish."

"You have a vast and splendid stretch of lawns. Can you give me any idea of the extent?"

"On the left side of the drive they are one hundred and fifty yards long, and the average width across is from ninety to one hundred yards. The principal specimen trees are Oaks, Yews, Thujas, and Chestnuts, a row of the latter near the Hall being conspicuous."

"How do you manage to keep the lawns in such perfect condition?"

"About October we commence to remove all weeds. This is done by the use of ordinary table forks, by as many as twelve men. In March and April we use iron rakes for removing any moss that has accumulated, giving the turf a good raking. As soon as this is finished, the turf is given a slight dressing of soil, adding to it soot and manure, with a good rolling afterwards. Rolling is, in fact, the main point in the treatment."

Ascending the lawns in the direction of the Hall, we paused to inspect more specimen Hollies, planted in threes and singles, with clumps of Rhododendrons, the latter a prominent feature, close to the ornamental water.

"Growing round the water," continued Mr. Goves, "is a large collection of bog plants, notably Lysimachia thyrsifolia, Senecio clivorum, Spiræa ulmaria fl. pl., and palmata, and Astilbe Davidi. For decorative purposes, Lobelia, Geraniums, and Clematis are used; while the rustic baskets along the bank are filled with Marguerites, Geraniums, and Lobelias. Elsewhere, Iris in variety, Tritomas, Epilobiums, and Lychnis are used, with standards of Acer negundo variegata at intervals. Roses mixed with Irises run along one side of the water, and there are Lilies in variety in it."

From the dell in which the ornamental water

MR. GOVES.

is practically located, we ascended higher. Here another fine border of shrubs attracted my attention, with fine specimens of Weeping Elms, Thujas, Chestnuts, and Oaks at the back. There is a very ancient Oak close to the Hall, which has also an Oak on either side. The Hall is covered with variegated Ivy, quite in harmony with the red brick of which the mansion is composed. Immediately in front, on the terrace, is a Holly (Hodginsii), nearly thirty feet high, and Hollies are on either side of the walk leading to the tennis-court. There is also a magnificent bank of named Rhododendrons.

Terrace Flower Bedding.

"The flower beds, I see, are all cut out of a terrace of grass, with the sundial in the centre."

"With respect to the beds, there are just four triangles framing a circle, and filled with Geraniums and Lobelias, with a groundwork of Marigolds, intermixed with Ornamental Beet."

"The dark purple-brown of the Beet shows up well. How is the star made up?"

"The centre consists of Alternantheras, Mesembryanthemums, Dracænas, and Sedums, in the centre, with two rows of Echeverias, and Fuchsia Lancashire Lad. Then, there are two scroll beds with Geraniums and Violas, Beet being used in the centre, and also bronze Geraniums, with an edging of Pyrethrums. The four corner beds have Acers in the centre, with a groundwork of Ageratums, and on the mound, which is eighteen inches high, is a combination of red, white, and blue, made up of Geraniums and Lobelias."

"Taking the scheme as a whole, a good effect is produced with great simplicity of style. But you must use a vast number of plants?"

"There are at least forty thousand plants in the beds. The Geraniums in the large beds exceed four hundred, and the Ageratums run to three hundred and fifty. In each of the corner beds there are quite fifteen hundred plants. The border at the side of the terrace, with a Holly hedge seventy to eighty yards long, contains Ghent and mollis Azaleas, with rows of Roses, Mrs. W. J. Grant and Liberty; while in the row of Rhododendrons at the back are intermixed Clematis."

"The Children's Garden."

Proceeding along the shrubberies, which are on a large scale, and all the more delightful because informal, and passing many fine specimen trees and shrubs, with a pretty thatched summer-house, we arrived, through a Rose arch, in what is known as "The Children's Garden." That is to say, the two little sons of Sir Gilbert Greenall have a flower garden all to themselves.

"The beds," said Mr. Goves, "are eight in number, and are filled with Phlox Drummondii in red, white and yellow, with an edging of Ageratums and Pyrethrums, intermixed with hybrid Gladioli. In the centre of each division of four beds is a Weeping Willow, and the garden includes various climbing Roses and a nice collection of Pæonies. Roses, also, are used on chains and archways, and there are two small beds with the names 'Gilbert' and 'Edward' lettered out in Pyrethrum Golden Feather, intermixed with Lobelia Emperor William, edged with Echeveria and Alternantheras."

The Rosery.

Unlike most kitchen gardens, that at Walton Hall is in close proximity to the Hall. It is entirely on slopes, and, on entering, the ornamental portion struck me as singularly effective. The quarters devoted to Roses are very charming. There are between twenty and thirty beds in a square, with horizontally trained fruit trees round one half, and a Holly hedge round the other. The walks through are gravel, but each of the beds is surrounded by grass.

"Do the beds contain only one variety?" I asked.

"Most of them, and the remaining beds are mixtures, with a balloon of Crimson Ramblers in the centre. You may like to mention that

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underneath the trained fruit trees are the newest varieties of Violas, which I plant there for testing purposes, and choose the best to grow for the succeeding year."

A Great Herbaceous Border.

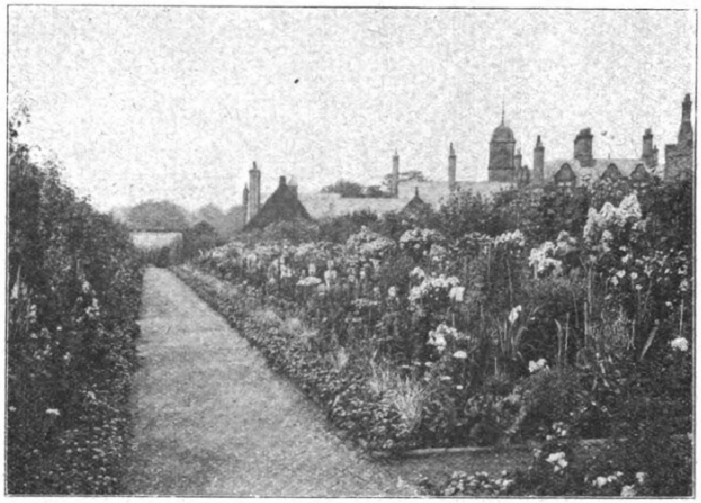
"Now, as to the herbaceous border, which runs right down the centre walk of the garden?"

"It is eighty-four yards long, and the greater portion of plants in it are selected for flowering in August and September. All the most choice plants are potted and placed in frames during the winter. They are put out early in April in their places. When the flowering is over, in October, we cut all down and make the borders as tidy as possible. As soon as the planting is done, the ground is covered with a dressing of stable manure, two or three inches thick, the ground being subsequently forked lightly over. The line is then put down and labels are affixed, anything that has been left over from the autumn being planted at the same time. Every five years the whole of the plants are taken out and the ground is trenched."

Eleven Rows of Flowers.

"Now I should like the plan of the rows of flowers?"

"To begin with the back rows. There are Sweet Peas in clumps, Helianthus H. J. Moon, and Hollyhocks in variety. In the next row are Delphiniums Atlas, Ragged Robin, and Custane, Sweet Peas in clumps, Rudbeckias Golden Glow, Helianthus Queen Victoria, Aconitum napellus, and Helenium giganteum. Row 9 consists of Chrysanthemum King Edward, Phloxes Maurice, Vauchoos, and Mene Boule, Sidalceas malvæflora and atropurpurea, Rudbeckia purpurea, and Phloxes coccinea, Sherrif Ivory, and Flambeau. Then comes a row of Alstrœmerias aurea and aurantiaca, Achillea The Pearl, Anchusa italica Dropmore variety, Phloxes Louis Botha, Etna, Iris, and Adonis, and Agrostemma atrosanguinea. In the seventh row are Heucheras sanguinea, Phloxes Tapis Blanc and Coquelicot, Geum Rival, Statice latifolia, Monarda rosea, and Gladiolus in variety. The sixth row embraces Polemonium Richardsonii, Helenium callidum, Campanulas Daisy Hill, Grandis, and Newry Giant, Gladiolus in variety, and Montbretia in variety. The fifth row is limited to Lobelia cardinalis in clumps, and Dimorphotheca aurantiaca. Then, for the fourth row, we have simply blue and white Asters; the third, Ten-week Stocks (carmine-pink); the second, Ten-week Stocks (white); and the first, or front row of the whole, consists entirely of Ageratum Imperial Blue."



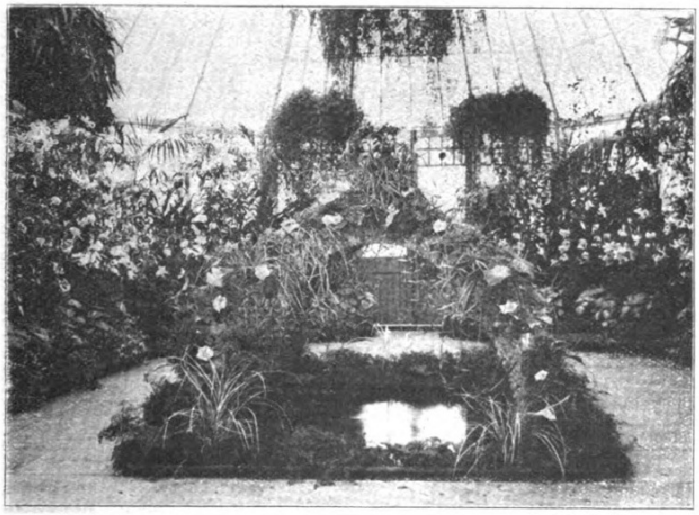
THE HERBACEOUS BORDER, WALTON HALL GARDENS.

Chrysanthemum Cultivation.

"Your Chrysanthemums, to judge by the foliage, look extremely flourishing?"

"We grow a great quantity, as many as fifteen hundred. Of these, six hundred are Japanese, two hundred and fifty Incurves, two hundred and fifty Singles, and four hundred Decorative."

"What is your treatment of them?"



THE CONSERVATORY AT WALTON HALL.

"Cuttings are taken of the Japanese and Incurved from the middle to the end of December. They are struck singly in thumb pots, placed in frames covered by glass in a cool house. After roots are formed, they are transferred to other cases, air being gradually admitted until the glass can be dispensed with, and no risks incurred of the plants flagging. They are then placed on the stages in the same house, 3-in. and 3½-in. pots being used for potting up. About the first week in March, when they have made sufficient roots, the plants are removed to cold frames; and put into 5-in. and 5½-in. pots at the end of the month. The final potting takes place in May, 8-in., 8½-in., and 9-in. pots being used. They are then taken back in frames until about June 7th, the frames being raised so that lights may be put on if the weather is unfavourable. They are subsequently placed in rows in their summer quarters, as you see them to-day."

The Best Varieties.

"I should like the names of a few of the best Japanese varieties."

"I consider the best twelve are Lady Talbot, Mrs. A. S. Miller, F. S. Vallis, Bessie Godfrey, Reginald Vallis, Edith Jameson, Hon. Mrs. Lopes, Splendour, President Viger, Leslie Morrison, Mrs. N. Davis, and Madame P. Radaelli. As to Incurves, the best twelve, in my opinion, are Mr. G. Denyer, Clara Wells, Buttercup, Lady Isabel, Mrs. F. Judson, Daisy Southam, G. F. Evans, Marjorie Shields, Pantia Ralli, W. Pascoe, Romance, and Mrs. B. Hankey."

"Which do you consider the best Singles and Decoratives."

"Of Singles, the nine best are Mrs. H. Herbert, Altrincham Yellow, Mary Anderson, Mary Richardson, Metta, Mrs. E. Roberts, Kitty Bourne, Felix, and Edith Pagram. The nine best Decorative Chrysanthemums are Nellie Pockett, Source d'Or, Soleil d'Octobre, Niveus, Winter Cheer, Crimson Source d'Or, Golden Gate, W. Duckham, and Moneymaker."

Hardy Fruit and Vegetables.

"I should also like the names of the varieties of some of the hardy fruit you grow."

"The best six dessert Apples are Cox's Orange Pippin, Mr. Gladstone, Ribston Pippin, Rival, Lady Sudeley, and Red Astrachan; the six best kitchen varieties are Lord Suffield, Warner's King, Dumelow's Seedling, Pott's Seedling, Alfriston, and Gascoigne's Seedling. The best six Plums are Golden Esperen, Early Greengage, Coe's Golden Drop, Jefferson, Kirke's, and Early Transparent Gage."

"How long do you keep your Strawberry plants?"

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"Three years, and we put down a new bed every year. We find the best varieties are Royal Sovereign, Bedford Champion, Fillbasket, Givon's Late Prolific, and President. Raspberries are grown in three varieties; Cherries in five, and Morellos; Black and Red Currants in three each."

"You have large stretches of vegetables."

"Yes, we go in strongly for most useful vegetables. The best Peas are Green Gem, Early Giant, Duchess of York, Gradus, Matchless, Alderman, Royal Salute, Autocrat, and Gladstone. Of Potatoes, we use Ringleader and Sharpe's Victor for frames and early forcing; the other varieties are Snowdrop, Goldfinder, Windsor Castle, Superlative, Up-to-Date, and Chieftain. The three best Onions are Ailsa Craig, Cranston's Excelsior, and Masham Park Hero. We force Seakale Lilywhite and Solid Ivory, Rhubarb, and Beans in variety."

Forcing Asparagus.

"Do you force Asparagus?"

"Yes, and we commence doing so at the end of November. A hundred crowns are placed weekly in the Melon house. Stable litter is placed over the grating above the hot-water pipe to a depth of three inches. To prevent the soil going through, six inches of straw is added, the roots being placed close together and covered two inches above the crown with soil. The temperature is kept up to sixty degrees. The pits outside, which are heated, are made use of at the end of January. Beds are made of stable litter in the same quantity and manner already described, after placing four feet of litter or stable manure at the bottom. This is covered with four inches of soil, and the roots are covered two inches above the crown. In March, beds are made outside and treated in the same way. As the days lengthen, more air is given."

Dwarf Beans for Pots.

"What Dwarf Beans do you use for forcing?"

"Osborne's Forcing and Reliance are the two varieties we commence with in the New Year. They are grown in 7-in. pots, eight Beans in each pot. Later on, Ne Plus Ultra and Canadian Wonder are used. These are grown in 9-in. pots, in a temperature of sixty to sixty-five degrees."

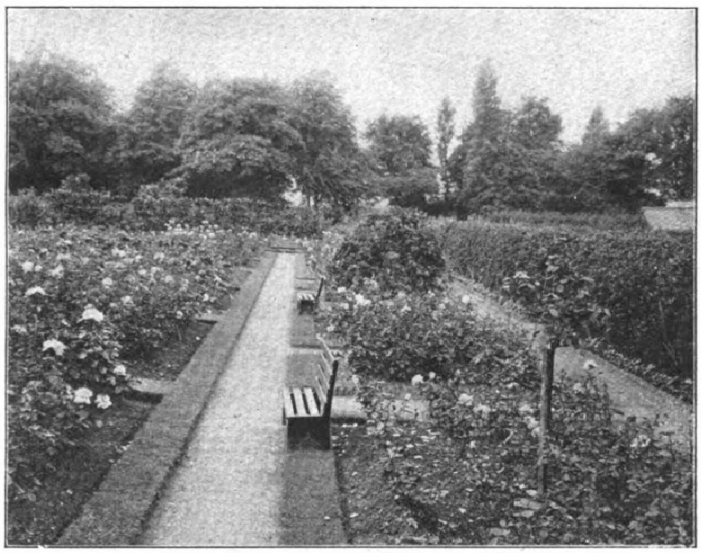
Previous to entering the range of houses, with a fine conservatory in the middle, we spent a little time in the orchard house, where dessert Apples in pots are a feature.

"We pick Peaches," said Mr. Goves, "early in June, and finish the third week in September. The climate is too cold to grow them outside. In the greenhouse are Malmaison Carnations, facing a bed of Maidenhair Ferns on one side, and Tree Carnations on the other."

Malmaison and Tree Carnations.

"What varieties of Malmaisons do you depend upon?"

"Chiefly H. J. Jones, Mercia, Churchwarden, Princess of Wales, Nell Gwynne, and King Oscar. All the best varieties of Trees are grown, and we commence cutting the latter in October. Crotons are one of the features of the stove, occupying, with Anthuriums, the centre stage. On the other side are Caladiums in variety, and a number of Dracænas, of which the best plant of our best variety, Victoria, is four feet high. A feature of the conservatory in the centre is the hanging baskets of Asparagus Sprengeri, the trails of which are quite eight feet long. The water, which is surrounded by Ferns, is used for goldfish. Here, of course, the contents vary, but just now Coleus in variety occupy a good deal of the side stages. Lilies are extensively grown for furnishing the house; about a thousand bulbs are potted."



THE ROSE GARDEN AT WALTON HALL.

Grapes and Melons.

"Then, there are the Vineries."

"In the Muscat house there are seventeen Vines, Alicante and Gros Maroc being grown as well as Muscat. In the early house, where we commenced cutting the first week in June, Black Hamburgh are grown, and the varieties in the other houses are Madresfield Court and Gros Colmar. All the borders are inside. As to the rest, Orchids are not a feature, but we have a few Cattleyas and Calanthes. Ferns are grown in great quantities, and the collection is quite representative. Poinsettias are a feature; we grow three hundred, and the same quantity in Begonia Gloire de Lorraine. Finally, in the Melon house, where we grow in boxes, and also in pots, the varieties are Windsor Castle, Ringleader, Emerald Gem, Superlative, and a seedling of my own, a cross between Windsor Castle and Hero of Lockinge. We begin cutting Melons the end of May, and continue until the middle of November."

Mr. Goves and Showing.

"Where did you commence your gardening career, Mr. Goves?"

"In the gardens of Field House, Witney, where I served an apprenticeship of four years. Then I went in succession to Pusey House, Farringdon, where I remained for seven years; Panshanger, Hertfordshire, where I had charge of the fruit and plant houses; Condover Hall, Shrewsbury, where I was inside foreman; and Messrs. Dickson's nurseries, Chester. In September, 1905, I was appointed by Sir Gilbert Greenall gardener here, and since then I have shown considerably."

"I should like to know some of your successes."

"They include four silver cups for Chrysanthemums, and many first prizes and seconds for fruit, flowers and vegetables. Most of the prizes were taken in 1909, and I hope to add to these trophies in future years."

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE gardens of Colonel Wilkinson, at Ashfurlong Hall, Sutton Coldfield, will be described next week

The Scutellarias.

THE above genus numbers amongst its species several of the most ornamental of hardy and half-hardy plants. Though seldom met with in gardens, they are well worthy of representation in at least a few varieties. They are useful alike as rock or border plants, and though fairly easy to raise from seed sown in April, plants, of course, give a much quicker result. By no means fastidious as to soil—succeeding in any that is moderately rich and well worked—they must have sun, otherwise very indifferent success or total failure must be looked for.

In addition to the botanical name, they are also known as the Helmet Flower and Skull Cap, in reference to the form of the calyx. They are neat in habit, and of good, clear colours. S. albida is a native of Greece, with white flowers, good for the front of borders; while alpina is excellent as a rock plant. The latter is a vigorous grower, but never untidy. It flowers in August, reaching a height of one and a half feet, with purple blooms just touched with yellow on the lower lip, while there is also a yellow form of this that is very ornamental. S. baicalensis is the best known, being extremely free in flowering, with very large individual flowers, in spikes a foot high, which are very fine on rockwork.

A Plant for Moist Places.

Good by the waterside, with its bluish spikes of flowers in August, S. galericulata is excellent where a small stream runs through or by the garden. A Japanese species that it would be wise to protect in severe weather is S. indica japonica, rich purple in colour, and remaining in flower for nearly three months. Of prostrate habit, and, therefore, particularly suited to the rock garden, where it appears at its best falling over the top of some outstanding boulder, S. orientalis is very gay with its lilac flowers, that are certain to strike the attention when a large majority of Alpines are passed.

One of the most brilliant of all—unfortunately, by no means hardy—is S. splendens, reaching a height of a foot, with scarlet flowers. It is best grown in pots, which may be stood outside in summer, and brought inside again in September, for the flowers are produced in October and November, when they are very decorative and striking on the staging of a moderately warm greenhouse. CROYDON.

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Graefer, John Andrew (*d.* 1802), *horticulturist and landscape gardener*
by Carlo Knight
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Graefer, John Andrew (*d.* 1802), horticulturist and landscape gardener, was born in Vienna but at an early age came to England, where he became a pupil of the gardener Philip Miller. He was subsequently employed as a gardener by the earl of Coventry, and then by James Vere at Kensington Gore. About 1776 he established a nursery at Mile End, London, in partnership with another gardener and a seedsman. According to W. Aiton, in the *Hortus Kewensis* of 1810, between 1783 and 1784 Graefer introduced in England, possibly with seeds provided by the Swedish botanist and medical doctor Carl Peter Thunberg (one of the few foreigners who had been allowed to visit Japan), the *Aucuba japonica*, the *Ophiopogon japonica*, the *Orontium japonica*, and the *Eucomis punctata*. He also reintroduced in England the *Eleagnus angustifolius orientalis*.

In 1786 Sir William Hamilton had persuaded the queen of Naples, Maria Carolina, to have an English garden laid out at the royal palace at Caserta. Graefer, whose name had been suggested by Sir Joseph Banks, thus entered the service of the queen, and moved to Naples with his three sons, John, Charles, and George. On his journey, while his ship was obliged to halt in the harbour of Ponza, Graefer had the opportunity to spend some time on the island, and drew up a detailed *Flora insulae Ponza*. In Caserta, Graefer laid out a charming (although rather small) English garden and stocked it with a large variety of plants. As Loudon says: 'Every exotic, which at that time could be furnished by the Hammersmith nursery, was planted .... Among these the Camellias, Banksias, Proteas, Magnolias, Pines, etc.' (Loudon, 19). At the same time Graefer, according to Loudon, also laid out several other gardens in Naples, including one for the duca di San Gallo. In Caserta, however, he met with many unforeseen difficulties; the Neapolitans did not seem to appreciate his work and his subordinates cheated him shamelessly. In 1788 the queen became tired of the project and the English garden was taken over by the king, Ferdinando IV. As a result Graefer had to accept a drastic cut in salary and was obliged to work under the supervision of the architect Carlo Vanvitelli.

In 1789 Graefer published *A descriptive catalogue of upwards of eleven hundred species and variations herbaceous and perennial plants*, which was reprinted at least four times (4th edn, 1804). In its foreword the 'Editor' informed the reader, among other things, that 'the Author of the following Catalogue is publicly celebrated, in the Annals of the Admiralty, for his *Invention of Prepared Vegetables*'. This consisted of the preparation of dried vegetables, which permitted ships' provisions of greens, such as broccoli, to be preserved for over a year. According to a 1793 work by N. Hadrawa, Graefer also drew up a *Flora dell'isola di Capri* and sent it for publication to a natural history society in Berlin. The book apparently was not published and the manuscript was lost (Norman Douglas made an extensive, but unsuccessful, search for it in 1930).

In 1791 Graefer (who by then must have been a widower), married Elizabeth Dodsworth, a young woman from Chester. In 1792 she gave birth to a son,

Ferdinando, who died shortly afterwards; a second child, Maria Carolina, was born in 1794. In December 1798, when the French invasion became imminent, the royal family and the Neapolitan court escaped to Sicily. Graefer was taken along with them and became employed by Lord Nelson as steward of his estate, Bronte. Unfortunately Graefer's competence as an administrator did not match his skill as a gardener. After complaining about the squandering and prodigality of his steward ('Graefer thought that I approved giving to the poor'), Nelson, in 1802, felt somehow relieved by Graefer's death: 'I have lost Graeffer [*sic*], my Governor of Bronte: he died August 7. It embarrasses me a little, but I endeavour to make the best of things, and it may possibly turn out to my pecuniary advantage' (*Dispatches and Letters*, 30).

CARLO KNIGHT

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Carlo Knight, 'Graefer, John Andrew (*d.* 1802)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/62046, accessed 12 Nov 2014]

John Andrew Graefer (*d.* 1802): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/62046

other purposes of the first national importance. 1793. 8vo.

The above two works were written by the REV. PHILIP le BROCQ, M. A. and Chaplain to the Duke of Gloucester. At the time he published his work on training Fruit Trees he took out a Patent for this improved method of so managing them which he states was first suggested by Lord Bacon, and practiced by Francis X. Vispre, at Wimbledon and Chelsea, who is noticed in the next chronological notice.

1786. A Dissertation on the growth of Wine in England. Bath. 8vo. By FRANCIS XAVIER VISPRE.

———A method to preserve Peach and Nectarine Trees from the effect of Mildew, and for the destroying the Red Spider in Melon frames, and other insects which infests plants in Stoves and Trees, Shrubs, &c. in the open Garden. London. 12mo. By ROBERT BROWNE, Gardener to Sir H. Harbord at Gunton in Norfolk.

1789. The culture of Forests; with an Appendix in which the state of the Royal Forests is considered and a system proposed for their improvement. London. 8vo. By Lieutenant Col. A. EMMERICH, deputy Surveyor of the Woods and Forests.

JOHN GRÆFFER, a native of Germany, came to this country in the middle of the last Century, and being for some time, a pupil of Philip Miller, became the Gardener of James Vere, Esq. of Kensington-Gore.

He afterwards established a Nursery at Mile End, in partnership with Thompson and Gordon. Soon after the death of Gordon, Græffer recieved the appointment of Gardener to the

King of Naples at Caserta, through the interest of Sir J. Banks. At that place he laid out and well stocked a Garden after the English mode. Lord Nelson appointed him to superintend his estate at Bronte, and many noblemen employed him as a Garden Designer. He continued Gardener at Caserta during the usurpation of Murat, but was murdered near his own house in 1816.* He published

A Descriptive Catalogue of upwards of 1100 species and varieties of Herbaceous or Perennial Plants, divided into six columns, exhibiting at one view, their names, magnitude, height, and situation; time of flowering, colour of their flowers, and the native country of each species. With a list of hardy Ferns for the decoration of the Northern Borders, and the most ornamental Annuals. London, 1789. 8vo.

JAMES SOWERBY, F. L. S. &c. was by profession a portrait painter; but will be ever distinguished as a Botanical Draftsman and Engraver. He was first brought into notice by having made some sketches of Plants from Nature to introduce in the foregrounds of some Landscapes, which being shown to some Botanical friend, they suggested the publication of the "English Botany" which with the powerful assistance of the late Sir J. E. Smith was completed; the only descriptions that were not written by the latter where from the pen of the late Dr. Shaw. Sowerby brought up a numerous family, all of whom share in their father's talent. He was an indefatigable collector of Botanical and Mineralogical specimens, of which he formed an extensive Museum. He died in 1822. He wrote in some of the Scientific Periodicals, and the produce of his pencil are to be seen in most of the illustrations of our later Botanical works &c. He deserves our notice here from being the author of the following works.

* Encyclop. of Gardening. p. 1110. 5. Ed:

The Garden History Society

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yet practically untouched, and with much of the material available; my own experience is that when working on one subject fragments clearly of interest in another subject have often to be passed by. Now, with the exchange of ideas between members, within such a group as ours, such items can be passed on rather than passed by.

We should remember the astounding Bacon, when he wrote that gardening "is the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man; without which, buildings and palaces are but gross handiwork". Surely the history of this "greatest refreshment", to which our country has made a world-famous contribution, is as much worth our study as that of the "gross handiwork" of buildings and palaces?

* * * * * * * * * * *

Forgotten gardeners, II: John Graefer, by Alice M. Coats

In one sense, Graefer (also spelt Graeffer or Graffer) was forgotten almost before he began; for nothing has been recorded of his early life. He is said to have been a German by birth, and to have been a pupil of Philip Miller; but we do not know when or why he came to England, nor the dates of his subsequent employment by the Earl of Coventry at Croome, and by James Vere, a plant-loving silk-merchant of Kensington Gore. We are first able to put a finger on him about 1776, when he joined the nursery-firm of Thompson and Gordon at Mile End - the year in which the founder, James Gordon, made over the business to his sons.

During the following decade Graefer seems to have been responsible for a number of plant-introductions. Those of 1776-78 are credited in *Hortus Kewensis* to "Gordon and Graeffer", the later ones to Graefer alone, the most productive years being 1783-4, when he introduced *Aucuba japonica*, *Ophiopogon japonica*, *Orontium japonica*, and *Eucomis punctata*, and re-introduced *Elaeagnus angustifolius* var. *orientalis*, the Zinzeyd or Zungeed, whose fragrance has so intoxicating an effect that in the neighbourhood of Teheran men lock up their women when the tree is in bloom. (No particular result of the introduction was observed in England.) It would be interesting to know how Graefer obtained his Japanese plants, as the country was then entirely closed to Europeans, except for a very limited trading concession to the Dutch East India Company. The only channel would seem to have been through Thunberg, who left Japan in December 1776 and got back to Sweden in January 1779, having visited England on the way. Perhaps Graefer met him, since both were known to Sir Joseph Banks.

It was not only plants that Graefer introduced. In September 1785 William Aiton of Kew was looking for a gardener to send abroad as a plant-collector, and Graefer put him in touch with the Polish Anton Hove, who was subsequently employed, first on the African coast, and then in India. But again, nothing is known of Hove's antecedents, nor of how he and Graefer became acquainted.

In February of the same year the Queen of Naples and Sicily had asked the British Minister Plenipotentiary, Sir William Hamilton, to find her an English gardener. She wished to lay out a garden in the English style, in addition to the formal gardens that already surrounded the palace at Caserta. Sir William passed the request to his correspondent Sir Joseph Banks, and by August Banks had selected Graefer as a suitable candidate for the post. The appointment seems to have made some stir, for Gilbert White referred to it in his journal more than two years later:- "The Gardener of the King of the two Sicilies is a Scotchman /sic/ who went over two years ago; and had been partner, or assistant, to Mr. Gordon."

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Arrangements were made in September for a passage to Naples for Graefer, his three sons and a servant (no female is mentioned but they may have followed later: a wife and one daughter survived him), but these first bookings fell through, and eventually with much difficulty accommodation was found for them on a vessel bound for Leghorn. Here Graefer had to wait three weeks for a ship for Naples; he was accompanied on this part of the journey by Dr. John Sibthorp, on his way to the Greek islands, with his draughtsman Ferdinand Bauer. They were delayed for a long time by bad weather at the island of Ponza, and employed the time in making a thorough botanical survey of the island. The gardener eventually reached Naples on 18th April 1786. Less than three months later Sir William reported that "a beautiful plant called Emma has been transplanted from England" - Emma Hart, the protegee of his nephew Charles Greville, later to become Lady Hamilton. Another English visitor was Dr. (later Sir) J.E. Smith, who called at Naples in March 1787 in the course of a Continental Grand Tour. Graefer took him botanising and showed him Daphne collina (which he had previously found on Ponza) growing beside "shelvy Volturno" in such profusion as to resemble "the celebrated rose-gardens of Paestum". (Smith's description.)

Meantime, the new garden was making progress. A site of 50 acres had been purchased adjacent to the existing garden, and was to include a vegetable garden, a botanic garden and a bowling-green. Graefer soon had 80 men at work, besides many masons building the walls. But he was beset by difficulties. The Italian gardeners were intensely jealous, and so were the palace servants, who did all they could to blacken his character; he was overcharged for his lodgings, and monies due to him were not paid. Half-a-dozen times he would have given it all up and returned to England, if it had not been for Hamilton's backing and assistance. He was not helped by the character of his employers. King Ferdinand, (a Spanish Bourbon) was capricious, vindictive and tyrannical; he enjoyed riding on fairground roundabouts and consorting with the riff-raff of Naples. (Haydn wrote for him a Divertimento in C Major incorporating two hurdy-gurdies, the King being fond of these instruments.) He had married at seventeen Maria Carolina of Austria, sister of Marie Antoinette, who had a nature even more domineering than his own; Napoleon called her "the only man in Naples". So long as the new garden was Maria's plaything, the King disliked it; indeed, at one time he threatened to have it ploughed up and sown with corn. But after two years the Queen was obliged to give it up on account of the expense; Ferdinand then began to take an interest in it, and before long was walking with Graefer arm-in-arm. Graefer was given a pension by the Queen, and employed on advantageous terms by the King; a house was built for him in the grounds and he was sent all over the kingdom to collect plants - some of which he introduced to England. But in 1795 the royal favour was again withdrawn and for two years no supplies were forthcoming; Graefer was at his wits' end till the Queen came forward with a donation to keep the gardens going.

In spite of difficulties Graefer managed to create a garden which the critical J.C. Loudon many years later called "as perfect a specimen of the English pleasure-ground as we have seen on the Continent. The verdure of the turf is maintained by a partially-concealed system of irrigation, and parts of the walls were originally laid with Kensington gravel. Every exotic which could at the time be purchased at the Hammersmith nursery was planted, and many of them form now very fine specimens." (Neither Loudon, nor later William Robinson, had a good word to say for the earlier formal gardens, which seem to have been both pretentious and dull.) Several noblemen of the locality employed Graefer to lay out their grounds.

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In 1789 Graefer published (in England) a Descriptive Catalogue of upwards of eleven hundred species and varieties of Herbaceous and Perennial Plants etc., a manual which has been described as second in usefulness only to Miller's Dictionary. In the foreword he claims to have been "publicly celebrated in the annals of the Admiralty" for his "Invention of Prepared Vegetables". This refers to a patent which he took out in 1780 for "drying and preparing green and brown borecole, Scotch or other kale, so that it will retain for a year or a longer period its natural flavour as an excellent food, or its virtue as a preventative of scorbutic disorders". After scalding in salted water the plants were hung in a room heated by "a buzaglo or any other stove", but after being completely dried they were allowed to re-absorb sufficient humidity to prevent them from crumbling to pieces in packing.

After the Battle of the Nile on 1st August 1798, Admiral Nelson was at Naples as much, or rather more than, his duties would permit, first recuperating from a head-wound and then pursuing his affaire with the fascinating Emma. The French had already occupied Rome, and at the end of the year (Nelson being then at sea) they took Naples, and set up the short-lived Parthenopian Republic. The royal family took refuge in Sicily, but in the following July, largely through Nelson's help, Ferdinand was restored to his throne. He rewarded Nelson with the dukedom and estate of Bronte in Sicily, under the shadow of Mount Etna; and within a month the Admiral had brought Graefer and his family from Caserta to serve as steward on his new property. (One wonders whether Nelson, always solicitous for the health of his crews, knew about the "Invention of Prepared Vegetables".) Nelson was pleased with his title and thereafter signed himself "Nelson and Bronte"; his fame induced an eccentric clergyman of Irish descent called Prunty or Brunty to change the spelling of his name, which he handed on as "Bronte" to his talented daughters.

The estate was then in a derelict condition; its ancient fortress of Maniace was in ruins and the only habitable building of any size was a farmhouse called La Fragila. Nelson was anxious to improve the standards of agriculture and to demonstrate to the downtrodden peasantry the benefits of having an English landlord. He had great confidence in Graefer, whose "character for honesty /was/ unimpeachable and his abilities as an agriculturist undeniable", and authorised him to employ the first two years' revenues in fitting up a house and improving the estate. Graefer seems to have exceeded his instructions, for instead of putting the farmhouse in order, which was all that had been intended, he busied himself converting Maniace into a "perfect Palace", worthy of the residence of the glorious Duke of Bronte. Nelson received little financial return during his lifetime, and the estate only benefitted his heirs. Meantime Graefer died at Bronte on 7 August 1802, just over three years before the Admiral's death at Trafalgar.

J.C. Loudon gives a different, and apparently circumstantial, account of Graefer's death. He says that he remained at Caserta throughout the occupation of Naples by Napoleon's brother-in-law, Murat (1808-1815), and died, or "was, in part, murdered" in 1816, having been set upon and mortally stabbed by hostile peasants when stunned by an accidental fall from his gig. It seems certain, however, that the victim of this partial murder was another John Graefer, perhaps one of the gardener's three sons, as the evidence for the death of the original John in 1802 is irrefutable. It is pleasant to record that "one of the Graeffers" was still head-gardener at Caserta in 1835.

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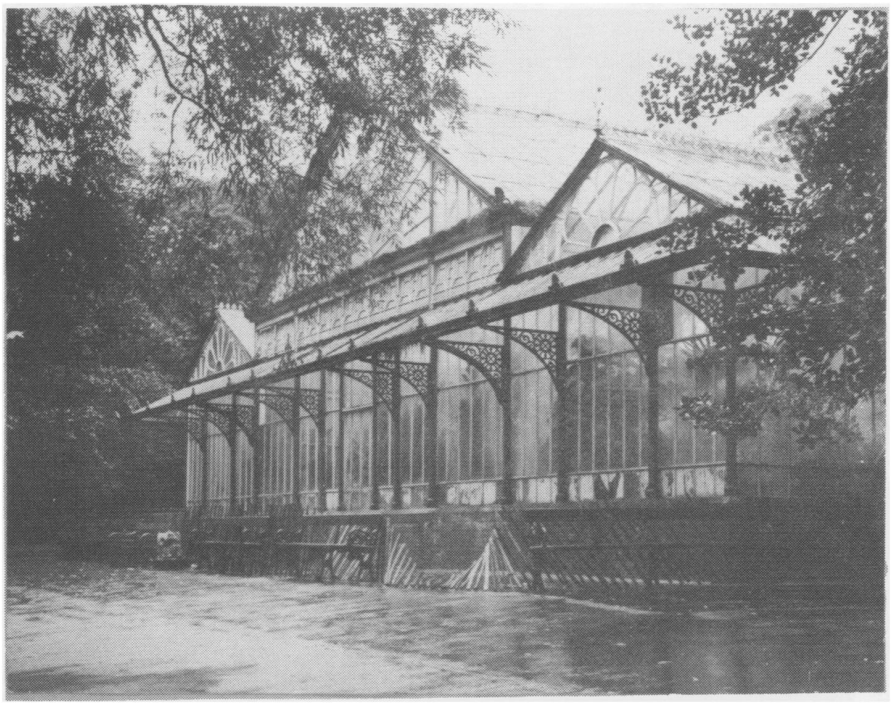

The Conservatory, Hesketh Park, before restoration in 1971. Some roof bearers and corbels were completely rusted through.

Hesketh Park, Southport, and its Conservatory, by John A. Harrison, F.I.B.D.

In Hesketh Park, Southport, we have what has been described by a leading member of the Victorian Society as "an outstanding important example of mid-victorian landscape design". I would like to think the hand of Paxton was responsible (as many authors and authorities do) but feel it was"the ghost" of Paxton through his former pupil Edward Kemp of Birkenhead, for Paxton had died in 1865 before Hesketh Park was completed in 1868. I have been back through all the old written minutes of the Council and can find no reference whatsoever to Paxton, although it has always been a local tradition that he was involved - rather like the tradition of Mary, Queen of Scots at Hardwick Hall. But alas! it just wasn't

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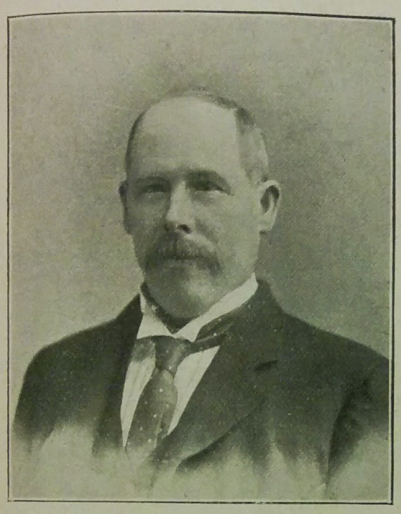
should be handled with caution, as they have many parasites.

Withered Apple Shoots.

June 27th.—The terminal shoots of the Apple sometimes die in a mysterious way. The leaves and the blossoms (if there are any on the shoot) expand as usual; they appear to be in perfect health; then, more or less suddenly, they begin to flag, and eventually wither and die. If one of these shoots be taken off and sliced up the centre, it will generally be found to be hollow, all the pith having been removed, and at the upper end of the tunnel will be seen a small grub or chrysalis. At the end of June, or early in July, it emerges as a moth—the pith moth—



MR. THOMAS GRANT.

so the examination should be made before that time. The moth is nearly black, but with paler hind-wings, and the fore-wings often barred with white. It is said to lay its eggs on the leaves: and the tiny grubs, when hatched, first feed on the leaves, but, afterwards, at the approach of winter, bore into the shoots, the holes which they make being so small that they can scarcely be detected. It is difficult to take any effective measures against these moths. Autumn spraying might be useful, and should be tried in any serious cases. For small bush trees which can be easily reached, the best remedy is to take off and burn the dead shoots before the moths emerge.

Thinning Out.

June 28th.—Of the many different tasks in the garden, I think thinning is the most laborious. It involves much stooping, it is exceedingly slow, and the result at first often seems utterly inadequate. Oh, yes, I know how your professional gardener does it. He gashes the crowded row with the hoe, drags out a handful of seedlings, leaving several more or less tattered, and many small weeds, makes another gash, and takes another handful, and so on, until he is at the end of the row almost before you have had time to gasp. But that method of thinning, speedy though it is, does not appeal to me. I like to select the best plants and to leave them intact, undisturbed, and free from weeds, each with sufficient space to allow them to grow for a time without coming in contact with its neighbours, but not so far away that an accident to any of them will cause a gap. Further thinning, when it becomes necessary, is easy; most of it can be done with the hoe. I quite admit the trouble of this method, but it secures the finest plants, and full rows, and that should surely be the aim of every gardener. But why should all this thinning be necessary? It seems impossible to get anyone to sow thinly enough. To mention only two ordinary crops, Lettuce and Spinach, the rows are generally a ludicrous sight when the young plants appear, all of them so densely packed together that they struggle upwards in a solid mass in their frantic efforts to get some air. They must be slaughtered by the hundred to give the survivors a chance. So we waste money on seeds in order to waste time and labour in pulling up the seedlings! A mad world, surely! But the correct method is hard to seek.

June 29th.—The temperate house at Kew Gardens is a delightful place in which to spend an hour at this season. Among the luxuriant growth there is plenty of shade, and the wonderful harmony of the plants gathered together is a fine object-lesson. Those who have eyes to see can learn much. H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of the Marquis of Exeter, at Burghley House, Stamford.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. THOMAS GRANT.

FEW mansions in England have historic associations as interesting and as romantic as Burghley House, by Stamford town, the Lincolnshire seat of the Marquis of Exeter, and few are surrounded by such a splendid park and such delightful and extensive gardens. When, with the courteous permission of Lord Exeter, I visited Burghley in the middle of May, I drove from the station to High Park gardens, where Mr. Thomas Grant, the head gardener, resides, and at his suggestion we spent the early portion of the day in the pleasure grounds, starting with the shrubbery, the old Rosery, and some houses which are used for storing bedding plants.

A New Double Lobelia.

In the houses I noticed a quantity of the new dark blue double Lobelia, and Mr. Grant said:

"I worked up the stock from eleven cuttings which I had last July. The name is Kathleen Mallard, and, if it will only mass in beds, it will be a great acquisition, owing to its colour. It is easy to cultivate, and will grow like Watercress. As you see it, in pots, it is certainly a success, and I think, if it beds as well, amateurs will appreciate it. The plants, of which I have about six thousand, began to flower in pots on April 1st."

"In the house where you have a number of Palms and plants for decorative purposes, I see that you have the new Bougainvilleas?"

"Yes, B. Cypherii and B. Maud Shettlebury. They have rather a rambling habit, an advantage in Bougainvilleas. The 'fancy' Pelargoniums for bedding are all grown in pots."

The old Rosery in front of these houses consists chiefly of standards, a pretty appearance being given by Violas planted among the Roses in the border. Wallflowers were, of course, beginning to wane, but a large bed at the side of the house must have contained a thousand plants.

"In the Orange court," said Mr. Grant, as we proceeded in the direction of the mansion, "we have for the first time been growing German Wallflowers, from seed sown last summer. They flower early, the scent is very fragrant, and the colours include a very fine dark blue, dark brown, light and dark yellow, and purple. Heuchera sanguinea is also grown here, and we use it for table decoration. The Wistaria on the Orangery flowers abundantly."

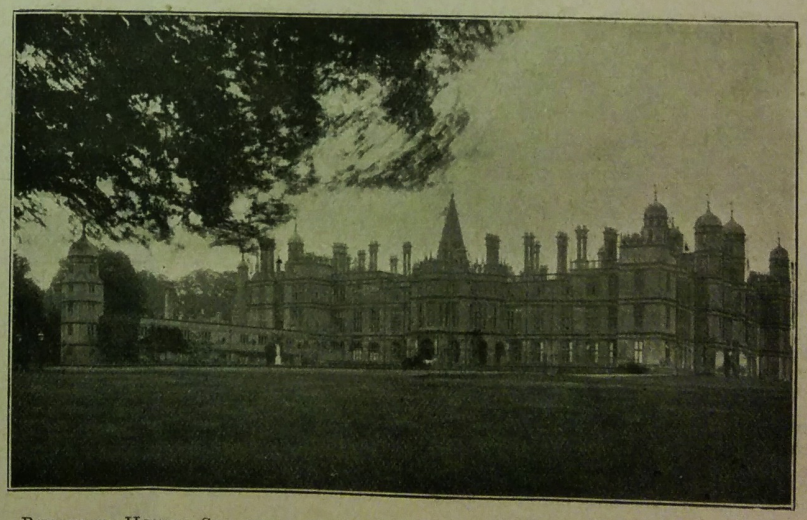
Spring and Summer Bedding.

"Your bedding for spring here has been chiefly Tulips, double Arabis, and Myosotis."

"Eight beds of Tulips, white and pink. But for summer these beds will be made up of Miss Willmott and Scarlet King Verbenas, Paul Crampel, Madame Crousse, and Souvenir de Charles Turner Geraniums, Lord Roberts Heliotrope, and some of the double Lobelias, with Violas under the Heliotropes."

"You do not seem to have much formal bedding?"

"No, there is very little. The new garden south of the mansion, which is called the Italian garden, contains, chiefly, Yews, and we bed out with plants. The vases are filled with Madame Crousse Geraniums, Abutilon Thompsonii, Fuchsias (Mrs. Martin), Phlox Drummondii, Ivy-leaf Geraniums (Duke of Edinburgh), the Castor-



BURGHLEY HOUSE, STAMFORD, THE SEAT OF THE MARQUIS OF EXETER.

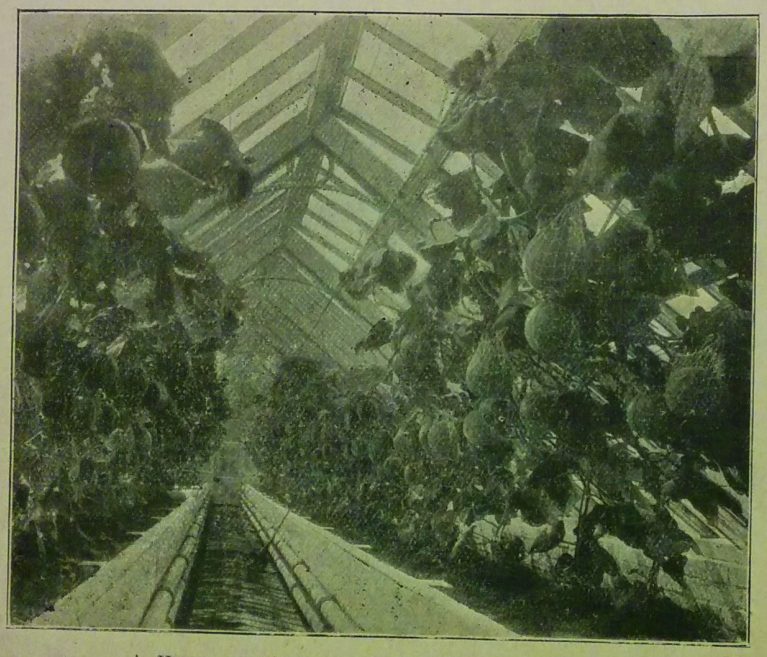
oil plant, and tall-growing Calceolarias. Near this garden are a number of trees planted by illustrious personages."

"Such as Queen Elizabeth?"

"Yes, she planted one when she came to Burghley. Also Queen Victoria, the Prince Consort, the Duke of Clarence, and Princess Henry of Battenburg, who planted a Cedar in January this year."

Passing up Beech Hill, where are clumps of flowering shrubs, with a border of Erica glauca, and Pæonies from Yokohama, planted out, we paused at "The Circle," a delightful spot, notable for the fine spreading Oaks, and adorned by beds of Azalea mollis and ponticum Rhododendrons. Here, too, Daffodils abound in spring, and a Crimson Rambler Rose climbing a post is an attraction. Next we arrived at the Old Temple garden, so-called because of the temple, which contains an interesting collection of models of animals and birds, the charm of the spot being enhanced by the lake in front, and some grand Cedars hard by. I asked the number of beds in this garden, and Mr. Grant, having counted them, replied:

"A hundred and fifty. There are three beds with Clematis Jackmanni in the centre, but practically all the bedding is made up of Violas, edged by Box. The varieties are Admiration, Mauve Queen, Sutton's Giant White, Purple Queen, Sutton's Giant Yellow, and Perfection. I am raising seedlings to flower in September, the month when they are most required. Now we are entering the new Rosery."



A House of Melons, at Burghley Gardens, Stamford.

The Rosery.

"When was it made?"

"Five years ago. The varieties on the pergola which runs all round are mixed, and include the best known, Clematis in variety being intertwined with the Roses. The beds include several devices, such as tents consisting of Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, and mixed Roses forming baskets. In several beds there are single varieties, Felicité Perpetué being one, Victor Hugo another, Papa Gontier a third, Caroline Testout a fourth, and so on. Longworth Rambler is growing up the stem of a Scotch Pine; Dorothy Perkins is intermixed with Paul's Single Crimson; and white Maman Cochet, with Longworth Rambler. The Wichurian Roses, Alberic Barbier and René Andre, do remarkably well."

"Your Rosery is all the more beautiful because it is so free from stiffness. Are there any Lilies in the lake?"

"At the neck, which we are just approaching, there are a few hybrids which sometimes flower at Whitsuntide when it falls late. There is a border of German Iris all round; as we divide the bulbs we plant them by the water side."

"Have you a name for the nook beyond?"

"I have lately made a wild garden there, first sowing clover and grass seed, and then putting in plants to flower in the autumn. These are in masses, thus, the red Spiræa palmata, white Lilium candidum, and blue Delphiniums. Then, there are clumps of Rudbeckia Newmanii, with Sunflowers at the back; Antirrhinums in variety; Montbretias, with Lavender; Anchusa italica; Polygonum Baldschuanicum; Lonicera japonica growing on an old Pear-tree and on poles; the dwarf Phlox, and a bed of Tree Lupins."

"You have also long herbaceous borders of considerable width?"

"Yes, and these were first planted with spring flowers, including a number of Crown Imperials. The herbaceous varieties include Delphiniums, blue and white Campanula, Phlox Sylphide, and clumps of English Iris. In one of the borders we have the new Sweet Pea, Lord Anson, a little single flower, and in others there are batches of annuals, chosen for colour. To vary the appearance, there are four Crimson Rambler Roses climbing up poles, and Thyme is growing round the sundial. Nothing is cut in this part of the garden; Lady Exeter likes the flowers to die naturally."

Yet another feature of the pleasure grounds is the cascade, made, so far as the water is concerned, by a flow from the lake. Above this are flowers and Ferns, the former including Alpine Phlox, Myosotis, with Virginian Creeper hanging over the wall; and below are Gunnera, Saxifrages, Sedums, Spiræas, Arenarias, and Alyssums, the banks being planted with Roses.

"Another recent addition," continued Mr. Grant, as we ascended the heights, "has been effected by the conversion of Bunker's Hill Nursery—where we grew young stuff—into a flowering shrub garden."

"There are also flower beds."

"The old scarlet Tom Thumb Geranium is bedded out right along the side of the lake, where there is also a row of flowering Japanese Cherries; on the hill are beds of Staphylea, with white and blue Achilleas underneath; Tritomas and Hyacinthus candicans, red and white, with a Weeping Willow in the centre; a large new Rose bed, with the China Rose (Cramoisie Superieure) outside, and La France, Queen Mab, Gruss an Teplitz, and Madame Eugene Resal inside. These were only planted in March."

"And the flowering shrubs?"

"The principal of these are Berberis Darwinii, Cytisus pallidus, Genista Andreana, Deutzia Lemoinei, Golden Elder, Guelder Roses, Althæa frutex, Weigelas, and variegated Hibiscus. The shrubs are chiefly autumn flowering."

A Great Collection of Peaches.

The High Park gardens are quite a mile from Burghley House, and are on a very extensive scale. Here, as I soon perceived, are ranges of glass, containing fruit and flowers in great variety, and a great quantity of vegetables.

"I may explain," said Mr. Grant, as we commenced our inspection of the domains which adjoin his pleasant residence, "that, in addition to supplying the mansion with all the fruit and vegetables required, we cater for private people in different parts of the country (to whom we send hampers), Covent Garden Market; and shops in Stamford, Birmingham, Leicester, and Sheffield."

"Which do you consider the most important fruit?"

"Peaches, of which we send a good quantity to Covent Garden. Outside we grow, for fruiting in September and October, Alexandra, Barrington, Crimson Galande, Duchess of Cornwall, Duchess of York, Duke of York, Late Devonian, Libra, Princess of Wales, Sea Eagle, Violette Hative, Late Admirable, Dymond, Thomas Rivers, Goshawk, and Noblesse. The inside Peaches are Bellegarde, Crimson Galande, Dymond, Early Grosse Mignonne, Hale's Early, Peregrine, Rivers' Early York, Sea Eagle, Stirling Castle, and Waterloo."

"And Nectarines?"

"We cannot ripen them outside, because the earwigs attack them in autumn. The varieties inside are Cardinal, Dryden, Early Rivers, Humboldt, Lord Napier, and Pineapple. Lord Napier does particularly well. Peaches are grown on south and west walls. For indoor cultivation I use a good deal of manure, tread it down, and water it in. Some of the trees on which you see fruit ripening were only planted early in 1906."

"What is the variety grown sideways on double trellis?"

"Stirling Castle, now in the third season, and they do well. In this house are some Cardinal Nectarines and Peregrine Peaches in pots. By the way, we use one wall for maiden Peach trees, and transfer them as they are wanted."

The Apple Crop.

"Next to Peaches, I conclude you rate Apples most highly?"

"Apples are grown in all sorts of ways. Some, as you see, are grown on one of the pieces outside the garden walls. The kitchen garden itself covers twelve acres, and the outside pieces about six. Potatoes (Snowdrops) are planted underneath the Apple trees, and the soil suits them. There are also on the outside pieces thirty-six standard Damsons. The outside portion of the kitchen garden is entirely devoted to fruit and vegetables. With regard to Apples, we have plantations of young trees, and, if the old ones do not bear, we cut them down."

"I should like the names of some of your best dessert kinds."

"Allington Pippin, Barnack Beauty, Beauty of Bath, Blenheim Orange, Calville Rouge Precoce, Charles Ross, Cox's Orange Pippin,

American Mother, Ribston Pippin, Rival, Sturmer Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, Wykin, Cox's Pomona, Duchess of Gloucester, Duke of Devonshire, Fearn's Pippin, James Grieve, Lady Sudeley, Lane's Prince Albert, and Lord Burghley."

"And kitchen varieties?"

"The best of these include Annie Elizabeth, Red Astrachan, Red Baumann, Beauty of Kent, Bismarck, Bramley Seedling, Chelmsford Wonder, Lord Derby, Lord Grosvenor, Lord Suffield, Mére de Menage, Newton Wonder, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Stirling Castle, Warner's King, Wellington, Bowhill Pippin, Normanton Wonder, Ecklinville Seedling, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Golden Noble, and Hambling's."

Cherries and Plums.

"After Apples," continued Mr. Grant, "we place Morella Cherries, of which we grow a very large number on north walls, making from ninepence to a shilling per pound. Plums are grown on the walls, and on standards, the principle being to have a large number of good, well-tested varieties, and a small number of new and untried ones. The varieties include Belle de Louvaine, Early Transparent Gage, Oullin's Golden, and Count d'Athems. The only variety of Apricot we grow is Moor Park, and the crop is better than usual."

"Pears, I conclude, are a great feature?"

"They are grown on the walls, espalier-trained, fan-trained, and horizontally trained."

"A selection of varieties would be interesting."

"We find that Bergamotte d'Esperen, Beurré d'Amanlis, Beurré Bosc, Beurré Clairgeau, Beurré Easter, Beurré Rance, Beurré Superfin, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Catillac, Clapp's Favourite, Comte de Lamy, Conference, Conseilleur de la Cour, Doyenné du Comice, Durondeau, Emile d'Heyst, Fertility, Fondante d'Automne, Fondante de Thirriot, Glou Morceau, Josephine de Malines, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Winter Nelis, Pitmaston Duchess, Souvenir du Congres, Thompson's, Triomphe de Vienne, Marguerite Marillat, Marie Benoist, Marie Louise, and Olivier de Serres do specially well."

The System With Strawberries.

"Do you go in for a great number of varieties of Strawberries?"

"No; the two chief varieties are Royal Sovereign and Waterloo. In order to obtain a good plantation, Strawberries require to be layered in pots. I have proved this by comparison. The Strawberry bed on the south border is seventy-five yards long. When we gather the last crop, we dig up at once, and plant the bed with Cauliflowers. There is, by the way, a ready sale for Strawberries in the shops at Stamford. We only force about five hundred Royal Sovereign."

"What about bush fruit?"

"Currants have been grown largely on the walls, but we are cutting down to make room for Morella Cherries, because the Currants only make three-halfpence a pound, whereas Morella Cherries make a shilling. The best dessert Gooseberry is Whinham's Industry, but we also grow the Century Gooseberries, including Jumbo, Improved, Transparent, Ringer, London, Bumper, Wonderful, Antagonist, Lion, Macaronia, Garibaldi, Bobbie, Rover, Leveller, Doctor Woolley, Stockwell, Ploughboy, and Lord Derby."

Melons and Grapes.

"Then there is the other fruit in the houses?"

"You mean the Melons and Grapes? Melons are an important feature. The earliest is Lord Derby, and we also grow Sutton's Windsor Castle, and Royal Jubilee. We save our own seed. I have three seedlings of my own which have never been put on the market. One cross is between Bolton Beauty (green flesh) and Lord Derby (scarlet flesh). Last September some of the fruit of these were six pounds in weight. They were sown on the slate system."

"Is that your method of growing Melons?"

"Yes; we plant them in a turf eighteen inches square on a slate, which stops the root action. As soon as the fruit is set, we let the roots ramble. This always enables us to secure a crop. I have had Melons (Sutton's No. 1) in this house seven and a quarter pounds in weight. With regard to Grapes, we grow white varieties for use, and sell all the blacks. Muscats are grown on the extension system, with a soft-water tank the whole length of the house. In another Vinery, Hamburghs are just colouring. In one Muscat house, Figs are grown on the wall and in pots; the variety is White Ischia."

"There remain Tomatoes and Cucumbers?"

"We are trying a new system with Cucumbers, and planting one crop over the other. This is to meet the very great demand, which often exceeds more than twenty dozen a day. The principal variety is Edney's Telegraph. We also grow Carter's Idol. As to Tomatoes, Bytham's Seedling, which was raised at Bytham's Nurseries, is grown in the centre of one house, with Cannell's King on one side, and Sutton's A1 on the other. In the second house we grow Tuckswood Favourite, which has a very good flavour, and yields from four to six to the pound. We gathered three tons of Tomatoes out of the two houses last year."

The Principal Vegetables.

"What are your leading vegetables outside?"

"Peas, I suppose, take the first place, the earliest variety being Sutton's King of the Earlies. I grow them from my own seed, and gather in May. These are under a Peach wall. A large border of early Peas consists of Sutton's Excelsior, William I. Improved, and High Park Prolific, which was raised here. For mid season I like Duke of Albany and Becket. The late variety is Ne Plus Ultra."

"You seem to have a large batch of Spinach?"

"Yes, and we find it a very profitable crop. As you may notice, it is grown under a Plum wall, and is looking remarkably healthy. The variety is Sutton's Victoria. We have six rows of Scarlet Runners (Sutton's A 1), and I make a point of having the land well trenched for them. The same variety is grown up poles under glass. Large quantities of Lettuce are grown for succession, the varieties being Paris Cos and Covent Garden. Then we have beds of Broccoli, Gilbert's Late Queen (which is one of the sweetest, and was raised here); Savoys, and Chou de Burghley."

Carnations and Chrysanthemums.

"With respect to plants grown in your houses, I gather that Carnations rank about first?"

"Tree Carnations in particular are a great feature, but we cut Carnations of one kind or another every day in the year. After the trees have finished flowering in the house, they are planted in the beds, where they keep on flowering until frost comes. The varieties include Duchess of Portland (which is a great favourite, and a remarkably good bloomer), Enchantress (American), Lord Charles Beresford, Mrs. T. W. Lawson, White Lawson, and Queen Caroline. We grow about a thousand, and sell nearly all of them. Of Border Carnations, we grow about two hundred, chiefly Princess of Wales. Cyclamen pay very well, the demand for cut flowers being considerable. We grow about three hundred. Another plant that we grow largely for sale is the Poinsettia. We send a quantity of these to Leicester. Caladiums and Crotons also sell well."

"Do you go in largely for Chrysanthemums?"

"Yes; as to varieties, Niveus is one of the best white of the bush section, Lincoln of the yellow, and Mrs. Thompson of the late. We grow three or four varieties of the single section, including Gold Thread, Miss Linda Sewell, and Ladysmith."

"Have you many varieties of Sweet Peas?"

"A considerable number, of which the best are Agnes, Prince Edward of York, Blushing Beauty, Jeanie Cuthbertson, Evelyn Byatt, Black Michael, David R. Williamson, Marchioness of Cholmondeley, King Edward VII., Queen Alexandra, Countess Spencer, and Flora Norton. The Sweet Peas are grown both in rows and clumps. I manure them at the bottom, stake them open, and mulch them on the top."

How to Obtain Long-stemmed Tulips.

"Are there any other plants you would like to mention?"

"We grow about seven hundred Begonias, Gloire de Lorraine (some of which are in baskets a yard across), a considerable quantity of Lilium longifolium, a fair number of Tracheliums (which are quite easy to cultivate, and will grow on the outside walls of the greenhouse in winter), and Calycanthus, the white, pink, and scarlet varieties. This is the first season we have grown Calycanthus, but they are very useful for house decoration. I am also just trying Rehmannia angulata. It is quite an Orchid-like, pink flower, and is treated in the same way as herbaceous Calceolarias. It does not like heat. Perhaps you may like to add that we usually put through in the year ten thousand Lilies of the Valley and fifty thousand Tulips. I grow the Tulips under the stages in dry leaves, kept dark, for the purpose of securing long stems for market. They are then brought up to the light, and we find them very popular."

"How long have you been at Burghley House, Mr. Grant?"

"I entered Lord Exeter's service on January 21st, 1903. I was foreman in the gardens at Sandbeck, for four years, under Mr. George Summers, and then went as head gardener to Lord Galway at Serlby Hall, Bawtry, Yorkshire, staying there nine years. The only showing which we have done so far has been in the shape of honorary exhibits at local shows."

Alfred Wilcox.

Zephyr Flowers.

A BED of Zephyranthes is a pretty one, but it is advisable to leave space between each group of bulbs for the introduction of other bulbs and bedding plants, to give bloom at various seasons. For example, between each set of four Zephyranthes a Tulip may be introduced later. When the Tulips have flowered, there may be white Begonias to fill their places.

The following are the best sorts of Zephyranthes, all of which blossom from August to October:—Z. candida, pure white, eight inches tall; Z. atamasco, white, very fine, with effective golden stamens, nine inches; Z. verecunda, blush-tinted white, six inches; Z. carinata, pale rose, eight inches; Z. habranthus, golden-brown, six inches. They should be planted any time in August or September, being set three inches deep, and rather more one from the other. A light, dryish soil is necessary, a position in full sunshine, and then a winter mulch of cinder ashes will ensure their safety. Once got into the ground, they give no trouble, for they can be left undisturbed several years before they begin to yield the poor blossoms that show the necessity of bulb division and replanting.

Upon rockeries they are also exceedingly attractive; perhaps the dainty grace of the pale blooms is best observed when they rise from between the rugged stones.

Lovers of this poetically-named Flower of the West Wind frequently cultivate it in pots, in a compost of two parts loam to one of peat and one of leaf-mould, with plenty of silver sand. In pots the bulbs should be only two inches deep, and one is sufficient for a 5-in. size. An admirable subject, this, for adorning the unheated greenhouse.

Enthusiast.

OBITUARY.

CHARLES GREEN.

MANY will learn with regret of the death of Mr. Charles Green, which occurred recently at his residence at Reigate. Few men of the present day possessed such an extensive knowledge of plants as Charles Green, and his love for all kinds of plants, especially those out of the ordinary run, was only equalled by his skill in growing them. For upwards of thirty years Mr. Green has been known in connection with garden botany. He was first gardener to the late Mr. Borrer, at Henfield, a prominent botanist at that time, whose garden contained one of the finest collections of plants, particularly of hardy perennials, then existent. Subsequently, Mr. Green had the charge of that famous garden at Hillfield, Reigate, in which the late Mr. Wilson Saunders had perhaps the most extensive botanical collection that has yet been seen in a private garden. Until within the last few years Mr. Green had charge of Sir George Macleay's garden at Pendell Court, Bletchingley, which also contains one of the richest private collections of plants in Europe. Unassuming in his manner, ever ready to impart information about plants, he won respect from everyone. His death is a real loss to horticulture, for it may truly be said that he was the means of preserving many a plant that would have been cast aside in accordance with the vagaries of fashion, and of rescuing other fine plants from the oblivion into which they had fallen. The records of the Royal Horticultural Society contain evidence of this, for many are the plants which Mr. Green used to bring to the meetings from Hillfield and Pendell Court.

The late Mr. Charles Green.—I am grieved to see a notice in THE GARDEN of the death of my old friend and most serviceable helper in many ways in my garden, Mr. Charles Green. All who read them will endorse the remarks made concerning him. But there is one thing which might be a little more noticed. Of all plant growers that I have ever known, Green seemed to me to individualise and love his flowers with an affection I have never seen equalled. As a proof of this I may mention that he gave to me as the reason of relinquishing his nursery at Reigate (he had this between his engagement with Mr. Wilson Saunders and Sir George Macleay) that he could not bear to part with the plants he had been tending for years. I remember his saying that to me in quite a broken-hearted sort of way, and as a nurseryman's business consists in passing things rapidly through his hands, Green soon had enough of it, and he was much more happy at Pendell Court. How successfully he managed that most splendid collection not a few can remember, but I put together these few remarks to emphasise the fact that he loved his flowers as most men love their own children.—H. E.

who died 13 March 1883 at Cullingworth was granted at **Wakefield** to the said Thomas Green of Cullingworth Retired Farmer.

GREEN Caroline.

Personal Estate £1,046 15s. 6d.

19 September. The Will of Caroline Green late of 104 - King Edward's - road Birmingham in the County of **Warwick** Widow who died 25 August 1887 at 104 King-Edward's-road was proved at **Birmingham** by William Hughes Marklew of 145 Sand-Pitts Birmingham Modeller the Nephew the sole Executor.

GREEN Catherine.

Personal Estate £20.

13 April. Administration of the Personal Estate of Catherine Green (Wife of Joseph Green) late of 147 Angelina - street Highgate Birmingham in the County of **Warwick** who died 17 March 1887 at Back of 147 Angelina-street was granted at **Birmingham** to the said Joseph Green of Back of 147 Angelina - street Bedstead Fitter.

GREEN Catherine.

Personal Estate £139 10s.

25 August. Administration of the Personal Estate of Catherine Green late of St. Helens in the County of **Lancaster** Widow who died 29 June 1887 at St. Helens was granted at **Liverpool** to James Molyneux of Widnes in the said County Blacksmith the Nephew and one of the Next of Kin.

GREEN Catherine.

Personal Estate £1,391 8s. 8d.

31 December. The Will of Catherine Green late of Penrith in the County of **Cumberland** Widow who died 22 December 1887 at Penrith was proved at **Carlisle** by William Clemment Porter of Penrith Gentleman and George Bell of Yew Tree House Lower Peaver Knutsford in the County of Chester Brewer the Executors.

GREEN Charles.

Personal Estate £431 7s.

28 January. The Will of Charles Green formerly of Pendell Court Bletchingley but late of 37 Holmesdale-road Reigate both in the County of **Surrey** Gardener who died 11 November 1886 at 37 Holmesdale-road was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Emily Green of 37 Holmesdale-road Spinster and William Martin of Blackstone Woodmancote in the County of Sussex Florist the Executors.

GREEN Charles Frederick.

Personal Estate £20,442 9s. 3d.

2 May. The Will of Charles Frederick Green late of Green Bank House Harrow-on-the-Hill in the County of **Middlesex** Gentleman who died 18 March 1887 at Green Bank House was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Martha Davis Green of Green Bank House Widow the Relict the sole Fxecutrix.

THOMPSON formerly **GREEN** } **Charlotte.**

See "**THOMPSON.**"

GREEN Charlotte Fisher.

Personal Estate £2,346 10s.

1 June. The Will of Charlotte Fisher Green late of Gravesend in the County of **Kent** Widow who died 11 May 1887 at Guy's Hospital in the County of Surrey was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Charles Fisher of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Sandwich in the County of Kent Hospitalian the Uncle and John Culverhouse Cottew of High-street Sandwich Gentleman the Executors.

May. In addition to the Mangold, an allowance of 5 lbs. of long Hay is given, which is considered to be better than chaffed Hay, as when the latter is used the cows are apt to eat it up too quickly, which from a digestive point of view is not an advantage. In all cases roots should be given *after* milking, to prevent any risk of taint in the milk, the Hay or cake being given before milking. Some give Oat straw in the place of Hay, but I doubt if that compares with good quality meadow Hay, which for cows is superior to field Hay, Sainfoin, Clover or Rye grass. *E. Molyneux.*

MARKETS.

COVENT GARDEN, April 10.

Plants in Pots, &c.: Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d.		s. d.
All 48's, per doz.	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d
Aralias	7 0- 8 0	Cyclamens	21 0-24 0
Araucaria excelsa	7 0- 8 0	Cinerarias	10 0-12 0
Asparagus plumosus	10 0-12 0	Erica persoluta ...	36 0-42 0
— Sprengeri ...	9 0-10 0	— Wilmoreana ...	30 0-36 0
Aspidistra, green...	36 0-42 0	Genistas	18 0-24 0
Boronia megastigma	18 0-24 0	Margnerites, white	9 0-10 0
		Mignonette ...	12 0-15 0

REMARKS.—Trade is very quiet in this department, but some very fine specimen Hydrangeas, Azalea mollis, and Rhododendrons are being offered.

Ferns and Palms: Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d.		s. d.
	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Adiantum cuneatum, 48's, per doz.	9 0-10 0	Nephrolepis, in variety, 48's ...	12 0-18 0
— elegans ..	9 0-10 0	— 32's	24 0-36 0
Asplenium, 48's, per doz.	9 0-12 0	Pteris, in variety, 48's	8 0-12 0
— 32's	21 0-24 0	— large 60's ...	4 0- 5 0
— nidus, 48's ...	10 0-12 0	— small 60's ...	3 0- 3 6
Cyrtomium, 48's ...	8 0-10 0	— 72's, per tray of 15's	2 0- 2 6

Cut Flowers, &c.: Average Wholesale Prices

	s. d.		s. d.
	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Anemone fulgens per doz. bun...	4 0- 5 0	Lily-of-the-Valley, per doz. bun ...	30 0-36 0
Arums—		Narcissus, ornatus, per doz. bun.	3 0- 4 0
— (Richardias), per doz. bl'ms.	4 0- 6 0	Orchids, per doz:—	
Azalea, white, per doz. bunches ..	5 0- 6 0	— Cattleyas ...	18 0 —
Camellias, white, per. doz. ...	2 6- 3 0	Pelargoniums, double scarlet, per doz. bunches...	12 0-18 0
Carnations, per doz.		Roses, per doz. blooms—	
— blooms, best American var.	2 6- 4 0	— Frau Karl Druschki ...	3 0- 5 0
Croton leaves, per bun.	1 3- 1 6	— General Jacqueminot ...	2 0- 2 6
Daffodils (single), per doz. bun.—		— Joseph Lowe ...	4 0- 5 0
— Barrii	2 6- 3 0	— Lady Hillingdon	2 6- 3 0
— Emperor ...	3 0- 4 0	— Ladylove ...	4 0- 6 0
— Sir Watkin ...	3 0- 4 0	— Liberty ...	3 0- 5 0
— Victoria ...	3 6- 5 0	— Madame Abel Chatenay ...	3 0- 6 0
Eucharis, per doz. blooms	3 0- 4 0	— Niphetos ...	2 6- 3 0
Gardenias, per box (12's)	6 0- 8 0	— Richmond	3 0- 5 0
— (18's)	3 0- 4 0	— Sunburst ...	4 0- 6 0
Heather, white, per doz. bun....	9 0-12 0	Sweet Peas, various, per doz. bun ...	9 0-12 0
Lilium longiflorum, long	4 6- 5 0	Tulips, per doz. blooms—	
— — rubrum, per doz. long ...	4 6- 5 0	— Darwin, various	2 0- 3 0
— — short, per doz blooms ...	2 6- 3 0	— Single, white ..	2 0- 3 0
		— — Yellow ...	2 0- 2 6
		— — Pink ...	2 6- 3 0
		— — Red... ..	1 6- 2 0
		Violets, per doz. bun.	3 0- 4 0

French Flowers: Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d.		s. d
	s. d. s d		s. d s d.
Allium, per pad ...	8 0-10 0	Ranunculus, carmine, per doz. bun. ...	6 0- 8 0
Anemones, double pink, per doz. bun.	2 6- 3 0	— scarlet... ...	15 0-18 0
— single, mixed ..	5 0- 6 0	Stocks, white, per pad	9 0-12 0
Mimosa (Acacia), per basket ...	5 0- 7 0	Violets, Parma, per bun.	4 0- 5 0

Cut Foliage, &c.: Average Wholesale Prices.

	s d.		s. d.
	s d. s.d.		s.d. s.d.
Adiantum (Maidenhair Fern) best, per doz. bun...	8 0-10 0	Berberis, per doz. bun.	6 0- 8 0
Asparagus plumosus, long trails, per half-dozen	2 6- 3 0	Carnation foliage, doz. bunches...	4 0- 5 0
— — medium, doz. bunches	18 0-21 0	Cycas leaves, per doz.	3 0- 6 0
— Sprengeri ...	10 0-15 0	Ivy leaves, per doz. bunches... ...	2 0- 2 6
		Moss, gross bun...	7 0- 8 0
		Smilax, per bun. of 6 trails	2 0- 2 6

REMARKS.—The prices of cut flowers generally, with the exception of certain white blooms such as Azaleas and Pelargoniums, which are required for making up designs, are lower. The small consignments of French flowers are very uncertain and irregular. The majority are unsaleable when they arrive, as they are too long on the journey. It is reported that the import of these flowers may be stopped altogether for the remainder of the season, owing to transport difficulties. Large consignments from the Channel Islands are also arriving this week in an unsaleable condition, caused by the delay in transit. Hundreds of boxes have to be thrown away, and many more scarcely repay the carriage. There is an abundant supply of Roses. Sweet Peas, both white and coloured, are being offered. There is only a limited supply of Lily-of-the-Valley, of medium quality.

Fruit: Average Wholesale Prices.

	s.d.		s.d.
	s.d. s.d.		s.d. s.d.
Apples :—		Grapes, con —	
— English, per bus.	30 0-45 0	— Gros Colman, per lb. ..	10 0-12 0
— Russets, French, in cases of about 60 to 70 lbs. ...	50 0-60 0	— Black Hamburgh, per lb ..	6 0-10 0
Dates, per box ..	1 7- 1 8	Lemons, per case...	40 0- 48 0
Grapes :—		Oranges, per case	100 0-135 0
— Almeria, per barrel (3½ doz. lbs.)	55 0-70 0	Strawberries, forced per lb.	10 0-18 0
		Walnuts, kiln dried, per cwt. ...	54 0-105 0

Vegetables: Average Wholesale Prices.

	s.d.		s. d.
	s.d. s.d.		s. d. s.d.
Artichoke, Chinese (Stachy) per lb.	1 3- 1 6	Mushrooms, per lb.	2 6- 3 0
— Jerusalem, per ½ bushel ...	1 6 —	Mustard and Cress, per doz. punnets	1 6 —
Asparagus (English), per bundle ...	6 0-10 0	Onions, French, per cwt.	24 0-26 0
— Lauris	3 6- 6 6	— spring, per doz. bun.	2 0- 6 0
— National, per bundle	16 0-20 0	— Valencia, per case (4 tiers) ...	34 0 —
— (Paris Green), per bundle ...	2 6- 3 6	— — (5 tiers) ...	35 0-37 0
Beans :—		Parsley, per strike ..	2 0- 2 6
— Broad, per pad	6 0- 7 0	Parsnips, per bag ..	4 0- 5 0
— French (Channel Islands), per lb.	2 6- 3 0	Peas, per lb. ..	2 6- 3 0
Beetroot, per cwt.	5 0- 6 0	Potatos, new, per lb.	0 7- 0 9
Carrots, new, per doz. bunches ...	3 0- 4 0	Radishes, per doz. bunches ...	1 6- 3 0
— per bag ...	5 0- 6 0	Rhubarb, forced, per doz.	1 6- 2 0
Cauliflowers, per doz	2 6- 4 0	— natural, per doz.	3 0- 4 0
Celeriac, per doz....	7 0- 8 0	Savoys, per tally ...	10 0 —
Celery, per bundle	1 6- 4 0	Seakale, per punnet	1 6- 2 0
Cucumbers, per doz.	7 6-12 0	Shallots, per lb.	0 9- 1 0
Endive, per doz ...	3 6- 4 6	Spinach, per bus....	2 6- 4 0
Garlic, per lb. ...	0 8 —	Swedes, per bag ...	2 0- 3 0
Greens, per bag ..	2 0- 3 0	Tomatos, per lb. ...	5 0- 6 0
Herbs, per doz bun.	2 0- 4 0	Turnips, per bag ...	3 6- 8 0
Horseradish, per bun.	3 6- 5 0	— new, per bunch	2 6 —
Leeks, per doz. bun.	6 0- 8 0	Turnip tops, per bag (72 lbs.)	2 0- 3 0
Lettuce, Cabbage, per doz. ..	2 0- 3 0	Vegetable Marrows, per doz.	10 0-15 0
Mint, forced, per doz. bun. ...	4 0- 6 0	Watercress per doz.	0 8- 0 10

REMARKS.—English Apples continue available, but supplies are limited. As regards English Grapes a few bunches of Gros Colman are still available. There are also a few new Black Grapes on offer. Stocks of Almeria Grapes are shortening. Forced Strawberries are available in limited quantities. The following forced vegetables are on offer:—Asparagus (English and Continental), Cucumbers, Mushrooms, Peas, Beans (Broad and Dwarf), New Potatos, Tomatos, Seakale, Vegetable Marrows, Mint, and Radishes. Spring Cabbages are on offer, and there are also some good Cauliflowers and Broccoli. *E. H. R., Covent Garden Market, April 10, 1918.*

Obituary.

G. H. Green.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. G. H. Green, of Enville Hall Gardens, Stourbridge; he died after a very short illness, at the ripe age of 80. Deceased went to Enville from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, in 1861, as foreman of the conservatory,, which is one of the finest in England, under the late Mr. Edward Bennett, and ultimately succeeded him as head gardener, a position he worthily filled for the long period of 45 years. On the death of the Countess of Stamford some 13 years ago, Mr. Green retired from active service, and was permitted to continue to reside in the gardener's house. The glass-houses at Enville contained fine collections of Orchids, stove and greenhouse plants, whilst many houses were devoted to the cultivation of fruits. Mr. Green also grew splendid crops of high-class vegetables. He leaves a widow, five sons, and two daughters. The eldest son is in Canada; another son was for many years manager of Messrs. W. Bull and Sons' seed establishment.

Andrew Robeson Sargent. We regret to learn from the *Boston Transcript*, U.S.A., of the death of Andrew Robeson Sargent, son of Professor Charles S. Sargent, of the Arnold Arboretum. The late Mr. Sargent was a landscape architect, and had been associated with his father in many of his activities as a naturalist, and was also associated with his brother-in-law, Major Guy Lowell, an architect who attained distinction by his plans for the Boston Art Museum and other important buildings in various parts of the United States. In 1909 the late Mr. Sargent made a journey through Russia, Korea, Java, and other European and Asiatic countries for the purpose of collecting plants.

THE WEATHER.

THE WEATHER IN SCOTLAND

The weather during March was mild, somewhat dull and dry. With 16 days of precipitation and 10 rain days there was a total fall of 1.08 inch, the wettest day being the 30th, with 0.38 inch. There were 10 sunless days in the month; the 22nd was a brilliant day, yielding 9.2 hours of sunshine; the total for the month was 76.5 hours, an average of 2.5 hours per day and a percentage of 21. The barometric pressure, with a mean of 30.1 inches, varied between a highest of 30.47 inches on the 6th and a lowest of 29.15 inches on the 31st. For the month the mean temperature was 41° the mean maximum being 47.5° and the mean minimum 34.5°, giving a mean range of 13°. On the 24th we had the highest maximum of 60° and on the 1st the lowest minimum of 28°; the lowest maximum of 38° was on the 3rd and 8th, and the highest minimum of 43° on the 21st. On 6 days the temperature fell below 32°. On the grass the mean minimum was 30°, with a lowest of 22° on the 3rd and 13th; there were 16 nights of ground frost. At 1 foot deep the soil temperature fluctuated between 39° and 43°, standing at 42° at the end of the month. The prevailing winds were easterly and westerly. *James Malloch, St. Andrews Provincial Training College Gardens, Kirkton of Mains, near Dundee.*

GARDENING APPOINTMENT.

Mr. C. J. Cradwick, for the past six years Gardener to Col. F. C. Grant, Sherborne House, Sherborne, Dorsetshire, as Gardener to Col. Barham, Hole Park, Rolvenden, Kent.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Bees for Examination: *Api.* There is no evidence of disease, either in the comb or bees sent. It would appear from your letter that the colony was a weak one. In the comb you submit for examination the brood is perfectly normal, but the presence of much mould seems to point to a leaky roof, and, as you suggest in your query, the stock has not probably been wrapped up warmly enough to maintain the requisite heat of the cluster. The variety is the ordinary English bee.

Names of Plants: *East Berks.* Norway Maple (Acer platanoides). — *Delta.* Ranunculus Ficaria (Lesser Celandine).

Nerines: *E. R.* Keep the bulbs dry until the beginning of July. They should be firmly rooted in the pots, but as you say your bulbs move easily from the top of the soil re-pot them in July and start them into growth. The Nerine flowers in the autumn, the leaves and flower coming up the same time.

Sugar Beet: *E. L.* No doubt Sugar Beet will be more largely grown this season than in the past, now that its merits as pig food are more widely known. Boiled and mixed with meal the roots form an excellent food for pigs after weaning. They may also be given uncooked to sows in reasonable quantities and to fattening beasts. As food for poultry Sugar Beet is useful when cooked and mixed with meal. The cultivation of the plant is quite simple; it may be grown like garden Beet, except that more space is required, as the foliage is vigorous. The white variety is the more commonly grown.

Vinery with Eight Vines: *H. P.* You will probably find that although your outside border is walled in, the roots have gone through the wall and extended to the soil beyond. This being so, and the walled-in part being not less than 5 feet wide, it would be advisable at the end of August to cut a trench and sever any roots which may have extended beyond the boundary. Meanwhile, apply superphosphate, 6 lbs., and sulphate of ammonia, 1 lb. to the perch, with a good sprinkling of wood ash or burnt vegetable refuse to the surface, forking the materials not more than one or two inches below the surface. The application of sulphate may be repeated in six weeks' time. If the summer and the position of the border are hot, apply a light mulching of stable manure in June. A dressing of slaked lime, one peck to the perch, applied in late autumn, would probably be beneficial, but must not be applied at the same time as nitrogenous manure. Blood makes a good manure, but it is offensive in use, and it takes a considerable time to come into action. The best way to employ it is to mix it with soil, where it will decompose and be useful for applying to the Vine border in winter or early spring.

Communications Received.—J. F.—J. Bates—Dr. D.—A. H.—J. H.—C. D.—A. J. W.—E. B.—J. W.—J. J.—Pomona—R. E.—F. O. L.—J. P.—B. of A.

GC 1888

Obituary.

JOHN GREENSHIELDS.—Three years ago we recorded in this paper the retirement from active duty of Mr. John Greenshields, Lord Ducie's gardener at Sarsden, Oxon, after a service of a little over fifty years. We have now to record his death, which took place at Sarsden Gardens, on Saturday, May 12. He was in the eighty-sixth year of his age. He was appointed head gardener at Sarsden in 1834, succeeding Mr. Pugh, who then retired on a pension. These two held, in immediate succession, this appointment for 109 years. Is there another such record? Mr. Greenshields enjoyed fairly good health till two months ago. He was fond of reading, and he gave the years of his retirement wholly to this, and he could read without spectacles. He was a man held greatly in honour by those whom he served, and by all who knew him. He was a Lanarkshire man, but left his native vale of Clyde so long ago as 1827.

GREENLAND Elizabeth.

Personal Estate £156 2s. 6d.

18 October. The Will of Elizabeth Greenland formerly of 14 Hatfield - buildings Widcombe Hill Bath in the County of Somerset but late of 20 St. Paul's-street New-North-road Islington in the County of **Middlesex** Widow who died 23 July 1888 at 20 St. Paul's-street was proved at the **Principal Registry** by William John Greenland of 20 St. Paul's-street Carpenter the Son the sole Executor.

GREENLEAF James.

Personal Estate £142 4s. 11d.

12 March. Administration of the Personal Estate of James Greenleaf late of Fingringhoe in the County of **Essex** Labourer a Widower who died 23 February 1888 at Fingringhoe was granted at **Ipswich** to William Greenleaf of 87 Cash-buildings Dunstan-place Brook-street Ratcliffe in the County of Middlesex Labourer the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

GREENLEES James Watson.

2 November. The Confirmation of the Commissariot of **Argyle** dated 27 October 1888 of Alexander Lang Distiller and Wine Merchant Glasgow William Alexander Robertson Wine and Spirit Broker Glasgow and James Sloss Somerville Woolbroker there as Executors Nominate of James Watson Greenlees Distiller in Campbeltown who died at Seafield Campbeltown 29 August 1888. Sealed.

GREENNER Robert Thomas.

Personal Estate £603 10s. 11d.

12 July. Administration of the Personal Estate of Robert Thomas Greenner late of 115 Lewisham-High-road and of High - street both in Deptford in the County of **Kent** Greengrocer who died 3 June 1888 at 115 Lewisham-High-road was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Mary Elizabeth Greenner of 115 Lewisham-High-road Widow the Relict.

GREENSHIELD Elizabeth.

Personal Estate £14 3s. 6d.

27 October. Administration of the Personal Estate of Elizabeth Greenshield late of 107 High - street Newport in the Isle of Wight in the County of **Southampton** Widow who died 2 February 1878 at 107 High-street was granted at **Winchester** to Helen Scott (Wife of John William Scott) of 6 St. John's-terrace Newport the Daughter and one of the Next of Kin.

GREENSHIELDS or GORDON Elizabeth.

16 April. The Confirmation of the Commissariot of **Ayrshire** dated 29 March 1888 of William Muir of 103 Raploch-street Larkhall and Isabella Muir or Houston Dressmaker of 197 Pitt-street Glasgow Widow as Executors Dative quâ Next of Kin of Elizabeth Greenshields or Gordon of Cross House Muirkirk Widow who died at Muirkirk 5 October 1887. Sealed.

GREENSHIELDS John.

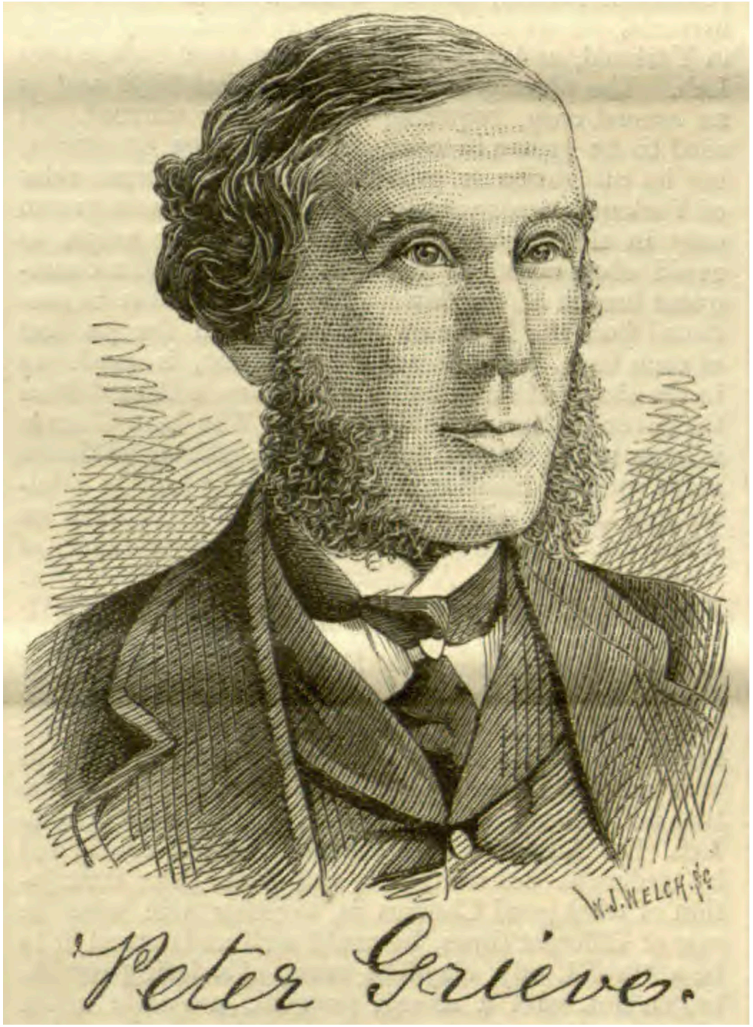
Personal Estate £101 5s. 9d.

28 June. The Will of John Greenshields late of Sarsden in the County of **Oxford** Gardener who died 12 May 1888 at Sarsden was proved at **Oxford** by James Greenshields of Chadlington in the said County Registrar of Births and Deaths the Son one of the Executors.

GREENSILL Charles.

Personal Estate £921 1s. 1d.

21 June. Administration of the Personal Estate of Charles Greensill late of Beacon View Washwood - Heath-road Saltley in the Parish of Aston near Birmingham in the County of **Warwick** Manufacturer's Manager a



Peter Grieve

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1875 n.s. 4

While the cultivation of the Pelargonium continues the name of Peter Grieve will be a household word amongst gardeners and those interested in gardening, for to him we owe those beautiful coloured-leaved sorts, of which Mrs. Pollock is the type, and which have for some years attracted so much notice, either as greenhouse or bedding plants.

Mr. Grieve was born in December, 1812, at Allanton, a village on the eastern borders of Scotland, situated at the confluence of the White Adder and the Black Adder, two of the lower tributaries of the river Tweed. He received his earliest instructions in gardening in the gardens of Black Adder House, then the seat of Thomas Boswell, Esq., under his father, who was for many years head gardener there. Employment was subsequently procured for him in the then, as now, extensive nursery establishment of the Messrs. Dicksons & Co., of Edinburgh, where he remained for upwards of a year, and was afterwards for nearly a year in the gardens of Dalhousie Castle, the seat of the Earl of Dalhousie. From that place he went as foreman to Mr. Thomas Bruce, in the gardens of Castle Craig, in Peeblesshire, the residence of Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael, Bart, where he remained one year and left, on being promised admittance into the Royal Botanic Gardens at Edinburgh. He was employed in the various departments of that establishment, for nearly three years under Mr. William M'Nab, father of the pre- sent curator; and left to take the situation of foreman to Mr. Barron, at Elvaston Castle, near Derby, the well known seat of the Earl of Harrington.

"After being there two years," he writes, "I accepted the situation of gardener to J. G. D. Butler Danvers, Esq., afterwards Earl of Lanesborough, at his English seat of Swithland Hall, near Leicester, and remained there nearly seven years. Early in the year 1847 I engaged with my present respected employer, the Rev. E. R Benyon, of Culford Hall, near Bury St. Edmunds.

I have for a long time taken great interest in the improvement of the various races of cultivated fruits, vegetables, and flowers; and with this object in view I have conducted many experiments — many of which have not been rewarded with the desired results, although in some few instances this has been the case. Notably I may mention the production of Petunias bearing double flowers. The first step, however, in this direction was made on the Continent, where M. Schmitt, of Lyons, in France, introduced a semi-double white variety of little merit which was named Imperialis. This, with dark-flowered single sorts, I used as parents, and the result in this instance was beyond my expectation. Two of my earliest seedlings, named General Havelock and Antigone, were figured in the first volume of the Illustrated Bouquet, by the Messrs. Henderson, of St. John's Wood; and as large, well-formed double flowers they have scarcely been surpassed by any subsequent variety.

I was also successful in originating the now well-known and extensive family of ornamental-foliaged plants known as the Golden Tricolor, or Variegated Zonal Pelargonium. For some time much interest was taken in these plants by horticulturists and, I may say, by the public in general; and on my exhibiting a small collection of them at South Kensington in May, 1867, the Royal Horticultural Society awarded me the Silver Flora Medal for the production of them. During the same year, when the Society held its first provincial show at Bury St. Edmunds, the county cup, as it was called, was offered for the best twelve seedlings of these plants. This offer brought to the show several collections, many raisers being by this time in the field, and I was fortunate enough to gain the much-coveted cup.

Some few years after this several admirers of these plants in London and elsewhere thought proper to offer money prizes for the best essays on their production and cultivation, and regarding these plants, as I did, with something of paternal feeling, I of course felt in duty bound, as it were, to enter the lists. Some seven or more essays were

sent in, and were read at South Kensington, and I was the fortunate winner of the first prize.

I have never, as it has happened, been placed in a position to exhibit horticultural productions to any extent, The only evidence, therefore, of my success, or otherwise, as a cultivator has been furnished by the gardens which I have to some extent remodelled, and which I have managed to the best of my ability," — we may also add, most successfully, as will be in the recollection of the numerous horticulturists who visited Culford Hall Gardens at the time of the Royal Horticultural Society's provincial show at Bury St. Edmunds.

are rather provoking as well as dangerous. Should they continue to flower as late, or even later, the very tantalising name of Hybrid Perpetual will lose all the little meaning it now has, and autumnal Rose gradually revert to the Chinas and the Teas. Nor will the loss of the autumnal Rose harvest be the only one; the later the first flowering of Roses, there will be the less chance of the wood being ripened in the autumn; and it is this greenness of the wood, as well as the severity of the weather, that leads to the wholesale destruction of Rose trees in winter and spring. D. T. FISH.

Mulching Roses.—I lately observed very fine Roses on their own roots and others grown as standards, at Mr. Riall's of Heywood, and some other Rose gardens near this town; and invariably the largest, finest, and most perfect flowers, were seen where the custom of mulching was resorted to. Evidently many of the misshapen, incomplete, or unsatisfactory blooms, so often complained of, is due to semi-parching of the young surface rootlets at this time of the year. A mulching of short stable manure I noticed as giving satisfactory results in winter, and if the same thing were employed in summer, an excellent custom to retain its usefulness, prevent ammoniacal evaporation, and to take away the objectionable sight and scent would be to empty the short grass from the lawn mower over it, or any other equivalent.—W. J. M, *Clonmeli*.

The Rose Garden of Oakwood.—Such is the title of a catalogue printed by a gentleman of Cincinnati for private circulation among his friends. It contains a list of Roses grown in this gentleman's garden, classified with much care, and the list is an extensive one, embracing select French and English varieties. We should like to see some of our wealthy amateurs do something of this sort, Rose gardens being truly delightful.—*Californian Horticulturist*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Strawberry Runners.—*H. H.*—In order to obtain good plants, peg down those runners which have plump crowns and plenty of healthy foliage. They are best pegged into 3-in. pots, filled with good soil. When you have chosen what runners you require, the others may be cut off; also all runners proceeding from those pegged into the pots.—S.

Vegetables on Peat Land.—I have some peat land that I am getting into cultivation. It has been trenched 2 ft. deep and the surface burnt. What vegetables may I grow on it? and what would be the best manure for such land?—D. J. T. [If you manure it heavily with good rotten farmyard manure now, well incorporating it with the soil, you might next year be able to grow Potatoes, Lettuces, French Beans, and Scarlet Runners, Beetroot, and even Carrots, but you cannot hope to grow well such crops as Broccoli, Cabbage, &c., that require stiff land, until you can give the ground a good dressing of clay, marl, or stiff loam.—H.]

Striking Rose Cuttings.—*P. T.*—August is the best time to take cuttings, which should consist of shoots of the current year's wood with a heel attached to them. Plant them firmly in sandy soil in a shady situation.—P.

Sweet Williams.—*W. S.*—Seed of these may be sown now in rather rich soil in a shady part of the garden. When large enough, put out the plants where they are to bloom. Select Hunt's strain.—D.

Cucumbers Failing.—*Amateur.*—Cucumbers that have been fruiting in a frame since April last probably need a little renovating. Give them a top-dressing of good rich soil, pick off all blossoms and fruit, and stop the shoots. Remove all weakly growths and peg the strong ones down. If there is any green fly on them, fumigate with tobacco for several evenings in succession. Keep a moist temperature, and doubtless the plants will recover their strength.—H.

Pyrus japonica.—What is the proper management of this on a wall? It covers a space of about 3 yds. and makes long shoots every year. I cut it in very close last autumn, and it has scarcely flowered this year. It is again covered with young wood about 1½ ft. to 2 ft. in length.—W. D. [Let it remain as it is, only nailing in the leading shoots.—M.]

Diseased Grapes.—*Elm.*—They seem scalded, which they are very liable to be at this season when one day is all cloud, and the next all sunshine. Shade them slightly with thin canvas, and give air early in the morning.—E. H.

Propagating Laurels and Laurustinus.—*C. J. F.*—Take cuttings of the current year's growth in September or October, and plant them in firm sandy soil, or they will strike in spring when growth is about to commence. If taken off with a heel, *i.e.*, with a piece of the old wood attached, the cuttings are more likely to strike.—S.

Calceolarias from Cuttings.—*B.*—If you allude to the herbaceous kinds, do not attempt to propagate them from cuttings. Sow some seed now, placing it in a cold frame. Prick out the seedlings when large enough to handle, eventually transfer them to small pots, shifting them on as may be necessary. The bedding kinds are propagated in October.—B.

Names of Plants.—*S. W. C.*—Alstrœmeria aurantiaca.——*B. G. (Hemel Hempstead).*—Alstrœmeria aurantiaca.——*M.*—The plant sent as Arctium edule is A. majus.——*P.*—1, Habrothamnus fasciculatus; 2, Cestrum aurantiacum; 3, Solanum jasminoides.——*Amateur.*—We cannot name varieties of Gloxinias, and those you send are scarcely worth naming.——*S. T.*—1, Campanula turbinata; 2, C. carpatica; 3, C. sarmatica; 4, C. gummifera; 5, C. cæspitosa; 6, white-flowered form of the last.——*D. C.*—Adiantum pedatum (a hardy North American Maiden-hair Fern).——*Derby.*—Tacsonia exoniensis.——*A. D.*—Pentstemon secundiflorus; others next week.

Questions.

Quercus densiflora.—Can any of your readers tell me whether or not Quercus densiflora from California has been introduced into this country? and if so, whether or not it has proved hardy? It has leaves some 8 in. in length and nearly 4 in. in width. I got some Acorns last year and sowed them on their arrival, but the severe winter was too much for them. On examination, I found that they had all rotted.—J. T. M.

Evening Fete at South Kensington.—This, which took place on Wednesday evening last, was in every way a success, being favoured with fine weather and a large concourse of visitors. The corridors on either side of the conservatory were filled by effective groups of plants very tastefully arranged, though there was no competition. The bulk of the exhibits came from the Society's garden at Chiswick, and included a fine collection of tuberous Begonias, also Palms, Ferns, and other fine-foliaged plants, interspersed with Pelargoniums, Gloxinias, and many similar subjects. Captain Patton, Abbey Road, contributed an extensive collection, which occupied nearly the whole of one corridor. The most noteworthy features in it were some fine Coleuses, which under artificial light were remarkably effective. One named Allan Chandler was especially conspicuous on account of its bold habit and richly coloured foliage. Various kinds of Lilies, Palms, Ferns, &c., were included in this attractive group. From the gardens at Gunnersbury House, Acton, Mr. Hudson likewise sent fine examples of Crotons, Palms, and Ferns, arranged in a most effective manner. The contributions from nurserymen included a choice group of Orchids, Pitcher Plants, Palms, Ferns, Crotons, Dracænas, &c., from Mr. B. S. Williams, Victoria Nurseries, Upper Holloway, and a group of similar extent came from the General Horticultural Company, which Mr. Wills arranged in his usual effective style. It consisted chiefly of Dracænas, which are such a speciality at the Anerley Nurseries, intermixed with Gloxinias, Ferns, and Palms, and other fine-foliaged and flowering plants. From the Fulham Nurseries Messrs. Osborn sent a good collection of fine-foliaged plants, and by the side of them was a similar one from Mr. Aldous', South Kensington. A pretty arrangement for a balcony garden was exhibited by Messrs. Dick Radcliffe and Co., High Holborn, which was greatly admired. This occasion afforded an opportunity for displaying elaborate glass and china ware, which was more remarkable than the floral decoration of the tables on which it was arranged. An excellent exhibit, however, in the way of table floral decoration was contributed by Mrs. Hudson, Gunnersbury House, Acton, which was highly effective. The flowers were appropriately selected, and their arrangement as regards form and colour left nothing to be desired. A collection of nearly 200 trusses of Verbenas, representing the leading varieties, was contributed by Mr. Cannell, The Nurseries, Swanley, which added considerably to the attractions of the floral display. It may be added that the lighting by thousands of coloured lamps, as well as that effected by gas and electricity, was carried out in a highly satisfactory manner. The electric lights were on Messrs. Siemen's principle, and were remarkably brilliant and steady.

Resignation of Mr. Peter Grieve, of Culford.—After a residence of almost thirty years with the Rev. R. Benyon, of Culford Hall, Bury St. Edmunds, Mr. Peter Grieve has retired, carrying with him the esteem and high regards of all who know him, from his employer downwards. We hope that horticulture will not yet lose his eminent services, but that through his pen he may yet continue to teach the lessons he has so long and so successfully practised. His name will be for ever associated with the Golden Tricolors that he did so much to enrich and improve, and his memory will be cherished as a noble specimen of the true practical gardener, a race that may be said to have made British horticulture what it is. We hear he is likely to settle in East Anglia, and that his resignation has been accepted by Mr. Benyon in the kindest manner, and with many expressions of regret. We can only wish him much happiness in his semi-retirement and a long continuance of his green old age.

OBITUARY.

John W. Harden.—We learn by an obituary notice in the proceedings of the American Philosophical Society that this well known mining engineer was born at Leicester, in England, and died in Philadelphia November 8, 1879. He was educated as a gardener, and the laying out of the gardens of Captain Cust at Wormleyhury, and of Sir Ralph Howard, both near London, was the work of his hands. He settled in America in 1865, taking charge of the Plymouth Coal Company's works in Luzerne County.—*Gardeners' Monthly*.

which had been sent there direct from Italy. They consiated chiefly of white and striped Camellias, Neapolitan Violets, common Ageratum, Skimmia japonica berries, and one or two other kinds of berriea which we did not recognise. These bouquets were Mushroom-shaped, and, being about 2 ft. across, it must have required skilful manipulation to adjust the flowers, as those of each kind were arranged so as to form a portion of a geometrical design, which, though it had a formal appearance, was novel and attractive. Each bouquet was surrounded by a row of leaves of the Loquat (Eriobotrya japonica), twigs of Conifers, and other evergreen shrubs. The floral display altogether at this establishment has been lately remarkably fine and very extensive. The windows are adorned with a great variety of plants, including choice Orchids, and arranged very tastefully. The interior of the building is also very attractive, particularly the rockeries and groups of plants. The various kinds of fruits and flowers, artificial as well as natural, combine to render this establishment a very attractive one to lovers of both flowers and fruits.

White-flowered Eranthemum (E. albiflorum).—If this plant, which we saw the other day in flower at Kew, were grown in a similar manner to the more popular blue-flowered kind, it would probably prove a useful plant, as it continues a long time in flower. The Kew specimen is about 15 in. high, and has large leaves of a deep green hue, which form a fine contrast to the large, branching clusters of pure white flowers which terminate the branches. Though small, the blossoms are produced in great numbers, a circumstance which amply compensates for their small size. It is a free growing plant, and one which will doubtless some day be generally cultivated.

Flowering Agaves at Kew.—Among the most attractive plants now in flower in the Palm house at Kew are two huge specimens of about equal size of Agave attenuata var. glaucescens, which for some weeks past have been developing fine flower-stems. They are thick and woody, about 6 ft. in height, and are terminated by a head of fleshy leaves of a bluish-grey tint. The flower-stems arise from the centre of the crowns to a height of about 9 ft., and are gracefully arching. The flowers, which are of a yellowish-green colour, are disposed thickly in a bottle-brush-like manner over the whole length of the stem, and the long protruding stamens, tipped with yellow anthers, relieve, as it were, their otherwise rope-like appearance. A fine specimen also of the rare A. Hookeri is in flower, but it is not nearly so attractive as the preceding, which are indeed among the noblest of the American Aloes.

Presentation to Mr. Peter Grieve.—We recently announced the retirement of Mr. Grieve from the post which he has so long held as gardener at Culford Hall, and stated that it was proposed by his friends to present him with some tangible mark of the esteem in which he is held in the neighbourhood in which he has resided for nearly four and thirty years. Though no special efforts were made to swell the subscription list, the proposal was heartily received, and the willing contributions of upwards of seventy subscribers placed the committee in a position to provide a really handsome testimonial, consisting of a valuable gold hunting lever watch and a drawing-room timepiece with a pair of candelabra *en suite*, together with a very chaste silver cake basket for Mrs. Grieve. The watch bore the following inscription on its inner case: "Presented to Mr. Peter Grieve, by a number of his friends, as a token of their regard, on the occasion of his leaving Culford. August, 1880." We may add that Mr. and Mrs. Grieve have also received other testimonials from the householders of Culford, and from the gardeners who have worked under him in the Hall gardens.

White Czar Violet.—I noticed a bed of this Violet in Messrs. Lee & Sons' Feltham Nursery in full bloom this day (Dec. 29). In growth and flower it very much resembles the Czar, but differs from that well-known Violet in the colour of the flowers, which are pure white. As most of the single white Violets are such bad growers, we look upon this as a good addition to our collection. It is not a new variety, but seems little known. When better known no doubt it will be cultivated largely, as white flowers are much in demand in the London and other markets at Christmas.—D. T.

WE have to record the death of Mr. Parsons, long gardener at Danesbury, near Welwyn. Mr. Parsons was a member of the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, a judge at the Regent's Park shows, and otherwise well known to a wide circle of horticulturists. He died on Christmas Day.

M. JEAN SISLEY, of Lyons, informs us that a Mons. Dumesnil, of Rouen, is growing plants to a large extent without soil.

MESSRS. VEITCH announce a "Manual of the Coniferæ," with numerous woodcuts. It is certain to be of much interest to all who study these plants. It will be ready in March.

THE FRUIT GARDEN.

OUTDOOR GRAPES.

"PEREGRINE" says, "that it is a fact beyond all cavil that Grapes can be ripened on walls out of doors in the south of England, and even in the midland counties." Yes; I have seen as good Grapes on the walls of buildings in the midland counties as I have seen in Surrey; in fact, the best Grapes I ever saw on walls were ripened on a farmhouse in the midland counties. All the back part of the house (a high two-storied one) was covered with the Vines, which had been looked after properly, the growth of some fine young canes having been encouraged. I have seen many a worse lot of Hamburghs in Vineries than the black Grapes were; they were well coloured and well ripened, and there was a good crop. The roots ran under the pebble causeway next to the house, and out under the farmyard adjoining, which was surrounded by farm buildings. It was just one of those warm sheltered cosy sort of places where one would expect under proper treatment to see good results, and there are hundreds of such places with bare walls which might be covered with beautiful foliage and fair fruit if proper advantage were taken of them. "It is simply," as "Peregrine" says, "a question of trying." Horticultural societies should encourage the growth of outdoor Grapes; and it might be a step in the right direction if, say half-a-dozen gardeners could be got to give their experience of Grape cultivation out of doors in each of the southern and midland counties. I feel certain from my own experience that hundreds of tons of good Grapes might be obtained in most seasons if advantage were taken of positions favourable to their growth.

Thirteen years ago I planted four Vines on the south front of the house in which I live. I made no border for them, but simply dug out a hole for each, and put in a barrowful or two of the top spit taken off a common (a healthy one), and mixed a little half-rotten stable manure with it. The natural soil in front of the house is a very poor sandy loam that will grow forest trees and Coniferæ pretty well if trenched, but not vegetables without very heavy dressings of manure. Gravel covers this poor soil quite 12 ft. out from the house, then turf. This has remained undisturbed ever since they were planted with the exception of opening the ground alongside of the turf to put in a drain a few years ago. Now for results. The Vines are the ordinary White Sweetwater. They were strong plants which had been grown out of doors in a nursery (not in pots). After planting they grew away well, for I did not stint them in the way of water the first year or two either at top or bottom. They made good strong canes, which I was careful not to overcrop for the first three or four years. The first account I have of the produce is that of 1874, when I gathered about a hundredweight of good well-ripened Grapes. Some of the bunches weighed a pound and a quarter each, and a gentleman who has travelled on the Continent told me that they were quite as good as the ordinary Grapes grown there. I had good heavy crops every year till 1879, when, owing to the very bad season, they did not ripen, nor did the wood ripen properly, and for the first time since planting mildew made its appearance. This I killed by dusting with 2 lb. of sulphur, distributed by that excellent French invention *Boite à Houppe*. This year, owing to the severe check which they had experienced, there was very little fruit, and that did not ripen properly. Mildew again made its appearance, but not so bad as the year before. The Vines made very fair growth, and have ripened their wood pretty well, so that with a return of good sunny seasons I hope again to have good results, though I do not expect to have such heavy bunches as when the Vines were younger. I intend taking off the gravel and putting some better soil underneath, and I have no doubt that they will pay well for the trouble. R. LLOYD.

Brookwood.

—— In a field on the east side of the river Lark, opposite the Botanic Gardens in Bury St. Edmunds, is a portion of land still known as the "Vine fields," and here may still be traced the terraces or raised beds in which the Vines are said to have been grown by the monks of the abbey of St. Edmund's Bury. From the produce of those Vines the monks of this establishment are said to have manufactured excellent wine; and if this be so, it is only fair to infer that the Grapes used for this purpose must have attained a considerable degree of ripening. Some have, therefore, been inclined to think that a change for the worse must have taken place in the character of the seasons; but, what is more probable, the palate of the

The Garden, 1895

OBITUARY.

MR. PETER GRIEVE.

I AM sorry to record the death of this well-known gardener on Thursday, September 26, at the age of 83. For several years Mr. Grieve had been known to suffer from heart disease. Fond as he was, when well, of sending notes to the gardening papers, he had almost left them off of late in deference to his health. His love of gardening continued as strong as ever till the last, and few have been able to accomplish more for the cause than Mr. Grieve. It has been my privilege to live near him and work with him in many things horticultural for nearly fifty years, and during that long period I always found him a firm friend. As a cultivator, a propagator, and landscape gardener, Mr. Grieve displayed great ability and taste. Culford Gardens, which he formed and superintended for nearly thirty-five years, were, and are, his highest testimonial. The noble Yew hedges that enclose the quarters of the kitchen garden, which he planned and planted, show the regularity and boldness of his designs. The flower garden and other flower beds and borders were models of form and colour for years. The tricolor, bicolor, and bronze Pelargoniums raised by him, and which were all the rage for years, were assuredly beautiful and popular in their time. Even so-called anti-colouriets will admit that something was gained by taking the glare of Pelargoniums out of their flowers and painting it on their leaves. All this, and much more, Mr. Grieve did for the tricolor Pelargoniums. But the man was better than his work. A more genial friend and kinder neighbour none could desire. His widow survives him. His only daughter, Lucy Grieve, who raised the Pear bearing her name, died some years ago.

D. T. FISH.

ONIONS AT BANBURY.

September 19.—The annual Onion Show, established by the late Mr. Henry Deverill a few years ago, took place as usual in the Seed Establishment, Cornhill, Banbury, on the above date, the whole of the shop and one of the warehouses being filled with exhibits. Despite what many regard as an untoward season, Onions have finished in fine condition, as was evidenced by the splendid samples exhibited on this occasion, there being a very keen competition in several of the classes.

The Champion prize for the six largest and handsomest specimens of any one of Deverill's Pedigree Onions, was won by Mr. J. Bowerman, gr. to T. Hoare, Esq., Hackwood Park, Basingstoke, who had six of Ailsa Craig, weighing 17½ lb., all very finely finished, handsome, plump, and solid. The largest of the six weighed 3 lb. 1 oz., and when lifted from the open ground, 3 lb. 6 oz.

The next class was for twelve specimens of either one of the following varieties—Ailsa Craig, Advancer, Cocoa Nut, and the original Excelsior. There were several competitors, and all four prizes went to Ailsa Craig, which is the largest Onion in cultivation; Mr. Bowerman again taking the 1st prize with twelve, weighing 30½ lb.; Mr. Nicholls, the Gardens, Nuneham Park, Oxford, winning 2nd, with 26¾ lb.; Mr. N. Kneller, the Gardens, Malshanger Park, Basingstoke, 3rd, with 23½ lb. With twelve specimens of the flat type, viz., Rousham Park Hero, Anglo-Spanish, The Lord Keeper, or Royal Jubilee, Mr. N. Kneller came in 1st with twelve very finely-finished examples of Anglo-Spanish, weighing 21½ lb.; Mr. R. Lye, the Gardens, Sydmonton Court, Newbury, taking the 2nd; and Mr. C. J. Waite, the Gardens, Glenhurst, Esher, the 3rd, both showing Anglo-Spanish, in each case the dozen bulbs weighed 19 lb., Mr. Lye's were better finished.

With twelve examples of the Improved Wroxton, said to be one of the best keeping Onions in cultivation, Mr. R. Lye came 1st with 12 lb. weight, all true to type; Mr. Haines, The Gardens, Coleshill, Shrivenham, was 2nd, with 11 lb.

In the class for twenty Onions of any variety, offered by Henry Deverill, Mr. Kneller, Basingstoke, was 1st with Ailsa Craig, weighing 33 lb.; and two other prizes were awarded to this variety.

The next class was for twelve Onions of any variety, grown in Scotland and the Northern Counties; Mr. C. J. Fisher, York, came 1st with capital bulbs of Royal Jubilee; Mr. Miller, Stockton-on-Tees, 2nd, with Anglo-Spanish; and Mr. G. Coles, Lancaster 3rd, with Royal Jubilee.

Valuable prizes were also offered for eight dishes of vegetables in the main varieties distributed by Mr. Henry Deverill; the 1st was won by Mr. R. Lye with a superb collection; Mr. C. J. Waite being a close 2nd. There was also an excellent competition in the class for eight dishes of vegetables, shown by cottagers and allotment holders, and a number of capital collections were staged.

This exhibition is very popular in Banbury, the town having long been famous for its Onions; and free admission is permitted to anyone desirous of witnessing it.

GRAND YORKSHIRE GALA.

September 24.—A meeting of the guarantors and life members in connection with the Grand Yorkshire Gala was held on the above date, at "Harker's Hotel." Alderman Sir Joseph Terry, J.P. presided.

The balance-sheet submitted showed a profit of £413 7*s.* 4*d.* on the year, compared with £348 3*s.* 4*d.*, on the gala of 1894. It was recommended that grants amounting to £300 should be made, and they were apportioned as follows:—County Hospital, £50; Dispensary, £50; Blue and Grey Coat Schools, £40; Boys' Industrial School, £10; Girls' Industrial School, £10; Bootham Asylum, £21; Home for Friendless Girls, £10; Home for Nurses, £15; Blind School, £5 5*s.*; Soldiers' Institute, £5; Penitentiary, £10; Yorkshire Society's School, £16 5*s.*; St. Stephen's Orphanage, £10; Charity Organisation, £10; Association for the Care of Young Girls, £10; Hungate Mission, £5; Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul (Crèche), £5; Gratuities, £7 10*s.* It was decided to invest £100 of the £222 at present in the bank, and a suggestion was made that the remainder, or a part of it, might be devoted to the improvement of the fixtures.

Obituary.

Peter Grieve.—By the sudden death of Mr. Peter Grieve on the early morning of September 26, 1895, the borough of Bury St. Edmunds has lost a useful citizen, and horticulturists a warm-hearted comrade and a distinguished practitioner. Though suffering for some years from heart disease, the deceased, with his usual pluck and perseverance, has attended to his customary duties as a member of the Burial Board, a regular attendant at the reading-room, &c. One of his last acts was the sending of a testimonial to Mr. Barron, the receipt for which was his first letter received after his death this morning. Knowing him so well as I have done for nearly fifty years, I believe he would hardly have had this otherwise. Mr. Grieve was 83, and will be buried with his only daughter, Lucy Grieve (her Pear is fruiting well this year, close to her dead father in Bury), at Culford, close to his life-work. Mrs. Grieve, who is well known and gratefully remembered by so many gardeners for her hospitality, survives her husband, and will have the warm sympathy of many readers of this notice. The funeral took place in the churchyard at Culford on Tuesday, October 1.

I should like to say something—much, in fact—of the worth and work of my friend of nearly fifty years; but his loss is too recent, and too great. Located near him, associated with him in every possible way in horticultural matters for so long a period, his sudden removal leaves a vacant place which is hardly likely to be filled. I loved him as a friend, a companion, a neighbour; a brother of the pen, the knife, and spade; and never found him wanting in any good work, or kind word or deed. As to his great doings as a cultivator in all departments—are they not to be read in all the back records of Culford Gardens for years, and in many a back number of the *Gardeners' Chronicle?* His solid soundness as a juror; his practical experience as a

writer, are also well known. His work among double Petunias and Pelargoniums was also duly chronicled as it appeared; and the art of raising Tricolors by the father of most or all of them, may, I believe, still be had.

Neither has the change of fashion in furnishing flower-beds detracted from the value of Mr. Grieve's work in hybridisation or cross-breeding Pelargoniums or other plants; his skill and perseverance were marvellous, and so were the products; the tricolors, bicolors, and bronzes had a brilliant reign for years; and it is quite possible that for various purposes they may have a renaissance. Be that as it may, Mr. Grieve did good work at Culford and other places as a landscape gardener, as well as a cultivator and cross-breeder. The grand Yew hedges inclosing the vegetable quarters in the princely kitchen gardens are of his planting, and will prove, perhaps, his most enduring monument. His flower-garden within the centre of the kitchen-garden, and in other directions; his raised beds of beauty on the vine-borders, were for years pictures of exquisite colouring and finishing. And now he rests under the shadow of the old fame and the old beauty; and may his rest and his rising be alike blessed is the heart-felt wish of all his comrades who knew him best, and loved him most! *D. T. Fish.*

[Our portrait is of Mr. Grieve in middle life, and originally appeared in our columns on August 28 1875, in illustration of a detailed account of his career. Mr. Grieve was one of our most valued correspondents, and we highly appreciated his judgment when, some years since, we had occasion to seek his advice. But it is as a hybridist that he will in the future be known. Those who knew him best will be called in their turn, but Grieve's work in advancing horticulture will remain a valued heritage to posterity.]

Charles V. Riley.—It is with great concern that we extract the following paragraph relating to this distinguished entomologist from the columns of *Garden and Forest*, no other communication having up to the present reached us. Charles V. Riley, the well-known entomologist, died in Washington on Saturday night from injuries received in a fall from a bicycle. He was born in London in 1843, came to this country at the age of seventeen years, and settled on a farm in Illinois. He served as a soldier in the last years of the war, and after some experience in journalism, he was made State Entomologist of Missouri, which position he filled for nearly ten years. His work in that State attracted much attention, and in 1878 he came to Washington, where, until last year, when he resigned his position, he has practically supervised all the entomological work carried on by the Government. Mr. Riley was a tireless worker, with an aptitude for original research, and many of his published papers are of permanent value. He had a talent, too, for political management, and for many years he was recognised in the Department of Agriculture as one of the forces in directing its policy and selecting its agents.

Plant Notes.

CONVOLVULUS MACROSTEGIUS.

I received seeds of the above-named plant from California at the commencement of this year, and was informed by the sender that, like the Solanum xanti, it was indigenous to the Island of Santa Cruz, and that it had yellow flowers, and was now in all probability sent to Europe for the first time. I distributed seeds to several friends, and sowed some myself, of which four germinated, and were in May planted out in my garden, where they have grown most vigorously, sending out long trailing shoots from 2 to 3 feet in length, but have not bloomed. I fear the winter frosts will kill it even here, and should be glad of some information about it. *W. E. Gumbleton.*

Solanum xanti var. Wallacei.

At the commencement of this year I received from the Director of the South Californian Acclimatisation Society at Montecito, Santa Barbara, some seed of what he assured me was a most beautiful new Solanum, under the above name, and which came from the Island of Santa Cruz, and was now sent to Europe for the first time. He said that the flowers of this plant were of a beautiful shade of true blue, and sweet-scented, so that I thought I had got a treasure indeed. Nearly a dozen of the seeds came up, and keeping five for myself, I distributed the others amongst my friends, who are interested in new plants. I planted my five plants in a bed in my garden in the month of May, where they grew and developed very rapidly, sending up first a single stem to a height of between 3 and 4 feet, and then branching freely from the axil of nearly every leaf all up the stem. About the middle of July bunches of buds appeared on the points of all the topmost shoots, which opened towards the end of the month, when, to my great disappointment, the colour of the flowers turned out to be not at all true blue, as they had been described to me by the sender of the seeds, but of a purplish-lilac, with five little green and

1895.

GRICE Mary of the Beeches Didsbury near Manchester spinster died 29 July 1895 at the royal infirmary Manchester Administration **Manchester** 24 August to Peter Grice farmer Effects £149 2*s.* 5*d.*

GRICEWITH John of Tholthorpe Yorkshire shoemaker died 27 September 1895 Probate **York** 15 November to William Gricewith north eastern railway signalman and Percy Bownas stationer Effects £145 15*s.* 6*d.*

GRIER the reverend Richard Macgregor of Hednesford Staffordshire clerk died 27 August 1894 Probate **London** 14 January to Beatrice Jullian Allen spinster and William Armishaw solicitor Effects £1621 1*s.* 1*d.*

GRIERSON Andrew of Prenton-road-west Birkenhead died 16 August 1895 Probate **Chester** 16 September to Catherine Grierson widow Effects £4761 15*s.* 8*d.*

GRIERSON James of 35 Portland-crescent Plymouth-grove Chorlton-upon-Medlock Manchester died 1 March 1895 Probate **Manchester** 30 April to Janet Grierson widow Effects £9538 12*s.* 6*d.*

GRIERSON Michael of 15 Brougham-street Bishopwearmouth Sunderland rolleyman died 23 December 1894 Probate **Durham** 10 September to Hannah Grierson widow Effects £26 17*s.* 9*d.*

GRIEVE Catherine of 9 Charles-street Knightsbridge Middlesex widow died 22 February 1895 Probate **London** 24 August to Jane Thompson widow Effects £295.

GRIEVE Elizabeth of Culross died 27 June 1895 Confirmation of miss Margaret Grieve Sealed **London** 22 October.

GRIEVE Hannah of Church-square Matfen Northumberland widow died 24 September 1894 Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 9 January to Margaret Sample (wife of Ebenezer Sample) Effects £312 12*s.* 2*d.*

GRIEVE Harriet of 12 Galvin-terrace Saynor-lane Hunslet Leeds (wife of William Grieve) died 13 December 1894 Administration **Wakefield** 7 February to the said William Grieve joiner Effects £106.

GRIEVE James of Kirkton of Largo Fifeshire sometime farmer died 31 July 1895 Confirmation of William Berwick junior farmer James Sime butcher and William Aucherlonie retired farmer Sealed **London** 2 November.

GRIEVE miss Janet Logan of Georgefield house Markinch died 2 October 1894 Confirmation of David Brown papermaker Robert Tullis paper manufacturer David (otherwise David Matthew) Watson Sealed **London** 12 January.

GRIEVE John of 29 Wakefield-road Leeds fireman died 26 January 1895 Administration **Wakefield** 5 March to James Grieve retired shepherd Effects £105.

GRIEVE Peter of Bury St. Edmunds gentleman died 26 September 1895 Probate **Bury St. Edmunds** 14 November to Ann Grieve widow and Alexander Mitchell gas engineer Effects £11181 18*s.* 11*d.*

GRIEVES Jane of Dispensary-street Alnwick Northumberland widow died 12 May 1895 Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 1 November to Jane Ann Grieves spinster Effects £29 16*s.* 5*d.*

GRIFFEY James of Holsworthy Devon ironmonger plumber tin-plate worker and temperance hotel keeper died 19 April 1895 Probate **London** 13 July to Simon Philp Rattenbury gentleman and William Miller tailor and draper Effects £753 0*s.* 6*d.*

GRIFFEY Mary Maria of Victoria villa Granby hill Clifton Bristol (wife of William Perryman Griffey) died 26 July 1895 Probate **London** 29 August to Charles Henry Tucker auctioneer Effects £971 9*s.* 4*d.*

GRIFFIES John of Cholmondeley Cheshire died 16 September 1895 Probate **Chester** 8 October to Thomas Kennedy Hayes shipwright Effects £1038.

GRIFFIN Agnes of West-Derby-road Liverpool widow died 14 January 1895 Probate **Liverpool** 22 February to John Todd fish and poultry salesman Effects £270.

GRIFFIN Ann of Enstone Oxfordshire widow died 29 December 1894 Administration **Oxford** 15 January to Edward Griffin innkeeper Effects £25.

GRIFFIN Ann of 39 Balfour-road Highbury new park Middlesex widow died 5 December 1894 Probate **London** 22 January to James Collins tea broker and Henry Lainson Griffin upholsterer Effects £2482 18*s.* 11*d.*

GRIFFIN Catherine Ann of Ewell-road Epsom Surrey spinster died 11 April 1895 at the cottage hospital Epsom Administration **London** 17 May to George Griffin spirit retailer Effects £21.

GRIFFIN Daniel Miller of Walton Northamptonshire farmer died 21 April 1895 at Thorney Dike Thorney isle of Ely Probate **London** 22 June to Philip Griffin and William Giles farmers and John Andrew Percival solicitor Effects £2633 3*s.* 9*d.*

GRIFFIN Edward of Carlisle house Derby-road Gloucester died 24 February 1895 Probate **London** 5 October to William Griffin merchant's clerk Effects £191 8*s.* 10*d.*

Art. VII. *Queries and Answers.*

A Manure which any Farmer or Cottager can make in any Quantity on his own Premises, and even in the very Field where he may require to use it. — Such a manure is said to have been invented by Mr. George Kimberley, an experienced and scientific agriculturist, who occupies a farm of 500 acres at Trotsworth, near Egham; and it is said that it will be made public through the Central Agricultural Society. (See a letter signed Agricola in the *Morning Chronicle*, Jan. 2. 1838.) Can you, or any of your correspondents, inform me whether there is any truth in this supposed discovery; or whether, like many others of the present day, it does not savour of quackery? — *John Roe. London, Jan.* 3. 1838.

[Before receiving our correspondent's query, we had written to Mr. Kimberley, who politely sent us an immediate answer, consisting of a letter in which he states that the account given of the manure in the public papers (and especially in *Bell's Weekly Messenger* of December 25. 1837) is correct. He also sent us a printed paper, dated from the Central Agricultural Society, in which it is stated that "Mr. Kimberley's method of improvement is entirely owing to the discovery of a combination from the vegetable and mineral kingdoms, which, in a liquid state, contains the essential food and properties of all plants, and may be so varied as to suit all soils. This liquid speedily decomposes all vegetable matter: but the best and cheapest mode of using it is to mix it with mould. This mould, when mixed with the liquid, in the course of a few days is changed to the richest vegetable food for plants, and may be made by the farmer or cottager to any extent, and even on the very field where it is required." This certainly appears a most extraordinary and valuable discovery; and one would almost be inclined to doubt it, had we not Joyce's stove (p. 57.) fresh in our recollection. — *Cond.*]

Effects of the Frost on certain Species of Erica. — Happening to be lately in Kew Gardens, I was much struck with the effects of the severe frost on different species of heath in the open garden. The species, I think, were *E.* stricta, *E.* mediterranea, *E.* australis, *E.* multiflora, and perhaps some others. In these the branches, both large and small, were bruised and split from nearly the points of the shoots down to the very surface of the ground, as if they had been laid on a board and beaten with hammers. They reminded me of the appearance of beaten flax. The bark was in some cases separated from the wood, but not generally. I have since seen the same appearances in some gardens near London; but never on any other shrub but heaths. I have looked for it in other *E*ricaceæ, and in *R*hodoraceæ, but without success. Now, what I am anxious to know is, how the splitting is be accounted for in a kind of wood apparently containing very little moisture. I hope some of your numerous readers may have attended to the same phenomenon, and that some of your correspondents who are better acquainted with vegetable physiology than I am, will be good enough to account for it in the Magazine. I have heard of the sugar maple tree splitting in America from severe frost; but I have always fancied that that was owing to the expansion of the saccharine juice, when turned into ice.— I should like to know what Mr. Main has to say on this subject. — *I. B. A. London, Jan.* 25. 1838.

Art. VIII. *Obituary.*

Died, at Stapleford, Herts, on the 28th of December, *Mr. William Griffin*, in the 85th year of his age. He was for twenty-two years gardener to the late Samuel Smith, Esq., of Woodhall, in this county; and author of a *Treatise on the Culture of the Pine-Apple;* also, a paper "On the Management of Grapes in Vineries," published in the *Horticultural Transactions*, vol. i. p. 98. The deceased was a native of Leicestershire, in which county he commenced his business; and, after filling various situations in that and the neighbouring

counties, with the greatest credit to himself and satisfaction to his employers, he arrived at Woodhall, at which place I first became acquainted with him; and, by practising under his direction for some time, I found in him the real man of business, and one who acted the part of a father and friend to all the young men that, like myself, had the good fortune to receive a part of their instruction from him. I believe him to have been a first-rate horticulturist of his day; and, up to the last day of his practice, his anxiety was as great as ever; although his faculties had become somewhat impaired, and, consequently, business was not carried on with the same degree of success as formerly. He had retired to the village above mentioned about four years before his death; which was occasioned by a fall in his bed-room, that brought on inflammation, and that, in eight days, put a period to his sufferings. He has left an only daughter to lament his loss.—*C. J. Jan.* 6. 1838.

Art. IX. *Covent Garden Market.*

From the prevalence of severe frost during the last fortnight, the market has been but indifferently supplied with the general assortment of vegetables usually found at this season; prices have been consequently advanced, but may be considered nominal, as the first change in the weather would immediately affect them.

	From £	s.	d.	To £	s.	d.
The Cabbage Tribe.						
Cabbage, per dozen:						
White, large	0	1	0	0	1	6
Red	0	4	0	0	5	0
Plants, or Coleworts	0	3	0	0	4	0
Savoys, per dozen	0	1	0	0	1	6
Brussels Sprouts, per ½ sieve	0	1	6	0	2	6
German Greens, or Kale, per dozen	0	0	8	0	1	0
Broccoli, per bunch:						
White	0	2	0	0	3	0
Purple	0	1	6	0	2	0
Tubers and Roots.						
Potatoes, per ton	2	10	0	3	0	0
Potatoes, per cwt.	0	2	6	0	3	0
Potatoes, per bushel	0	1	3	0	1	6
Kidney, per bushel	0	1	6	0	1	9
Scotch, per bushel	0	1	6	0	1	9
Jerusalem Artichokes, per half sieve	0	1	0	0	1	6
Turnips, White, per bunch	0	0	3	0	0	6
Carrots, per bunch	0	0	5	0	0	6
Red Beet, per dozen	0	1	6	0	2	0
Skirret, per bunch	0	1	3	0	1	6
Scorzonera, per bundle	0	1	3	0	1	6
Salsify, per bunch	0	1	3	0	1	6
Horseradish, per bundle	0	3	6	0	4	0
The Spinach Tribe.						
Spinach, per sieve	0	2	0	0	2	6
The Onion Tribe.						
Onions:						
Old, per bushel	0	4	0	0	5	0
For pickling, per half sieve	0	2	6	0	3	0
Leeks, per dozen bunches	0	0	9	0	1	6
Garlic, per pound	0	0	6	0	0	0
Shallots, per pound	0	0	8	0	0	10
Asparaginous Plants, Salads, &c.						
Asparagus, per hundred:						
Large	0	9	0	0	11	0
Middling	0	3	0	0	5	0
Small	0	1	6	0	2	6
Sea-Kale, per punnet	0	1	6	0	2	6
Celery, per bundle (12 to 15)	0	0	9	0	1	6
Pot and Sweet Herbs.						
Parsley, per half sieve	0	3	6	0	5	0

	From £	s.	d.	To £	s.	d.
Tarragon, dried, per dozen bunches	0	1	6	0	0	0
Thyme, per dozen bunches	0	2	6	0	3	0
Sage, per dozen bunches	0	3	0	0	0	0
Mint, dried, per dozen bun.	0	1	6	0	0	0
Peppermint, dried, per dozen bunches	0	1	0	0	0	0
Marjoram, dried, per dozen bunches	0	2	0	0	0	0
Savory, per dozen bunches	0	1	0	0	0	0
Basil, dried, per dozen bunches	0	2	0	0	0	0
Rosemary, per dozen bunches	0	2	0	0	0	0
Lavender, dried, per dozen bunches	0	2	0	0	0	0
Stalks and Fruits for Tarts, Pickling, &c.						
Rhubarb Stalks, forced, per bundle	0	1	6	0	2	0
Edible Fungi and Fuci.						
Mushrooms, per pottle	0	0	6	0	0	9
Morels, per pound	0	14	0	0	0	0
Truffles, per pound:						
English	0	4	0	0	0	0
Foreign, dried	0	12	0	0	0	0
Fruits.						
Apples, Dessert, per bushel:						
Nonpareils	0	10	0	0	12	0
Golden Pippins	0	10	0	0	12	0
Baking	0	2	6	0	4	0
American	0	12	0	0	0	0
Pears, Dessert, per half sieve:						
Colmars	0	12	0	0	0	0
Colmar d'Hiver	0	12	0	0	0	0
Passe Colmar	0	10	0	0	0	0
Baking, per half sieve	0	4	0	0	0	0
Almonds, per peck	0	7	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, French, per peck	0	4	0	0	7	0
Pine-apples, per pound	0	6	0	0	10	0
Oranges, per dozen	0	0	6	0	2	0
Oranges, per hundred	0	3	6	0	14	0
Lemons, per dozen	0	1	0	0	2	0
Lemons, per hundred	0	6	0	0	14	0
Sweet Almonds, per pound	0	2	3	0	3	0
Nuts, per bushel:						
Brazil	0	16	0	1	0	0
Spanish	0	16	0	0	0	0
Barcelona	1	0	0	0	0	0

Mr. James Groom.—We hear that Mr. J. Groom, of The Gardens, Linton Park, Maidstone, intends going into business as a nurseryman at Gosport, where he has found a suitable place. He proposes, in addition to other branches, to take largely under his care hardy plants, of which he has had great experience at Henham, Linton, and elsewhere. One of our oldest and most esteemed contributors to The Garden, we know from personal experience that he is well fitted for this work, and trust that his nurseries may be a new home for many of the interesting subjects grouped under the general term hardy plants. We feel sure he will have the good wishes of many of our readers. The more active young nurseries carried on by men of intelligence we have the better for horticulture.

The Garden, 1882

GRIST George Henry of "Waldeck" Priory-avenue Caversham Oxfordshire gentleman died 16 May 1909 Probate **Oxford** 28 June to Martha Grist widow. Effects £165 4s. 9d.

GRIST Hugh Benjamin of Clyst House Marlborough-road High Park St. Helen's Isle of Wight died 1 February 1908 at the County Hospital Ryde Isle of Wight Probate **London** 24 February to Fanny Grist widow and George Henry Gallienne builder. Effects £154 6s. 8d.

GRIST James of 32 Park-street Cambridge coachman died 28 April 1909 Probate **Peterborough** 8 June to Annie Craft widow. Effects £10 5s.

GRIST Lucy of 1 Gower-road Haywards Heath Sussex widow died 4 March 1909 Probate **Lewes** 20 April to Thomas White builder. Effects £376 15s.

GRIST Oliver of Market Lavington Wiltshire retired farmer died 11 September 1909 Probate **Salisbury** 3 November to William Millett Collins and William Arthur Henry White farmers. Effects £2594 0s. 9d.

GRISTWOOD Ellen of Lyn Cottage St. Mark's-road Salisbury spinster died 3 October 1909 Probate **Salisbury** 21 October to John Hamlin gentleman. Effects £392 15s. 7d.

GRISTWOOD William of 72 Colvin-road East Ham Essex died 26 November 1908 Probate **London** 7 January to Walter George Willson civil servant. Effects £424 8s. 6d.

GRITTON Mary of 50 Court 5 House Brearley-street Birmingham widow died 18 February 1908 at the Royal Infirmary Birmingham Administration **Birmingham** 5 January to Moses Virgo dealer. Effects £22.

GRIVET Georges Emile Omer of 11 rue de Navarre Paris France died 22 September 1908 at Villa Fleurie Saran (Loiret) Administration (with Will limited) **London** 21 April to George William Grice Hutchinson solicitor the attorney of Louis Eugene Angus.
Effects £1368 15s.

GRIX Peter of Mendham Norfolk retired mechanical engineer died 3 July 1909 Administration **Norwich** 12 August to Arthur Charles Grix engineer. Effects £688 5s. 2d.

GROCOTT Elizabeth Mary of 123 Park-street Toxteth Park Liverpool spinster died 13 April 1909 Probate **Liverpool** 3 May to Henry Steffens Grocott gentleman.
Effects £324 19s.

GROCOTT Gilbert of 50 Derby-lane Stoneycroft Liverpool book-keeper died 23 November 1908 at Roby Lancashire Probate **Liverpool** 27 January to Alethea Wright Grocott spinster. Effects £292 18s.

GROCOTT Joseph of 51 Salem-street Etruria Hanley Staffordshire died 15 November 1908 Probate **Lichfield** 30 June to Olive Grocott widow Eliza Stevens (wife of Emmanuel Stevens) and Mary Ellen Rhodes (wife of Arthur Rhodes). Effects £35 14s. 9d.

GROCOTT Samuel of Shavington near Crewe Cheshire died 23 June 1908 Administration (with Will) **London** 21 January to Hannah Grocott widow. Effects £86 12s. 6d.

GROCOTT Stephen of Tittensor Staffordshire died 19 September 1909 Probate **Lichfield** 28 October to William Alfred Malkin miller and Thomas Wain colliery agent. Effects £3136 1s. 3d.

GROGAN William George of the New Inn Mill-lane Gosport Hampshire died 1 April 1909 Probate **London** 22 April to Sophia Grogan widow. Effects £454 6s. 1d.

GROMITT John William of the Hospital Makebourg Mauritius died 21 May 1909 at Vacoas in Mauritius Probate **London** 25 August to Mima Fairley Gromitt widow and Frederick William Elwen solicitor. Effects £303 13s. 2d.

GROOCOCK Ann Goodman of Ashley Northamptonshire spinster died 28 May 1909 Probate **London** 31 July to John Gray surveyor. Effects £1845 5s. 5d.

GROOM Fanny Eliza of Melton Mowbray Leicestershire (wife of James Groom) died 19 May 1909 Administration **Leicester** 8 June to the said James Groom teacher of music. Effects £27 0s. 6d.

GROOM Francis of 41 Kenilworth-road St. Leonards-on-Sea Sussex died 15 February 1909 Probate **London** 9 March to Juliana Pain spinster. Effects £52 10s.

GROOM George Leonard of 192 Scott Ellis-gardens Grove End-road St. John's Wood Middlesex died 5 May 1909 Probate **London** 19 July to Mary Ann Groom widow.
Effects £44 19s. 7d.

GROOM Helen Maria Isabella of Catcott Bridgewater Somersetshire widow died 12 July 1909 Administration **Taunton** 1 September to Mary Maude Shirreff (wife of Robert David Forbes Shirreff). Effects £108 12s. 6d.

GROOM James Benjamin of the Seafield Nurseries Stoke-road Gosport Hampshire died 7 May 1909 Probate **London** 9 July to George Robert Groom florist.
Effects £509 18s. 11d.

GROOM John of Ashwicken Hall Ashwicken Norfolk died 29 July 1908 Probate **London** 26 January to John Edmund Groom esquire and the reverend Arthur John Groom clerk. Effects £9108 12s. 9d.

GROOM May Ann Legge of Stokeshay near Craven Arms Shropshire (wife of Herbert Groom) died 7 September 1895 Administration **London** 24 July to the said Herbert Groom farmer. Effects £691 13s. 9d.

GROOM Mary Ellzabeth of 3 Elizabeth-villas Griffiths-road Wimbledon Surrey widow died 9 February 1909 Probate **London** 2 March to Mary Elizabeth Groom spinster.
Effects £491 16s. 5d.

GROOM Rebecca of 241 Park-lane Tottenham Middlesex spinster died 19 November 1908 Probate **London** 21 January to George Tripp tailor.
Effects £355 7s. 6d.

GROOM Richard Homan of 102 Matcham-road Leytonstone Essex died 14 March 1909 Probate **London** 26 March to Jemima Lee spinster. Effects £403 0s. 11d.

GROOM Robert of 4 Dennett-road Croydon Surrey died 4 February 1909 Probate **London** 2 March to Maria Harriet Munday (wife of William Munday).
Effects £297 8s. 7d.

GROOM Samuel of 177 Coleman-street Wolverhampton died 1 July 1909 Probate **Lichfield** 20 July to William Henry Groom pattern maker and Frederick Harley commercial clerk. Effects £462 5s. 3d.

GROOM Thomas of the union workhouse Wem Shropshire died 23 October 1908 Alministration **London** 13 March to John Groom labourer. Effects £230.

GROOM William Thomas of the Climax Bakery Chelsfield Kent died 12 February 1909 Administration **London** 17 March to Lucy Groom widow Effects £766 0s. 5d.

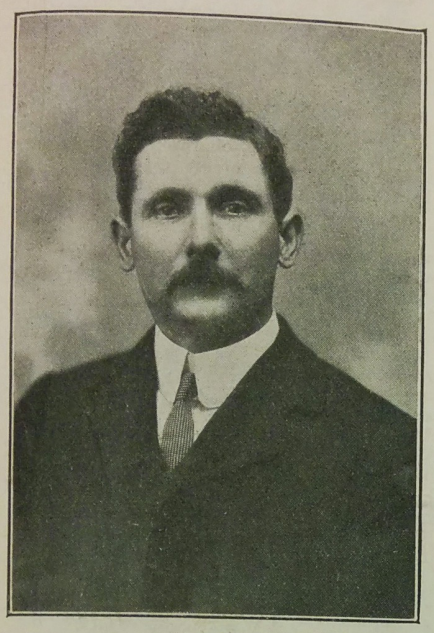
GROOME Agnes of Higham Ferrers Northamptonshire spinster died 4 March 1908 at the Kings County Hospital New York United States America Administration **London** 23 April to George William Spence factory manager.
Effects £51 19s. 6d.

GROOME Daniel of Hatherley-street Liverpool warehouse-died 24 March 1909 Administration **Liverpool** 5 May to Elizabeth Mary Groome widow. Effects £783 6s. 1d.

GROOME Daniel of Hatherley-street Liverpool warehouse-man died 24 March 1909 Administration (limited) **Liverpool** 7 December to William Groome insurance clerk Effects £489 14s. 8d. Former grant May 1909.

GROOME Elizabeth Mary of Hatherley-street Liverpool widow died 16 October 1909 Administration (limited) **Liverpool** 3 November to William Corkhill contractor's foreman. Effects £419 4s. 9d.

no reason, and it does not seem to be based on practical experience. At least no experiments are quoted in support of it. Of course, as late crops have a longer period of growth than early



MR. ALBERT GRUBB.

ones, there is more opportunity of giving them artificial fertilisers, which should be applied in small quantities at intervals, but that is beside the point.

A Garden Pest.

April 11th.—I am very much troubled in this garden by leather-jackets, the grubs of the crane-fly. They are always especially numerous where, as here, wet ditches lie round about. Last autumn they destroyed most of my Lettuces, and nearly all my young Cabbages, and, with the coming of spring, they have started on this destructive work again. They are easily found when once the damage is done—a slight stirring of the soil round the severed stems is sure to turn them up—but it is then too late. If the hoe is used at intervals, some will be discovered, but so many remain that little real good is done. Many birds, especially starlings, are said to destroy leather-jackets. There are plenty of starlings here, but I never see them on the garden plots; they seem to confine themselves entirely to the lawn. The Board of Agriculture recommends a dressing of nitrate of soda and soot—one hundredweight of the former, and two or three hundredweights of the latter per acre, applied at the end of April or the beginning of May. This may be worth trying, but my previous experiments with artificials have not been very promising. If the quantity is sufficient to dislodge insects, it is sufficient, as a rule, to injure the crop.

The Horse Chestnut.

April 12th.—The Horse Chestnut, now in its full beauty, is so common that we are apt to regard it as a native. It came originally, however, from Northern India, and perhaps also from America. In Gerard's "Herbal," written in 1579, it is spoken of as "a rare foreign tree." Fifty years later, so little was known about it, that Parkinson planted it in his orchard. "Our Christian world," he says, "first had knowledge of it from Constantinople." It is a pity that the same name should be given to two such totally different trees as the Horse Chestnut and the Sweet, or Spanish, Chestnut, for they are in no way related to one another. The latter (Castanea sativa) belongs to the natural order Corylaceæ, which contains the Oak and the Beech; the former (Æsculus hippocastanum), with its near relative, the Pavia, form the natural order Æsculaceæ. The buds of the Horse Chestnut exude a gummy substance to protect their downy interiors from wet. It therefore serves much the same purpose as the gummy meal on the lower sides of the leaves of many species of Primulas, the meal preventing the stomata or breathing pores from being clogged with moisture. The red Horse Chestnut (Æ. rubicunda), though slower in growth than the ordinary kind, and rarely so large, is exceedingly handsome when in flower, and the two associate well together. The wood is soft, and of no great value; it is only for ornament that the tree is worth planting. But in that respect, though some object to its rather compact habit of growth, it is not surpassed by any tree in this country. H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 258.—MR. ALBERT GRUBB, AT THE GARDENS, PORTER'S PARK, SHENLEY.

ON the 12th of February, the Malmaison Carnations shown by Mr. C. F. Raphael, of Porter's Park, Shenley, attracted a great deal of attention among members of the Royal Horticultural Society, not only owing to the date on which they were exhibited, but also in consequence of the very fine quality of the flowers and foliage of the group. Naturally, there was every disposition to give full credit to the cultivator, Mr. Albert Grubb, the head gardener at Porter's Park, and much curiosity as to the cause of his success. I had the pleasure, early in March, thanks to Mr. Raphael's courtesy, of paying a visit to the home of these Carnations, and of seeing them growing. That, of course, was only one of the objects in view, for the gardens are full of interesting features, and possess almost every natural advantage, while they are also most admirably cared for, down to the smallest detail. Mr. Grubb met me at Radlett, and drove me, in the smartly-appointed trap which is placed at his disposal, from the station to the park, which is situated in some of the loveliest scenery in Hertfordshire. The glass being close to his comfortable house, Mr. Grubb suggested that we should proceed at once to inspect the Carnations.

"We have four houses devoted to Malmaisons," said Mr. Grubb.

"And how many plants are there in this one?" I inquired.

"A hundred and thirty, all in 8-in. pots."

"I must congratulate you, not only upon the number showing flower at this date, but upon the deep colour, the great size, and the fine shape of the blooms. The foliage, too, heightens their beauty. How many flowers could you cut at the present time in this house?"

Mr. Grubb carefully calculated before he answered,

"There are quite a thousand flowers to open in this house. I shall be able to cut fifty blooms on Monday, and on Friday, the 8th of March, when my employer has a dinner party in London, I hope to cut eighty."

"All of one variety?"

"Yes, all Princess of Wales. We do not go in for many varieties. Princess of Wales is the favourite, and the others are Maggie Hodgson, King Oscar, and Robert Burns. I am also growing about five hundred of King Arthur in pots. It is an ordinary Carnation, but I am going to grow it as a Malmaison. King Arthur has a good, long stem, carrying a perfect bloom for decorative purposes."

"What has been your treatment of it hitherto?"

"I kept it in the frames during the winter,

EXAMPLES OF BEDDING IN A SUNK GARDEN AT PORTER'S PARK.

instead of in a house. While it is as beautiful as any Malmaison, it is much easier to grow. It lasts in flower for a long time."

The Average Blooms.

"Can you tell me the average number of blooms on each Malmaison?"

"I expect each plant to average ten in this house, but the main batch, to flower in June, will average from twenty to thirty blooms."

"How long have you been cutting flowers?"

"All through the winter, twice a week. In fact, we have never been without flowers since last season."

"Have you ever done this before?"

"No, this is the first time, but I have the plants coming on to accomplish the same result again. I have been here three years, and I have now just got the stock to my liking."

"Is the soil congenial?"

"Far from it. I buy fresh soil, using the Northampton loam, which is the easiest to obtain here."

The Treatment.

"Do you keep the plants after they have done flowering?"

"Never. I throw them all away. Then, I make a point of not coddling them. As you see in both houses, air is let in at the sides and on the roof. It is very important to keep them perfectly cool, and blinds are used during the brightest part of the day, but the early morning sun benefits the plants."

"You think that overshading is a mistake?"

"I am sure it is. A little sun strengthens Malmaisons, and helps to make them sturdy. The hardier they are grown, the better they are."

"I conclude that you concur in the opinion that they require a house to themselves?"

"To grow them properly, I think that they do. But it is not necessary to build a special house for them. It is enough if they have a house to themselves; if they do not, either the Malmaisons are spoilt, or the other flowers."

Tree Varieties.

"You also grow a number of Tree Carnations?"

"We do, but we prefer the Malmaisons. The varieties are, chiefly, Enchantress, Mrs. Lawson, and Britannia (red). I think that Britannia is a very good variety. Mr. Raphael, who is himself a member of the Royal Horticultural Society, is very fond of Carnations. We have only exhibited at the hall in Westminster."

"You must have had a fine show of Begonias," I observed, as we went into the show house.

"Yes, this house was full of them at Christmas, when they were at their best. I grow upwards of two hundred and fifty Gloire de Lorraine. Of course, they are now going off. Of Genistas, which you also see here, I grow about a hundred in pots of different sizes. They are quite easy to grow, requiring only ordinary treatment. The Cattleyas are just ready for cutting, and, in addition to Palms, there are also in this house a number of pots of Asparagus Sprengeri."

"What principle do you go upon with regard to Geraniums?"

"Sometimes I have a house of one colour, and usually I grow with the idea of obtaining a batch of one shade. We have Cannell's selection in a mixed house, but among favourite varieties are John Gibbons, Paul Crampel, and Raspail. This next house is devoted partly to Cyclamen, Sutton's strain; they begin to flower about Christmas, and hitherto I have grown about two hundred and fifty, but intend to grow more. On the other side of the house are Primulas (Veitch's strain), the stellata section in different colours. We also grow some of Cannell's Primulas. Now we come to a house full of Roses in pots."

"Already in flower?"

"Yes, the varieties being Caroline Testout and Mrs. John Laing. It is rather early for Hybrid Perpetuals to come into flower. These are two admirable varieties to force for early work. The next batch is General Jacqueminot, all red; a batch consists of about fifty, and I follow up closely, with no break between."

"You force Beans, I notice?"

"We commenced cutting them last week. We only miss Beans for three months in the winter, generally picking up till Christmas, and resuming in March. We started cutting Asparagus just before Christmas. I usually cut some eight thousand heads before we get it out of doors, but this year we shall cut nearly double that quantity. We have just finished winter Tomatoes—the only variety is Winter Beauty."

"When do you begin picking Strawberries?"

"I always reckon to pick for the second of March. We force fifteen hundred Royal Sovereigns in pots. I cannot find any variety to equal it, but we also grow in pots St. Antoine de Padoue, and pick in November."

Melons in Quantity.

"What are your earliest Melons?"

"Hero of Lockinge and Ringleader; for our main crop we use Sutton's Royal Jubilee, a beautiful Melon, and, for a change, we grow Blenheim Orange. Last year we cut six hundredweights—over five hundredweight went on the table. We only missed one week through the season. Of course, the main thing is to keep up the succession."

"How do you do it?"

"We sow a few seeds every nine days, and plant the three houses right through. We never grow more than three fruits on a plant; small plants are much better than big ones, that is to say, they are more sure to yield."

As we entered a house with a lean-to devoted to Camellias, Mr. Grubb said, "Camellias are rapidly coming into favour again. This house was planted a year ago, the new trees being trained on the walls. The varieties are C. Preston Rose, Duchess of Teck, Carnea, Jubilee, Noidijiena, Voltevared, Margharita Caleonii, and Reine des Fleurs."

"They are looking remarkably well, also the Azalea indica on the opposite side."

"Camellias and Azaleas do extremely well in the same house, because they require the same temperature. Cypripediums also do well in this house, and we have in addition a batch of Cinerarias, and of Calceolarias. In another house we grow Roses in pots, with Belle Siebrecht on the wall, and Gloire de Dijon above. In the pots below, the ordinary Roses are coming on; we have just started cutting."

A Charming Vestibule.

The fruit houses are connected with the plant houses by a singularly-charming vestibule, ornamented at the time of my visit with Ferns, Azaleas, and Begonias in groups.

"This vestibule was Mrs. Raphael's idea. Don't you think it rather pretty?" continued Mr. Grubb. "As to Peaches, in the early house we grow Lord Napier, Violet Hative, and Waterloo Peaches and Nectarines, Cardinal, Rivers' Early, and Royal George; and in the second house we have Royal George and Sea Eagle, and Nectarines, Rivers' Early and Pineapple; while a Peach case which is to be made into a large late house contains Prince of Wales, Dymond, Barrington, Sea Eagle, and Bellegarde. All these houses, except the Muscat house, have been built since I came. Muscats have been newly planted in one Vinery, and in a later house we have Lady Downe's Seedling and Diamond Jubilee. In the Fig house there are three varieties, Brown Turkey, White Marseilles, and Black Ischia."

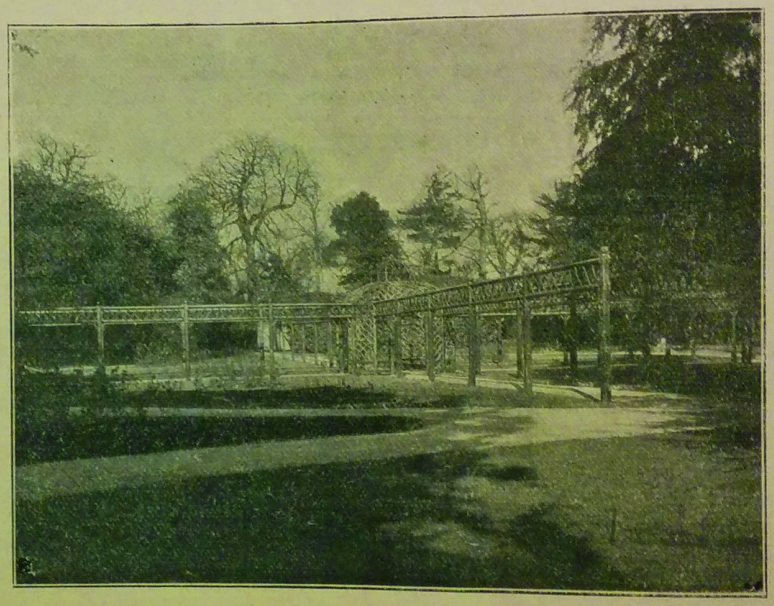
Fruit on the Walls.

"You have a very fine kitchen garden," I said, as we strolled outside.

"In addition to this, we have four acres, which I will show you presently. Pears are one of the features."

"Which are your favourites?"

"Doyenné du Comice, and I only wish there was an early mid-season and a late one of this variety. Others on the walls include Clapp's Favourite, Souvenir du Congres, Triomphe de Vienne, Glou Morceau, Princess, Hacon's Incomparable, Winter Nelis, Beurré Superfin, Beurré Hardy, Electrician, Conseiller de la Cour, and Pitmaston Duchess. Underneath this wall are Red Currants and Gooseberries, the Currants being Raby Castle and Comet. The Gooseberries are Whitesmith, Crown Bob, Industry, Clayton, Balloon, and Jay's Wing.



The Rosery at Porter's Park.

Of Raspberries, we grow Superlative and Carter's Prolific."

"You also grow Peaches on the outside walls?"

"The varieties are Pineapple, Alexandra, Goshawk, Gladstone, and Hale's Early; Wallflowers are grown underneath. Next to this is an Apricot wall, with Moor Park as the chief variety, and further on I have converted a Plum wall into a Cherry wall, with a succession of varieties, including Noble, Black Tartarian, Rivers' Early, Bigarreau Napoleon, May Duke, Waterloo, Old Bigarreau, and Frogmore Early Bigarreau."

"Do you grow many varieties of Plums?"

"Chiefly Coe's Golden Drop, Belgian Purple, Jefferson's, Kirke's Purple, Oullin's Golden, and Victoria. I am also planting a Greengage wall."

"What about Apples?"

"We have practically all the well-known varieties, of which Cox's Orange Pippin is the best. In the new plantation we have put in fifty of the best varieties, including twenty-five trees, of these five: Cox's Orange, Lord Suffield, Wellington, Lord Derby, and Peasgood's Nonsuch. Of the others, we have five or six. In the frame ground, just outside this garden, most of the early vegetables are grown, notably Potatoes, of which we grow two varieties for early use—Sharpe's Victor and Ashleaf Kidney."

"How many Chrysanthemums are there in the frames?"

"Between seven and eight hundred. We have fifteen lights of Violets, nearly all Marie Louise, but I also grow a few Princess of Wales."

"Then there are the varieties in the herbaceous border in the kitchen garden itself."

"There is nothing very special, but they include Asters in variety, Montbretias, Rudbeckias, Incarvilleas, Veronicas, Doronicums, Erigerons, Delphiniums, Anemone japonica, and Physalis."

The New Rose Garden.

Then, after inspecting the very comfortable bothy in which eight young men are accommodated, the remainder of the staff of twenty being married, we proceeded to the pleasure garden. On our way we passed a motor-roller, which was at work. It is three and a half tons in weight, with a four-cylinder engine, and is evidently of immense value in keeping the roads level. Close to the mansion, which commands an extensive view of the golf links and surrounding country, is a most delightful Rose garden, with arches all round, and an arbour in the middle.

"How long has this been made?" I asked.

"It is a new feature this year," replied Mr. Grubb, "and was done by our own workmen. The arches are made of home-grown Oak, the wings being planted with Mrs. Flight, and the centre with Crimson Rambler. There are four wings about twenty yards long, and fifteen beds (long and oval), all planted with Hybrid Perpetuals, each bed of one variety."

"What are the varieties?"

"There are two beds of Madame Ravary, two of Mrs. John Laing, and one each of Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Camille de Rohan, Duke of Teck, Marquise Litta, La France, Margaret Dickson, Caroline Testout, Dupuy Jamain, Comte de Raimbaud, and Ulrich Brunner. The standards are the same varieties. On one side of the Rose garden there are Rhododendrons, and on another Portugal Laurels."

The Sunk Flower Garden.

"Have you anything special in the way of Conifers and shrubs?"

"There are some very good specimens of Cedars and Araucarias. Here is the sunk flower garden, which is much the same as it was fifty years ago. We do not plant spring bedding, but in the summer most of the flower-beds are filled with Geraniums (Paul Crampel), except the centre, which will probably contain Cannas. Then there are beds consisting exclusively of Golden Privet, Prunus Pissardi, Portugal Laurels, Ilex, Yews, and Cupressus."

New Features.

Continuing our walk along the main carriage drive, approached from the Shenley Lodge, Mr. Grubb pointed out a very great improvement which he is making, by the formation of a wide border.

"I am planting shrubs in variety, including Rhododendrons, John Waterer and others, while at one corner are five hundred plants of Roses (Caroline Testout), with Mrs. Flight planted on a dozen poles. I am also, in another place, going to make a water and rock garden of considerable size, planting a lot of Irises in clumps. There will be no mixed beds, but all masses of colour. As you can judge for yourself, the site is an ideal one, both in respect to size and surroundings. There was formerly an aviary on it."

"The mansion, I observe, is without creeper?"

"It has been rebuilt, and all the old plants were destroyed. But in a few years it will be covered with creepers. Near by is a new tennis court, with Yew hedges, planted in the autumn; and on the lawns are beds of Ghent Azaleas and Phloxes; the latter have hitherto been mixed, but I am about to substitute one variety."

A Kitchen Garden on New Lines.

Some distance beyond is the new fenced kitchen garden, which was made two years ago.

"I have adopted," said Mr. Grubb, "in this garden, the market-garden system in vogue in Kent, and planted everything in rows. Thus there are rows of Apple trees, with rows of Currants between. These rows are one hundred and ten yards long, and there are eight of Red and six of Black Currants, also about the same number of Gooseberries. I am glad to say that Black Currants are free from the mite. Then there are five rows of Raspberries the same length."

"How many rows of Broccoli?"

"Fifteen. The variety is Veitch's Succession, and I cut the first this week. There are fifteen rows of ordinary Greens, fifteen rows of Brussels Sprouts, two rows of Scarlet Runner Beans, two rows of Celery, and three rows of Rhubarb. We grow between two and three thousand spring Cabbage, Ellam's Early being the only variety."

"You have not mentioned Peas."

"They are grown chiefly in the other kitchen garden, and I rely practically on only three varieties. My order for Peas is very simple, namely, ten quarts of William I., a bushel of Gradus, and half a bushel of Autocrat. This spring I am going to plant two or three beds of Asparagus the whole length of this garden. I shall plant a bed or two each year, and when it is established I shall be able to dig up a bed or two for forcing, and thus save buying. The end of this garden I utilise for seven thousand Laurel cuttings."

"Is there any other point of interest?"

"You may care to add that we are making a number of rustic seats for the nooks and corners of the garden."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 245.—WATER LILIES.

Dear Kate,—If you have no water-garden, this is the time to start one. "Oh! but I have no pond!" I hear you say; and I can only answer "All the better," for the best

A Picturesque Lily Pond.

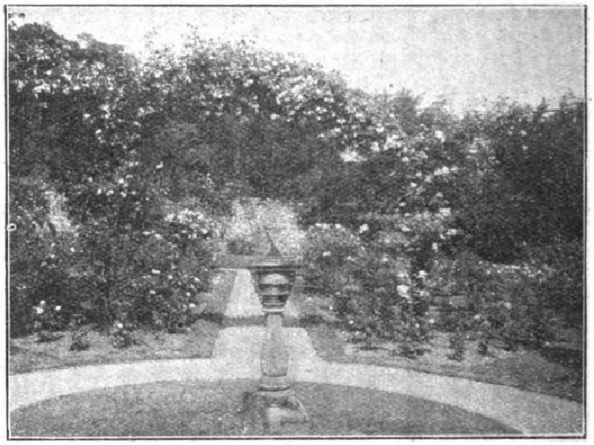
Water Lilies are far too valuable to trust to the tender mercies of the water-fowl, the water-rats, the bathing dogs, and possibly the drinking cows, which may make use of a pond. Even if you lived in London, and had a flat with no garden, but only a few feet of "leads," you could still have water plants; and, in fact, they are the best of all flowers for a city, as they are quite safe from the attention of the cats, which scratch up anything in dry soil, but give water or wet soil a wide berth.

All you need is a cask (such as that which has contained paraffin), which can be cut in two; and you will then have two tubs of the right size and depth, i.e., about two feet each way. But the inside of the tub must be charred till all the paraffin is destroyed; a small fire of shavings, sticks, etc., can be made in it, turning it about, so that the bottom as well as the sides are thoroughly charred. Don't leave this business to a boy, or to any one in a print dress, because it requires care, and I don't want to incite anyone to burn themselves to death. However, there is no need for danger, if the operator is properly clad in woollen material—not flannelette, mind, for that deadly material ought to be tabooed, as it is so terribly dangerous, and causes the death of hundreds of children every year. But this is a digression, and to return to the tub—it can then be painted dark green outside if desired, and covered with wire and creepers, or it can be sunk to the rim in the garden, or half sunk, and surrounded with rockwork.

Water Lilies in Tubs

My Water Lily tubs, ten in number, are sunk at the base of a bank, some of them in the grass, others with rockery Ferns and flowers round them, and these are, I think, the prettiest. Every one of them contains a different Nymphæa, and all of these are from Monsieur Marliac's introductions at Temple-sur-Lot, in France, which have now become so reasonable in price that we may all have them. They are hybrids in most gorgeous colours, crimson,

A FORMAL GARDEN AT SHIPLAKE.



ROSES ROUND THE SUNDIAL.

The Gardens at Shiplake Court, Henley-on-Thames.

SHIPLAKE COURT is not a riverside house, occupied during the boating season; it is a delightful country residence, in which the owner, Mr. R. H. Harrison, and his family spend most of their time. The gardens, therefore, are maintained all through the year according to the highest standard of excellence; there is no concentration of effort for a couple of months, and slackness for the remainder. In October, when Mr. Hall, who has charge of the gardens, showed me round, there was perfect order everywhere; it was obvious that they receive as much attention to their needs in the waning autumn as in the week before Henley regatta. Shiplake itself is, in fact, an attractive village in Oxfordshire, and the Thames but one of numerous charms. The Court stands more than ninety feet above the river, and the pleasure grounds slope down to it. At the outset Mr. Hall informed me that the existing residence, which looks a century old, was erected by the squire in 1889, the gardens as they now are being laid out at the same time.

"And when did you come to Shiplake?" I enquired.

"I came with Mr. Harrison, and I have not only had charge of the gardens since they were made, but I helped, under his direction, to make them. The primary object in view is to supply plenty of flowers at all periods, sufficient both to decorate the house, and to adorn the gardens. With the exception of Lavender, there is nothing along the short carriage drive from the gardener's lodge facing the main road, but you will notice close to the Court a number of venerable trees, chiefly Elms, whose roots extend so far that they constitute an impediment in gardening. Bushes of Box and a bed of Pansies make up all there is to be seen at this point. The border under the old retaining wall includes Phlox in variety and Delphiniums, also a fine clump of Acanthus. Yews are in evidence here, and you will see them in many places. I keep them tied in. On the wall the double Arabis resembles a sheet of snow in its flowering season, and Iberis sempervirens is also ornamental. In its own way the old French Crab tree is equally ornamental, and the fruit it yields in quantity keeps good from the second week in October, when we pick it, to the end of June. The first of the features is the Rosery."

"I see that you are renewing some of the beds."

"Yes, we renew certain varieties every sixth or seventh year. Fresh soil has just been put into four beds. The varieties are not isolated, but mixed. We try to blend the colours. Thus, in one bed, Gruss an Teplitz, Ulrich Brunner, Mrs. Ward, and Margaret Dickson, a splendid Rose, are grown together."

METHODS OF CULTIVATION.

"Can you tell me how many Roses you grow?"

"About fifteen hundred. Mrs. Harrison not only takes the greatest interest in the Roses, but disbuds them herself. We go through the whole of them every day, watering freely as required. The ground being very hot in summer—we are close to solid chalk—they want plenty of water. In the autumn, every other year, the old plants are top-dressed with farmyard manure, and in December a little artificial is added. In summer we pick off the flowers—a very important precaution.

"The Ramblers on the arches are Dorothy Perkins, Hiawatha, Reine Olga de Wurtemburg, Pysche, and American Pillar. Blush Rambler and Crimson Rambler are grown as pillars. The Rosery is not strictly limited to Roses, and we get a fine combination of colour, mainly light and dark shades of blue, yellow, and white, from Archie Grant, Maggie Mott, Royal Scot, and Countess of Hopetown. Violas, by the way, should never be planted in a dry season; they want plenty of moisture. We sow Mignonette in boxes, and it is transplanted into the Rosery. So long as it is kept watered, it goes ahead of its own accord. We also grow the pink Ivy-leaf Geranium Madame Crousse in the Rosery.

A POMEGRANATE IN FLOWER.

"On the wall of the croquet and tennis courts there are Roses, Clematis, Solanums, Jasminum, Acanthus Gloire de Versailles, Wistaria sinensis, and a very fine specimen of Pomegranate."

"When was it planted?"

"Eighteen years ago. It is only a foot down in the chalk, and we do nothing to it. During August and September it is a blaze of scarlet, and there are still a few flowers remaining. In front of the Yew hedge, and only planted two years ago, Dorothy Perkins pegged down is doing splendidly."

"I notice down the slopes a remarkable clump of Pampas Grass."

"It was also planted about eighteen years ago, and has never had anything done to it. The clump has nearly a hundred and fifty plumes. Yuccas, of which there is a clump on either side of the flower beds on the lower terrace, are likewise very much at home.

"By the flower beds I mean the formal bedding with Box round the Golden Yews in the centre, as well as four Irish Yews, and four Golden Yews, as standards. Two of the beds are filled with Sutton's strain of Pentstemons, following Canterbury Bells; and two others with Crinums, pink Antirrhinums, a delicate shade, and Heliotrope Miss Nightingale."

CLIMBERS IN THE COURT.

"From the house terrace you see the old Walnut trees to advantage. For years we have had good crops, but this year there were no Walnuts at all, though the trees looked just as well as ever. I attribute the absence of Nuts to a cold spring after a wet summer. The steps of the terrace approaching the house are adorned with tubs of Geranium Paul Crampel, and on the house a recently-planted Wistaria is forging ahead over the verandah. Other climbers on the mansion are Sweet-scented Verbena, planted out, Rosemary, Myrtle, Lavender, Buddleia, and a Black Hamburgh Vine, grown from a cutting. Facing the Vine, on the

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other end of the house, and also growing on the brickwork, is a Wistaria, recently planted, and Oleanders pink and white. Wistaria also does well on the wall under the terrace, in conjunction with Roses and Clematis, Viburnum plicatum, Berberis in variety, and Lavender, which we plant wherever we can find space for it.

"Just now we are finishing a new summer-house and a road leading up to it from the garden. In this vicinity thousands of Daffodils and Tulips are naturalised. No attempt is made to separate the varieties; they are all mixed, and in April, with the grass growing up they make a fine show. In the border, between the pleasure grounds and the orchard, which was planted twenty-one years ago, there are two rows of Stocks, white and pink; Salvias Turkestan, a light blue variety, which begins flowering at the end of June, and continues until the end of October; Godetias, Coreopsis, and Nigellas.

"The idea of the orchard was to have a number of specially picked varieties, in order to enjoy the blossoms in the spring, and gather according to inclination later on. There are six dessert varieties only, Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Cox's Orange Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, Irish Peach, and Margil. I consider these the finest half-dozen dessert Apples.

"There is still the Dutch garden close to the house, with Vines and Clematis on the wall and Lavender amongst the Roses. In the summer there are also tubs of Agapanthus. One of the four beds is made up of yellow, white, crimson, and coral-red Antirrhinums. Another has Rose Warrior, whose foliage is as pretty as the flowers; a third, Heliotrope Miss Nightingale; while the fourth contains Geranium Madame Lemoine. The edging of these beds is limited to Aubrietias and Sedums in variety. In the long border Madame Lemoine is used exclusively, with an edging of dark grey Lavender."

THE TERRACE AT SHIPLAKE COURT.

Retracing our steps we crossed the road, and proceeded along a short ornamental approach to the kitchen garden. This is three acres in extent, and in addition to the imposing entrance, with its handsome iron gate, are a set of lofty fruit walls.

"The aspect of this garden," continued Mr. Hall, "is south-west, and though fruit and vegetables are the principal features, outside there are several flower borders. There are also breadths of flowers under the walls for cutting purposes. For instance, here is one which during June and July is filled with Campanulas persicifolia and pyramidalis and Aubrietias in mixed colours, and an edging of A. purpureum. Then there is a large bed of Montbretias, which was moved here two years ago, and in front of the houses are beds containing Spanish Iris mixed with Pansies, summer-flowering Asters, Sweet Williams, and Border Carnations in variety."

A NOTABLE FLOWER BORDER.

"On either side of the central arch is a flower border. On the right are summer-flowering Chrysanthemums, Heleniums, and Michaelmas Daisies; and on the left two hundred and fifty Dahlias, Pæony-flowered, Collarettes, and Singles. The rest of the borders are filled with varieties mixed to make the most of colour, and for cutting for house decoration. Sweet Peas flower from the last week in May until the end of October. We pick them every weekday, and send as many as thirty bunches to the Court for house decoration. During the summer this year we picked five waggon loads of flowers."

"What is the length of your Pear wall?"

"Four hundred and sixty-eight feet, useful shelter being provided by the coping. Peaches and Plums are also grown on the wall, but Pears horizontally and fan-trained occupy most of the space."

"Do you go in largely for Strawberries?"

"Fairly. After forcing we plant out Royal Sovereign and keep it for three years. The other variety used is Kentish Favourite. But the absence of all protection from sunshine and wind is bad for the cultivation of Strawberries.

"The top wall, three hundred and thirty feet in length, forms a background for the range of fruit and plant houses. Tree Carnations are a great feature in one of the latter, and they supply us with flowers from one end of the year to the other. The Chrysanthemums are chiefly Singles, and we are strong on white, pink, and bright yellow varieties, carefully excluding colours that would clash with Oak furniture, like bronze, brown, or dark yellow.

"In the stove no foliage plants are grown, but only those which flower, such as Gardenias, Pancratiums, and Begonias. There is a large collection of autumn-flowering Pelargoniums.

HUGE ONIONS.

"Onions appear to be a leading vegetable?"

"Yes, I have had some three pounds each this year. They are sown in January, and planted out in April. A hot season usually suits them best, always supposing they get plenty of water. The varieties are Ailsa Craig, Cranston's Excelsior, and Sutton's Globe. In spite of the drought, Potatoes have done well. The early varieties are May Queen and Sharpe's Express, which we follow with Factor and Up-to-Date. Peas are sown in boxes, planted out in March, and we begin to pick the third week in May. I sow thinly, and I also sow an early and a late variety together alternately. The varieties are Early Giant, Pilot, Ne Plus Ultra, Satisfaction, and Gladstone. Next to Peas, we grow in quantity the greatest number of Lettuces; a Cabbage variety, Sutton's Standwell, being the best. We only grow the smallest Cauliflowers, the varieties being Early London and Magnum Bonum. Asparagus, Beans, and Beetroots are the other principal vegetables, and we grow quite two thousand Cabbages."

MR. HALL'S UNBROKEN CAREER.

"Where was your experience gained before you came here as head gardener?"

"I was born in County Down and worked first in County Meath, then in Roscommon; I next went to Kew and was there for a couple of years; afterwards I was three years with Mr. F. W. Burbage. Before coming to Shiplake I was foreman for four years at Batsford Park, Gloucestershire. I left Batsford and came here the same day. Since I commenced my gardening career I have never had a day's cessation from work."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Next week: Interview with a Famous Amateur in the Isle of Wight.

Freesias are excellent plants for sunny windows. Bulbs should be potted up in the autumn—the earlier the better—in a light soil in which a little leaf-mould and sand has been incorporated. Bring to the light as soon as growth commences.

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plant of Pampas Grass of which you feel reason to be proud, to be told, "Yes, very fine; I have one still larger, with more plumes," or when you have drawn attention to your best Rose, to be brought down sharply with, "I suppose my soil suits Roses better than yours, for in my garden they seem to grow more luxuriantly and to flower more profusely." If you are wise you will escort that sort of person to the gate as soon as you can without discourtesy, and you will not ask him to come again. He will probably come, nevertheless.

MULBERRY CUTTINGS.

February 22nd.—One of the many mysteries of the garden is why some plants will root readily from cuttings while others will not. The Mulberry, in spite of its being a tree of very slow growth, is a remarkable instance of the former class. Loudon says of it: "It is very easily propagated by truncheons or pieces of branches, eight or nine feet in length, and of any thickness, being planted half their depth in tolerably good soil, when they will bear fruit in the following year. Every part of the root, trunk, boughs, and branches may be turned into plants by separation," and the ordinary treatment of cuttings. This is as good a time as any to perform the operation.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

BORDER CARNATIONS.

During the last decade the Border Carnation has made rapid strides in popularity, and certainly the choiceness and utility of its flowers render it worthy of special attention in our gardens. Many growers put in their plants in the autumn—probably the best time, all things considered—but there are numbers who have, for one or other reasons, to be planted in early springtime. And where this is the case such planting is, in the writer's opinion, left much too late. For this reason: Planted late, they never properly get hold of their position before the hot days set in, and that causes a premature formation of the flower spike, which in turn is followed by out of season and immature flowers. In addition to this, late planting means unnecessarily early waterings of the plants, to enable them successfully to withstand the increasing power of the sun, and probable drying winds. This watering is at a time when the subsoil is really moist enough from the winter's rains, but yet it must be done, otherwise the roots suffer before they get a grip of the soil. So, instead of deferring planting until April or May, it will be found far more profitable to get it done as soon after January is out as the ground is workable, especially in the Southern Counties.

The bed or border to be occupied should be thoroughly dug, if not already done, having been previously coated with old manure and soot. At planting time, unless the ground be of a chalky nature, fork in some old pulverised mortar rubble, and plant firmly but not too deep, allowing a distance of nine inches between the plants each way, if they are to remain one year only in the bed. Where they are to stand for two years—which they should be allowed to do to get the best decorative effect—give the plants one foot each way.

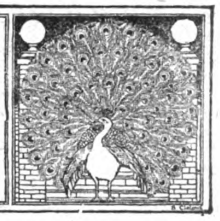
Still having in view the decoration of the garden rather than the exhibition table, I submit a mixed dozen Carnations and half a dozen Picotees. Mrs. Nicholson, pink; Daffodil, yellow; Old Clove, crimson; Mrs. Henwood, white; Persimmon, fancy; Linkman, fancy; Millie, fancy; Mrs. Robert Morton, apricot; Cardinal Newman, scarlet; Rony Buchanan, fancy; Delicia, fancy; The Bride, fancy. Picotees: John Ruskin, F. W. Goodfellow, Amy Robsart, Togo, Clytie, and Fair Maiden.—C. TURNER.

We shall esteem it a favour if you will recommend this paper to your friends.

FAMOUS BRITISH GARDENS.

COMBE BANK, SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

Interview with Mr. Charles Hall.



SUNDRIDGE lies three miles or so to the west of Sevenoaks, in the valley of the Upper Darent, and on the rising ground above the valley stands Combe Bank, the residence of Mr. R. L. Mond, J.P., M.A. The estate is upwards of three hundred and fifty acres in extent, and since Mr. Mond entered into possession, twelve years ago, its name has become well known in agricultural circles, for its owner, a gentleman of great scientific abilities and wide business experience, has devoted much time and capital to pedigree cattle and poultry, and the Combe Bank strains of Shire horses, dairy shorthorns, Kent or Romney Marsh sheep, and buff, blue, white, and black Orpington fowls, are regarded as among the finest in the kingdom.

But it was to see the gardens and grounds, and to interview Mr. Charles Hall, who is in charge of them, that I journeyed down a few days ago, for exhibits of flowers from Combe Bank have on several occasions attracted much attention in London; indeed, as recently as January 28th a large group of Chinese Primulas and other plants was staged at the Royal Horticultural Society's meeting.

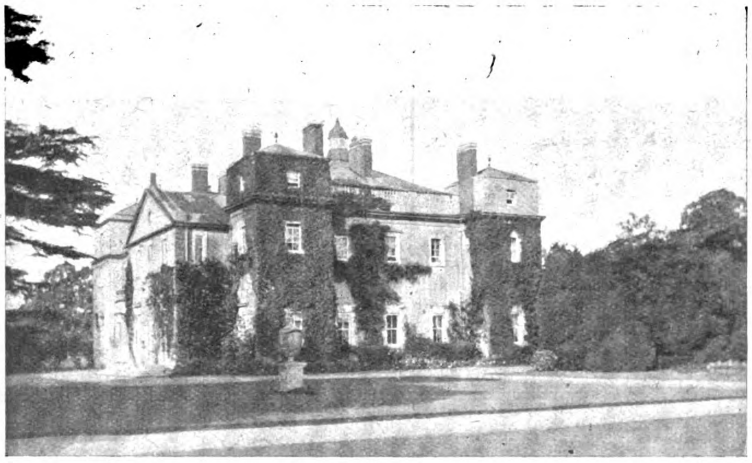
The snow which had fallen heavily a few days before still lay crisp and white, and the twenty-four degrees of frost that had been registered that morning imparted a keenness to the air, but overhead the sun was shining brilliantly, and it was through scenery wholly delightful that Mr. Hall conducted me.

Entering the grounds from the main road, we turned aside, before mounting the tree-covered slope, to view the fine bathing pond which Mr. Mond has had constructed for the benefit of the residents generally. It is supplied by water from the hills, filtered before it enters the pond, and is well patronised by those for whom it was designed. At this time the water had been lowered to afford facilities for skating.

By winding paths between shrubs, amongst which Rhododendrons and Portugal Laurels were conspicuous, and with tall trees overhead, we came out on to a clearing where, from the soft rocks, large caves had been hollowed out many years ago, local tradition says by soldiers. Some are now used for storage purposes; others afford rest to visitors.

Still keeping to the lower level, we worked round towards the lake, a splendid sheet of water five acres in extent, and in some parts over twenty-two feet deep. The surface was, of course, frozen over, and opportunity was being taken to fill the ice house, a very large chamber cut out of the side of the hill. Men were cutting the ice into blocks, which others inside were pounding down—"It keeps well here," said Mr. Hall, "and will be very useful in summer."

Leaving the lake, we passed through more shrubs till we came out to the terrace, a quarter of a mile long, and above this, to the lawn on the west front of the house, from which a fine view is obtained, with Brasted church in the middle distance. The snow, in its unsullied purity, made a dazzling effect here.



COMBE BANK, SUNDRIDGE—SOUTH FRONT.

"Have you been able to keep the lawns mown?" I asked.

"That is a job which I have managed," was the reply. "I let this one go for twelve months, but when I came to see to it I had so much trouble in getting it right that I decided it was not worth while to neglect it again."

"Is there much mowing to be done?"

"We keep two men going constantly with a pony mower."

At the corners of the lawn farthest from the house are two stone vases of remarkable size and great age, and further round I noticed others of similar design.

THE LARGEST CEDAR IN ENGLAND.

"We have here," said Mr. Hall, "what is said to be the largest Cedar in England. It is very old, and its girth is such that twelve men with arms outstretched can only just span it. It is a Cedar of Lebanon, and we have others, not quite so large. There used to be six altogther, but one of them, at the corner near the house, fell in a gale a couple of years ago, and for a time spoilt this part of the lawn. However, it is all right now."

Looking down from the north-west corner of

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the lawn, we could see the upper reaches of the lake, where skaters were enjoying themselves. Amongst them were several "blue boys," and I was told that, throughout the war, Mr. Mond has provided accommodation for between twenty and thirty wounded soldiers in a special building on the estate, and has personally seen to their comfort and amusement, many hundreds have thus enjoyed his hospitality. Descending a little way, we came to the Rose garden, with a long pergola at the side.

"This," said Mr. Hall, "is not yet finished. We were making it when war broke out, and then, of course, we could not go on. The Roses in the beds are mostly Hybrid Teas, massed for colour effect."

At the back of the house, as we made our way towards the east, I was shown the up-to-date electric installation, with huge engines driving dynamos, and across the passage a house filled with accumulators. Here, too, is a large laboratory where Mr. Mond conducts many of his experiments.

A NATURAL ROCKERY.

To the south-east is the rockery, which, being cut on the side of the hill, presents a very natural appearance. Saxifraga Elizabethæ and one or two others had been in bloom, but the severe frosts had spoiled them.

"What are the principal subjects?" I asked.

"They are only the usual run of rockery plants, such as Alpine Phloxes, Saxifrages, Aubrietias, Cyclamen, and others. We are going to extend the rockery as soon as conditions will allow. Before we leave it I should like to show you what we call the Lion's Den—the cave at the head, dug out of the rock. This is where we grow some of our Mushrooms, which do very well here."

On a ledge of ground above the rock garden is the Palm house, which is filled with Dicksonias, Kentias, and other foliage plants, with Acacia dealbata in bloom. All are in tubs, and are used for indoor decorations as required.

Pursuing the path below the rockery, and crossing the stream by a rustic bridge, we walked through the old orchard—with broad herbaceous borders on each side—to the first of the kitchen gardens, where the early crops are grown. It covers about an acre, and, like the other two, is walled in, with fruit trees on the walls. There is a range of Peach houses, the first—the early one—containing two each of Crimson Galande and Nectarine Lord Napier, also a fine old Brown Turkey Fig; the second, the late house, having two Princess of Wales and Pitmaston Orange Nectarine. In this house were a number of pots of garden Peas and Sweet Peas, just sown, also early Potatoes.

"We grow a lot of Potatoes in pots," Mr. Hall explained; "the varieties being Sutton's Supreme, Sharpe's Express, and Queen Mary. I put three in a 10-in. pot, and top-dress as the plants grow."

From these houses we made our way through the second kitchen garden, with espaliers bordering the path, and came into the third, where is another range of glass. The first we entered was filled with Primulas, of the sinensis, stellata, and malacoides type, some of which had formed the exhibit shown in London a fortnight previously. They were in many dainty colours, and made a most effective display.

AMARYLLIS IN QUANTITY.

"We use a large number of these for house decoration, and they are favourite flowers here. In the next section of this house—a Vinery—are a lot of Amaryllis, which were dried off after flowering. The Cinerarias are in great request, both as pot plants and for cutting."

"You certainly have a quantity of Amaryllis," I remarked, as we entered the third section, where many more bulbs were dried off, and were resting beneath the Vines, Lady Downe's and Alicante.

"We showed two hundred in flower at Chelsea in 1916, and obtained a silver gilt Banksian medal for them. The year before we gained a silver Flora medal for a group of Calceolaria Clibranii. We have been asked to exhibit at Chelsea this year, and at present I am undecided whether to show Amaryllis or Calceolarias."

"Are you raising many Calceolarias?"

"There is a pit full of young plants of new hybrids, and plenty of the Clibranii and amplexicaulis types in other houses, which I will point out to you as we go along."

The next Vinery we visited has Muscat of Alexandria, Madresfield Court, Prince of Wales, and Muscat Hamburgh, and on the staging beneath them were Cineraria stellata and Primula malacoides in bloom.

"You have some delicate colours among the Cinerarias," I observed.

"Yes; the pale pink is especially good. I am trying to get a good selection of that and the white, and saved seed of the best plants last year. All these are from the seed I saved. I shall do so again this season."

"And what are the Vines in this next house, where I see you have two borders?"

"They are Black Hamburghs and Muscats. By having the inner border built up from the floor, we obtain plenty of fruit from the young Vines. Of course, when those near the glass get big we shall take the others out. In this house I have sown a lot of Cauliflowers, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbages, and Onions in boxes, and shall move them to a cold frame later. Soon I shall be starting the Caladiums which are here."

In the first of the pits which we next went through was a batch of the Epacris which had formed a background to the group of Chinese Primulas lately shown. Under a bell-glass Cucumbers were germinating—the varieties, Royal Osborne, Carter's Model, and King George; and in other boxes were Tomatoes Sutton's Best of All, and yellow and red Sunrise. A nice lot of Palms, chiefly Kentias, were seen in another pit. In the next range the hybrid Calceolarias already mentioned were pointed out to me; and while here a most delicious fragrance caused me to ask whence it arose.

A PLANT FOR FRAGRANCE.

"That comes from some plants of Boronia megastigma, in the next compartment," said Mr. Hall. "It is a plant that I think should be grown by everyone, for it does not want much heat, and it is easy to cultivate. True, it is not showy, the flowers being small, and of a dull brownish-purple outside, but its fragrance is delicious. In the pit beyond are some more Epacrises, and next to that is where I have been forcing Daffodils. As soon as they are over I shall clear them out and put in early Potatoes."

With a glance at a number of large, brick-built frames, one of which is heated, we then turned into another Palm house, principally occupied with Cycas, Phœnix, and Kentias, with some plants of the rather uncommon Impatiens Olivieri. Most of these Palms, as also of those in a second house near by, had been used largely for platform decorations for the entertainments to wounded soldiers, which had been given in the large club-room erected by Mr. Mond for the use of the villagers. Several of the Palms had been raised from stones of the ordinary Tunis Dates, which germinate readily in a gentle heat.

Orchids, since the war, have had scant attention, and in the only house now devoted to them Cypripediums—grown for cutting—are the principal occupants.

Three other houses completed the glass. The first had variegated Abutilons, Cinerarias (all from the same lot of selected seed), Calceolarias Clibranii and the old brown variety, and an assortment of miscellaneous plants; the second and third had still more Calceolarias, and white Cinerarias.

MR. CHARLES HALL.

Of frames there is a goodly number, all well occupied. In some salads and early vegetables were growing; in others Asparagus is forced—a lot has already been cut; and in yet others are Strawberries.

"What varieties of Strawberries do you recommend for forcing?" I asked.

"The two we use here are The Duke and King George," was the answer. "King George is not so good as Royal Sovereign in the open, but for forcing I like it better."

As I have already indicated, the three kitchen gardens are enclosed in walls, all well furnished with fruit trees. The leading varieties are grown, of which those in the third garden may be taken as a sample. On the south wall are Peach Earliest of All and Nectarines Cardinal and Pine Apple. On the other walls are Cherries Governor Wood, Black Eagle, Bigarreau Napoleon, and Kentish Bigarreau; Plums Monarch, Jefferson's Late Transparent, and Bryanstone Gage; and Pears Doyenne du Comice, Beurré Diel, Beurré Hardy, Conference, Pitmaston Duchess, and other well-known sorts. Apples are represented by espaliers and bushes of Cox's Orange Pippin,

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Alfriston, Warner's King, Bismarck, Peasgood's Nonsuch, and Worcester Pearmain. These are but a few of the varieties noted as we passed along.

In addition to the fruit in these gardens, two new orchards have recently been planted by Messrs. Cannell and Son, of Eynsford. They are a little distance away, and consist of a representative collection of the best varieties. The trees are young as yet, and the ground between them is cropped with greens of various sorts, but this cropping will be discontinued when they get bigger.

"Did you have a poor season last year, like most growers?" I asked.

"It was not so good as it might have been," was the answer; "but, on the other hand, it was better than many others had. All told, we picked about forty bushels, and we still have a few in the fruit room."

A MODEL FRUIT ROOM.

This fruit room is worthy of special mention. It is fifty feet long, and stands on a dwarf brick foundation, with a thatched roof, and the sides and windows are protected with wattles. It is lined inside with matchboards, and lit by electric light. Ventilation is provided in the roof and at the ground level, while, when the fruit is first taken in, the windows also can be opened as required. Entrance to the fruit room is by a well-lighted antechamber, with benches where the fruit can be gone over before storing, and with cupboards and drawers beneath, in which packing materials, etc., are kept.

Mr. Hall's office, where our interview closed, has on its walls prize cards innumerable for exhibits of fruit and flowers at local shows, and at the Royal Horticultural Society's meetings. Besides those I have referred to in a preceding paragraph, he was awarded a silver Flora medal for Primulas in January; last year he gained a silver Knightian medal for fruit and vegetables in July, silver gilt Banksian for Calceolarias in May, and silver Flora for Schizanthus and Primula malacoides; and in May, 1917, a silver gilt Banksian for Calceolarias. In all he does he has the support of Mr. Mond, who is a most generous employer, and takes an active and personal interest in the gardens and the staff.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

CAULIFLOWERS.

Cauliflowers are perhaps the most appreciated of any of the Brassica family; and yet how few cultivators on the allotments produce really decent heads, fit for table use. There is nothing difficult about them; a little attention at critical stages in the growth is all that is necessary.

A small sowing of an early variety can be made now in a gentle heat, in a greenhouse or well-manured frame. In a suitable temperature these will germinate in about seven or eight days. When the second pairs of leaves are fully formed, the seedlings should be pricked out, three inches apart, into other boxes or frames. No great heat is required; a frame facing south is quite suitable, so long as they can be protected from frost and excessive damp, and in no case should they be allowed to overcrowd or become leggy. Remember that to produce the best heads it is absolutely necessary to keep the plants sturdy in the early stages.

When pricking out into frames, or planting out on the allotment, discard any specimen which has no perfect centre, for it is useless to occupy valuable soil with blind or deformed plants.

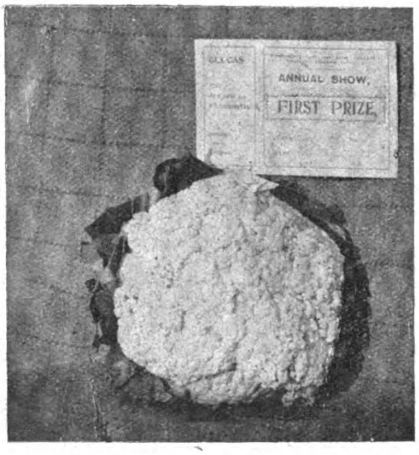
Another thing to observe when planting out any of the Brassicas is if the roots be bare; if they are abnormal in shape and size; if portions are very thick and white. These plants should be burned, otherwise clubroot may be introduced to the plot.

The Cauliflower is not so hardy as the Cabbage, and consequently protection in frames and gradual hardening-off is essential until it is safe to plant them out on the allotment.

The soil should be thoroughly dug and well manured previous to planting. The early variety should have at least eighteen inches of space, the later and bigger varieties another six inches. The soil around the stem and roots ought to be pressed moderately firm. Whenever possible, a ball of soil should be attached to the roots, as by this means they soon become established in the new quarters. If the season be dry, water and occasional doses of liquid manure should be given.

If space is limited, then set a row of plants in the bottom of the early Potato drills. If the latter have dwarf haulms, similar to Sharpe's Victor, there is no fear of the Cauliflowers being unduly drawn. As the tubers are dug up, the extra soil is useful to cover the lower stem up to the bottom leaves, and the additional air and sunshine are helpful as size is attained.

One pest which is little understood is the Cabbage root maggot. The maggots are those of a particular fly which deposits its eggs in



A PRIZE-WINNING CAULIFLOWER, TOOGOOD'S HER MAJESTY.

the soil near the stem; consequently, if an insecticide is used around the base of the plant from May onward, there need be no fear of loss. Flue dust spread around and drawn up to the basal leaves is a good preventive. A mixture of soot and salt applied similarly is not only an insecticide, but a mild stimulant.

The best points about a good Cauliflower are good shape, solidity, and whiteness. Other things being equal, the secret of obtaining these points is not, as many suggest, by breaking the top leaves over the curd, but by drawing the protective leaves together in the proper order in which they grow, and tying them around and near the top. This keeps off rain and excludes light. When the curd is two inches in diameter this is the proper period to tie, and in eight or ten days a perfect white Cauliflower is the result.

Toogood's Her Majesty is a splendid variety. Its pure white curd is a great recommendation for showing, and its cooking qualities are of the very best. The specimen in the photograph was grown as here advised. The snowy-white appearance is best observed when staged with other varieties, for it is then most conspicuous.

—JOSEPH FLOYD, Allotments Secretary, Westhoughton.

The British Carnation Society (formerly the Perpetual-flowering Carnation Society) is arranging to hold a dinner on one of the days on which the Chelsea Show is open.

Worth Knowing!

A SIMPLE PROPAGATOR.

Build a three-sided framework of dry bricks to carry a large box, sufficiently deep to hold twelve inches of coconut fibre, sandy soil, or sand, with room on top for seed pots or pans. Each of the pots may be covered with a piece of glass till the seedlings come up. Put two large pots inside the brick box, as far apart as will allow a lamp between them. Invert a large pot on these, and several smaller ones, also inverted, to hold the heat of the lamp.

BIG PEAS.

Two of the largest Peas in cultivation are Quite Content and Glory of Devon. To get pods of the largest size the soil should be fairly heavy, well manured, and deeply cultivated. If the soil is light, take out a trench a foot deep and put in six inches of animal manure in the bottom. On this place four inches of soil, and sow the Peas, covering them with two inches of soil.

POTATO THE BISHOP.

This is destined to take a high place on the exhibition table. Everyone who saw it last year at the Ormskirk trials was much impressed with it. It is of handsome shape, with a beautiful satiny skin, and is immune to wart disease. Few people have yet grown it, but many will do so this year. The tubers vary from kidney to oval, with scarcely any eye, so there is no waste.

HOW TO COOK KOHL RABI.

This should be used while young, and about the size of a cricket ball. Cut up the tubers into thin slices, and stew them till perfectly tender. The younger leaves should be cut up like Spinach, boiled separately, and added to the slices. Serve with white sauce. Late-sown Kohl Rabi may still be used in this way, but the young and quickly-grown tubers in summer are best. Therefore sow often, but merely a pinch of seed at a time.

IVY AND SPARROWS.

Where Ivy is allowed to grow as it likes on walls and trees it affords shelter for sparrows during the winter, and they build their nests in it early in spring and later on in summer. This can be prevented by chipping the Ivy close to the wall in March.

MUSTARD PLANTS AND WIREWORMS.

Farmers have for more than a century been growing White Mustard (Brassica alba) on the land to get rid of wireworm, and believe it is effective. That being so, there is no reason why it should not be done in gardens and on allotments, and not only reduce this pest, but also supply the soil with green manure. White Mustard seed is cheap, and can be sown to follow early Potatoes and Peas, and, dug in late in autumn,

MICE IN THE GARDEN.

Short-tailed field mice or voles, where numerous, are a source of trouble from January to December. The ordinary forms of mouse trap are not very effective. To catch them in large numbers use old zinc or tin pails, or deep glass jars. These should be sunk in the soil to the rim, or a little below it, and one-third filled with water. At night the mice fall in and drown.

WEEDS ON WALKS.

From March to the end of May is the time to clean weedy gravel walks. To one pound of powdered arsenic add two pounds of crushed soda in three gallons of cold water, and boil them. If distributed with a rose on the can this will be sufficient for a walk three feet wide and sixty feet long.

BREVITER.

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GARDENING IN THE NORTH.

Interview with the Rev. J. Bernard Hall, F.R.H.S., Secretary of the North of England Horticultural Society.

THE interest excited in the North of England Horticultural Society, which from the outset has been keen, has greatly developed since the first of the monthly meetings was held at Leeds, and the new organisation proved its capacity to carry on the work it has undertaken. Just now the man of the hour is the secretary of the society, the Rev. J. Bernard Hall, whose appointment at the time of the inauguration of the movement was hailed with great satisfaction by those who are acquainted with his antecedents. Mr. Hall has long been known as an enthusiastic horticulturist, who combines remarkable business capacities with sound scientific knowledge. He is not the less appreciated because he does not care to talk about himself. For this was the only point on which I found him reticent when I visited him at Dalston, Cumberland, in March, before he had moved to his new residence at Rawdon, Leeds. But during my brief stay in the lovely village, near Carlisle, where he has lived since he had to leave the East Coast because his little boy suffered from asthma, I was able to induce him to give me, by way of a preface, a few personal details.

The Beginning of Mr. Hall's Gardening.

"When I was at Cambridge," he said, "my interest was aroused in the scientific aspect of gardening, and I paid very frequent visits to the Botanical Gardens, when not playing football or cricket. I especially devoted my attention to the study of manures, my cousin, T. V. Steele, being head of Cockle Park Experimental Farm, near Morpeth, in Northumberland. Then, in the garden at home, which was about an acre in size, I had a piece for my own use, called 'The Triangle,' and here I watched the growth of various seedlings. This was the beginning of serious work as an amateur, which I have pursued more or less ever since, so far as my clerical obligations and my naval career of four years have permitted."

"Where was your house situated?" I inquired.

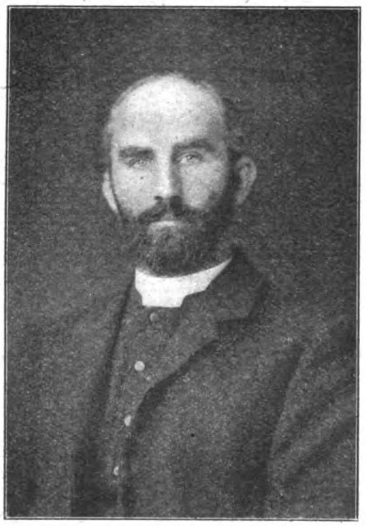
"The old home of my childhood was Birtley Vicarage, North Tyne, but the garden belonging to my mother, in which most of my experiments have been carried on—my garden, as I call it—is at Humshaugh-on-Tyne."

"In recent years, I think you have lectured on manures, and fruit culture?"

"Yes; I have given a good many elementary lectures on manures. As to fruit culture, my work has been chiefly concentrated on the cultivation of Apples.

A New Apple.

"Here," continued Mr. Hall, producing a singularly attractive-looking Apple from a box containing several specimens, "is a new variety called, by special request, after me, the 'Rev. J. B. Hall.' It was awarded a silver medal at the Four Northern Counties' Fruit Congress at Hexham, as being the best locally-raised Apple in the four northern counties. It is a good keeper. With regard to Apple-growing, the question of the raising of stocks is of the utmost consequence, more so than perhaps we realise. That is why it pays to go for them to well-known nurserymen. To illustrate the uncertainty of free stocks, I planted two pips from the same Apple (Cox's Orange Pippin) in my garden. In one case the roots were fibrous, and in the other they were as rank as any Crab. It is impossible to exaggerate the necessity for careful observation. I have planted Apple trees of the same sort, but on different stocks, side by side, and the results have been always instructive. You must bear in mind, however, that



The Rev. J. Bernard Hall.

I am a pure amateur, and that my experiments have been on a very small scale, although many friends have experimented for me on a larger scale. But even a person who makes experiments on a very small scale can test for himself rival theories, if not, indeed, break new ground. Why should not amateurs take up some special subject and investigate it, like Mendel, who had only a small garden, and yet made the world talk about his experiments."

Specialisation for Amateurs.

"You would have amateurs try to specialise?"

"Certainly. Why should they not specialise in one little thing? Why should not amateurs, for example, illustrate by photography the life history of some insect pest or disease, and make a permanent record? I wish I had been a photographer, and been able to take photographs of the seedlings in my garden, so that I might have thrown more light on the problem of why, when your Apple trees are grafted on (so-called) free stock, you often get no fruit for years. This is a vital question, for it means that unless the variety is grafted on the right stock quick profits are impossible. This is one of the problems—stocks for Apple trees—which I hope the North of England Horticultural Society will grapple with in the interests of amateurs, who work too often in the dark."

"And with regard to professionals, what are your aims?"

"I want our society to assist the professional gardener to obtain a right and proper status, according to his head and hand value, just as any professional man possesses it."

The Theoretical Side.

"You would elevate gardening to the dignity of a profession?"

"Yes, I would. But how is it to be done? The trouble with the present Royal Horticultural Society's certificate is that there is no test at all of practical cultural proficiency. That is the problem we must try to solve. To help us to solve it, we have the goodwill and support of the horticultural and agricultural authorities at Leeds and Newcastle, who control the four northern counties and the three Ridings of Yorkshire, in their official capacities. On our Scientific Committee, of course, they can only act as private individuals. A professional gardener ought to have a good knowledge of chemistry, geology, botany, artistic principles, forestry, entomology, and mycology. How can he tackle a rock garden if he be ignorant of geology? How can he understand the use of manures if he be ignorant of chemistry? We intend building on the basis of the syllabus of the Royal Horticultural Society, and hope to obtain scholarships for lads to enable them to go for a year at least to Newcastle or Leeds But before going to college, every lad ought to have four to five years in a garden, and be working up at evening continuation schools for the R.H.S. examinations—junior and senior. When at college, he will have ample time in the vacations to be of great use to county councils, if they elect to give scholarships, in that he would be able to help to make the horticultural section of the county council experimental plots of greater assistance to visitors in search of information, for his labour would be invaluable in attending to the trees and keeping the garden work up to date. After a year at college, he could profitably spend another year in the public parks at Newcastle or Leeds."

Packing and Grading.

"Is there any other problem to be attacked?"

"We slightly touched on a very important problem at Hexham Fruit Congress last year. I refer to the packing and grading of fruit. In awarding prizes, we ought not only to give medals for an ordinary exhibit, but also for the manner in which fruit-growers grade and pack their produce for market. Surely, with Bramley's Seedling selling at ten shillings a bushel in March, it would pay people to grow Apples, but this means they must not only store their fruit properly, but grade it as well. Then there is the question of the choice of varieties for cultivation in the North, which all depends upon

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the object in view, whether for profit or ordinary household purposes. Shall I give you the names of a few early and late varieties?"

"What about mid-season varieties?"

"Mid-season varieties are all very well for amateurs who want to grow them for their own use, and can afford to grow them. To make a profit, Apples must be got on the market before the glut comes, or when it is quite over. One or two of the earliest I can recommend are Lord Grosvenor and Early Victoria. I prefer Early Victoria. It is smaller, but Lord Grosvenor is a ribbed Apple, and, therefore, wasteful. Grenadier is perhaps our finest cooking Apple, and Golden Spire is an old variety which crops well year after year, but must be thinned out in order to obtain size, a remark that also applies to the other varieties. There is a variety as to which great caution should be exercised."

The Best Late Varieties.

"Please tell me the name."

"Stirling Castle. It has many merits. For example, it is the poor man's Apple, but unless it is properly fed, it will not flourish. Mention might be made of a local Apple, Liddle's Seedling, which was raised one thousand feet above sea level in Northumberland. It is a second-early cooking variety."

"What about late varieties?"

"There are four splendid cooking Apples which come into use at Christmas. In my opinion there is nothing to beat Lane's Prince Albert, Newton Wonder, and Bismarck, grown as bushes; and Bramley's Seedling as a standard—this latter on the free or Crab stock. The first-named three Apples are also quite fit to eat when ripe. Some people argue that everything depends upon climatic conditions; but my point is that a good variety will grow in any climate. This has been shown in a convincing manner at various fruit congresses. Thus, in 1883, at the National Apple Congress, out of one thousand five hundred and forty-five varieties, King of the Pippins, Cox's Orange Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Lord Suffield, Wellington, Keswick Codling, and Warner's King were shown to be the most popular Apples in all parts of England and Scotland."

The Value of Worcester Pearmain.

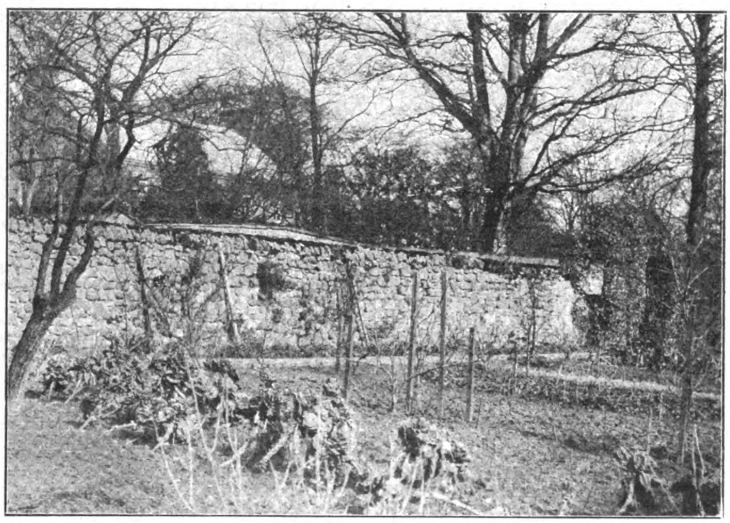
"You have not said anything yet about dessert Apples?"

"A very beautiful early sweet Apple bears the approved name in this locality of Cumberland Gilliflower. I think it is better than Mr. Gladstone. But there is nothing to touch Worcester Pearmain, which, in the North, is certainly a dessert Apple. Beauty of Bath is perhaps worth growing, but Worcester Pearmain, with its beautiful colour and hardiness, is the Apple to grow. James Grieve, a Scottish variety, and Allington Pippin, are also profitable varieties. These, and all the others I have named, should be grown on the Paradise stock."

The Cottage at Humshaugh-on-Tyne.

"You have scarcely said enough about the experiments in your own garden and elsewhere, Mr. Hall."

"I have made experiments with several varieties, Irish Peach for example. It is a very nice Apple, when you do get a crop, but it must be eaten immediately it is picked off the tree. I am growing, too, White Transparent, a good early Apple, sweet enough to eat, and big enough to cook."



A View in the Rev. J. B. Hall's Garden.

Bees in the Garden.

"Are you an advocate of bee-keeping?"

"For fruit-growing, and, indeed, all horticultural purposes, bees are as necessary as lime. That we decided at Hexham in October. They should not be kept merely for their honey, but because they are absolutely essential to the fertilisation of fruit trees. Reports of experiments carried out at two stations in Cumberland showed that the branches of certain Apple and Gooseberry trees which the bees could not get at, because they were covered with muslin, bore no fruit; while the adjoining branches, which they had been allowed to fertilise, were covered with fruit. In another case, hives were placed so that bees were able to cross-fertilise an orchard of Blenheim Orange, and trees, which had not yielded well before, bore full crops. Bees are quite indispensable."

"As to the progress you have made with the society? Are you well satisfied with it?"

The Position of the Society.

"There is every reason to feel encouraged. In fact, the support I have had is wonderful. We have already upwards of one hundred Fellows; we have an influential list of vice-presidents; a strong and representative council, with a safe and sure chairman; a scientific committee embracing many of the highest Northern authorities; a fruit and vegetable committee, combining both scientists and professional gardeners; and a plant and floral committee of a most comprehensive and representative character. We have hopes, too, that all the county councils in the North will work in harmony with us. Of course, we need a great many subscribers of all grades, *e.g.*, Fellows, Royal Horticultural Society Fellows, and Associate members, who are either amateurs employing a regular gardener, or nurserymen; amateurs not employing a regular gardener; or working gardeners. We are running a monthly magazine as the organ of the society, and to serve as a schedule and book of arrangements. Monthly meetings have been arranged for lectures or shows up to the end of the year, and we hope at Harrogate on August 15th to have an exhibition on a very big scale; also to go to Newcastle on July 19th and November 15th."

A Board of Horticulture.

"May I ask why you selected Rawdon, near Leeds, for a residence?"

"Because Leeds is the strategic railway base for the North. We must, in a sense, 'hasten slowly,' but ultimately we hope to do great things. One of our departures from the usage of the Royal Horticultural Society, with whom we are working harmoniously, is that we offer diplomas instead of Awards of Merit for new plants, fruit, and flowers. Eventually, like other horticul-

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tural bodies, we aspire to bring about the establishment of a Board of Horticulture, with a Cabinet Minister at its head. Why should Agriculture—the daughter—be in the position of superiority to the old mother—Horticulture?"

Alfred Wilcox.

Next week the gardens at Upper Gatton Park, Merstham, will be described.

Japanese Chrysanthemums for Amateurs.

(Continued from page 26.)

The second potting should take place as soon as the young roots begin to run round the sides of the pot and before they are even in the slightest degree pot-bound. This time the plants may be transferred into "forty-eights" or small "thirty-twos," according to the strength of the plants and the size of the pot they are eventually to be flowered in.

A slightly richer compost may now be used—fibrous loam two parts, leaf-soil and decayed manure one part, with sufficient sand to keep the compost open. The addition of a little wood ashes, charcoal, and old mortar rubble will be beneficial, not forgetting a "forty-eight" pot of soot and bonemeal to each barrow-load of the mixture. If the decayed manure is not to hand a "forty-eight" pot of a good fertiliser may be used.

The potting this time should be done pretty firmly, using a small rammer to make sure that the soil fills up all the space between the ball of the plant and the sides of the pot.

The plants should then be returned to the frame. Keep them a little closer for a few days; but on no account must the frame be kept quite close when the sun is shining, or they will soon get drawn and the foliage soft, which is not at all advisable, particularly at this stage.

Moving to the Open Air.

By the time they are nicely rooted into the new soil the weather should be quite fit for transplanting them out of doors. Choose a position for them where they are somewhat sheltered from the wind. It may be wise to run a wire or two over them, strained to posts, so that in the event of very late frosts a little tiffany may be put over them, but I find they rarely need to be covered if they are not put out till the second week in May.

Growth at this time will be fairly rapid, and more water will be needed, but if they have been potted pretty firmly, they ought to go through the day all right if they have been well looked over in the morning. In the event of a very hot day it may be advisable to go over them towards evening, though if convenient the best time is between two and three p.m.

Timing the Buds.

The matter of timing the buds is often a bugbear to amateurs. I here give what I consider very suitable dates for stopping the varieties that I selected in a previous article, so that they will give blooms of good size about the first week in November.

In many instances no stopping should be necessary. If the plants have made, or are likely to make, a natural break within a few days of the dates given, then by all means do not stop them. But in all instances after this break, or stopping, take the first bud that shows itself, which should be something between the first and twentieth of August, differing according to the variety. Though it may be found that with such varieties as Mrs. A. T. Miller and White Queen, they come a little early for showing, it is much more pleasure to have a good bloom even if a little early, than to let them run on to second crowns and have a flower that is no use whatever. I have grown Chrysanthemums long enough to know that there are very few varieties that are large enough to exhibit on second-crown buds, hence my advice to get first crowns, even if they are a trifle early.

Dates for Stopping.

There may be some few varieties that have already made their natural break by the date given, and be growing away nicely again. These must be stopped. This will make all the difference to these particular varieties, and cause them to be just a trifle later than the natural first-crown bud. However, if they have not made their break by the dates given, then just take two inches off the point, and the resulting bud should come at about the right time. Growers living more than fifty miles north of London should make allowance for this by stopping a little earlier:—Hon. Mrs. Lopes and Mrs. H. D. Thornton, May 12th; John Peed and Frank Payne, June 1st; Reginald Vallis, Mrs. A. T. Miller, Bessie Godfrey, Mrs. R. H. B. Marsham, Algernon Davis, W. Gee, and Willie Rawlins, June 10th; F. S. Vallis, Lady Talbot, James Lock, Lady Crisp, Mr. G. Mileham, Walter Jinks, Miss A. Nicol, Master James, George Hemmings, Pockett's Crimson, W. Mease, Superbe, Alice Lemon, and Mary Paulton, June 15th; Rose Pockett, Mary Farnworth, Kara Dow, Purity, Evangeline, Mrs. R. Luxford, and Frances Joliffe, June 20th; Mrs. Norman Davis, White Queen and Mrs. L. Thorne, June 25th.

Thomas Stevenson.

(To be continued.)

Campanula Portenschlagiana.

In the numerous species of the Campanula, there is great diversity of form and habit—a diversity which renders them available for many purposes. They comprise annuals, biennials, and perennials, some of which are hardy, others requiring more or less heat. The well-known C. pyramidalis, the Chimney Bell-flower; C. medium, the Canterbury Bell; and C. persicæfolia, the Peach Bell, need no description, and the same may be said of C. isophylla and its varieties, so popular for hanging baskets. But among the species which are less often met with, although deserving wider recognition, is the subject of our front-page illustration, C. Portenschlagiana, which, commencing to bloom some time in June, continues in a state of floriferousness for months.

An Ideal Rock Plant.

To many people, this species may be better known by its common (but incorrect) name of C. muralis. It is a charming little hardy perennial, reaching from four to six inches in height, and—although it makes an admirable edging for a border—is perhaps seen at its best on a rockery, or the top of an old wall. Possessing creeping, underground stems, it loves to ramble over and among the stones, finding in the pockets of soil behind a deep, cool root-run. The bell-shaped flowers are large for the size of the plant, and of a pretty lilac-blue. There is a variety, C. p. bavarica, which, though of the same dwarf habit, is even more robust, and bears flowers larger and of finer colour.

As in the case with most Alpines, this Campanula thrives in a fairly open soil—one in which there is plenty of sand and small particles of stone—and a well-drained position. An accumulation of moisture at the roots is more fatal during winter than severe frosts. It is easily propagated in spring by division of the roots, just as growth is commencing. This method is facilitated by its habit of growth, every piece, so long as it has a portion of the underground stem attached, furnishing a plant. Seed may be obtained, but the stock may be so readily increased in the manner indicated, that it is scarcely worth troubling about this mode of propagation.

Spring Treatment of Lawns.

A well-kept lawn is a beautiful accessory to the garden. It forms a setting to the whole, and further contributes to health and happiness by the opportunities it affords for outdoor games and enjoyment. On the other hand, a neglected sward is an eyesore, and great is the pity that rank weeds and coarse herbage are often allowed to oust the finer and legitimate grasses.

An erroneous idea is prevalent that to apply manure in the shape of top-dressing is to encourage the coarse and undesirable grasses at the expense of the finer sorts, but nothing can be further from the truth. This is explained by the fact that the first-named have long, wide-spreading roots, which range deep for food and moisture, while the others are wholly dependent on the surface soil for support, and almost imperceptibly disappear if the soil is allowed to become impoverished. Weeds, moss, and varied herbage indicate poverty of soil.

Removing Weeds.

The best way to remedy this condition is to take immediate steps to remove, in their entirety, every plant that is foreign to the scene. This is an easy matter at this season, so far as plantains and daisies are concerned. With regard to dandelions, they require special treatment. To exterminate them, a pointed stick or rod of iron, dipped into sulphuric acid, should be driven through the crown into the roots. Then we have to reckon with moss. A thin dressing of sulphate of iron (procurable from any horticultural sundriesman) will effectually destroy it. I would advise its application after the greater part has been raked away. This remedy may be applied in solution, four ounces to each gallon of water being ample.

The weeds having been disposed of, the next step is to spread a small quantity of short manure over the bare spots, followed by digging the ground to a depth of six or eight inches. After it has been solidified by treading, and an even and smooth surface has been prepared, the seeds may be sown. In this connection it is false economy to sow thinly, or to be sparing with the seeds. Personally, I employ four bushels to an acre of ground, which means that the seeds hide all traces of the soil when sown, and amateurs will not go far wrong if they follow this example. Unless the raking is very carefully done, the even distribution of the seeds will be interfered with. Here, again, I simply cover with screened soil, pass a light roller over the whole, and arrange a network of black cotton, supported by bamboo canes, to keep sparrows at bay.

Treatment of Young Grass.

Let the young grass be cut with a scythe three or four times before the machine is used, and hasten the development of a good turf by occasional dressings of superphosphate of lime and sulphate of ammonia, at the rate of three ounces to the square yard.

The finer lawn grasses suffer terribly in times of drought, hence the importance of artificial watering by means of a revolving sprinkler. Further, an autumn dressing of screened soil does much to revive the lawn after a big strain has been placed upon it.

Walter H. Aggett.

Ricinus, or the Castor-oil plant, must have germinating heat of seventy degrees, but the young plants will grow on and thrive in sunny windows by the end of May, and attain a tremendous size in the course of a little time.

Abronia umbellata grandiflora is a half-hardy annual of real beauty, a small trailer that has rose-pink blossom draped like the Verbena, and very sweet-scented. It needs sunshine, sandy soil, and can be flowered in quite small pots or in hanging baskets.

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phide of carbon is also recommended for the destruction of ants, insects which seem to have been unusually numerous this year. An ounce of it should be poured into a hole made in the nest. If, as sometimes happens, the ants occupy a considerable area in the lawn, holes should be made about eighteen inches apart, and after the liquid has been poured into them the grass should be heavily watered, as the moisture checks the escape of the gas into the air, and thus gives it a longer time to effect its purpose.

Artificial Manures and Seed-Sowing.

July 31st.—Many gardeners mix artificial fertilisers with their potting soil, and so long as it is used only for strong, established plants, there is not much to be said against the practice, though even the fertilisers would be better applied after the pots were filled with roots. But to seed such soil is actually injurious. It has been proved experimentally that a very small amount of nitrate of soda has a detrimental effect on germination, and though phosphates are much less hurtful, they also should be avoided. So far as is known, germination is not assisted by any kind of manure, and for that reason there is nothing to be gained by using it in seed-boxes. When it takes the form of an active chemical fertiliser it should never be used, for it cannot be kept from contact with the seeds, and is almost certain to injure them.

The Mixed Border.

August 1st.—Why does one prefer mixed borders to beds? It is often useful to analyse one's feelings. The answer which springs to the tongue—Because they are more natural—is obviously no answer at all, for it merely carries us a very short distance farther back. The charm of the mixed border is its variety. It is always springing little surprises upon us. At every step we see some new beauty in form, colour, or arrangement. So the eye never wearies; it is perpetually kept on the alert.

H. C. Davidson.

The Gardens of Lord Swaythling.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. THOMAS HALL, AT SOUTH STONEHAM HOUSE, SWAYTHLING.

Since Lord Swaythling, by whose courtesy I visited the gardens at South Stoneham House early in July, purchased this delightful property twenty years ago, a wing has been added to the mansion, and great changes have been made in the pleasure grounds, which are on a very extensive scale. Mr. Thomas Hall, the head gardener, who met me at Swaythling station, and whose career is practically summed up in the statement that in October next he will complete thirty years' service in his present position, first of all showed me some of the original portions of the thirty acres which are now covered by gardens. Near the entrance gates there are several fine old trees, notably a variegated Elm, with a cluster of St. John's Wort nestling at the base, and Acacias and Maples flourish. Round the well-kept tennis court runs a pretty border, and I asked for a description of it.

"It is made up," replied Mr. Hall, "of Marguerites (Emperor Alexander), Geraniums (Vesuvius), Ageratums, Begonias (Fairy Queen), and white Alyssum, with climbing Roses at the back. On one side of the court, on a raised border, Tropæolum speciosum rambles over flowering shrubs."

"With excellent effect. Does it require much looking after?"

"None at all; but it does not like to be disturbed. The Rose in that border is Gampion, a pretty flower which seeds itself. Forsythia is a shrub which thrives there, and Antirrhinums, or any plants which will stand dry weather, do well. The Acers (negundo), planted at intervals, present a contrast to the prevailing green."

Features of the Conservatory.

Close to the mansion is a very handsome conservatory, in two divisions, and on entering I noticed a striking specimen of Medinella magnifica, flowering profusely.

"It has been in flower for seven weeks," said Mr. Hall, "and has now upwards of a hundred blooms. The pink flowers are heightened in effect by the foliage. When it came here, twelve years ago, it was in a small pot. Only ordinary stove treatment is required."

"How did you grow the Strelitzia Augusta?"

"From seed. It is about eighteen years old. Other features of the conservatory are the Bougainvillea glabra, the Asparagus plumosa on the roof, and A. Sprengeri in baskets; also the Tacsonia Van Volxemii on the roof, its scarlet flowers just coming on."

Mr. Thos. Hall.

"What are the features of the terrace bedding?"

"There are two beds of tall-growing Geraniums (Souvenir de Charles Turner), with Verbenas as groundwork; two of tuberous Begonias, with Abutilon Thompsonii in the centre; two of golden Calceolarias, and Heliotropes in the centre; and four of Fuchsias in variety, with Heliotropes as groundwork. The chief object in view is a satisfactory combination of colours. Along the sides of the lawn are standard Roses, with a different variety of Ivy-leaf Geranium to each bed, the latter being chosen to harmonise with the colour of the Roses."

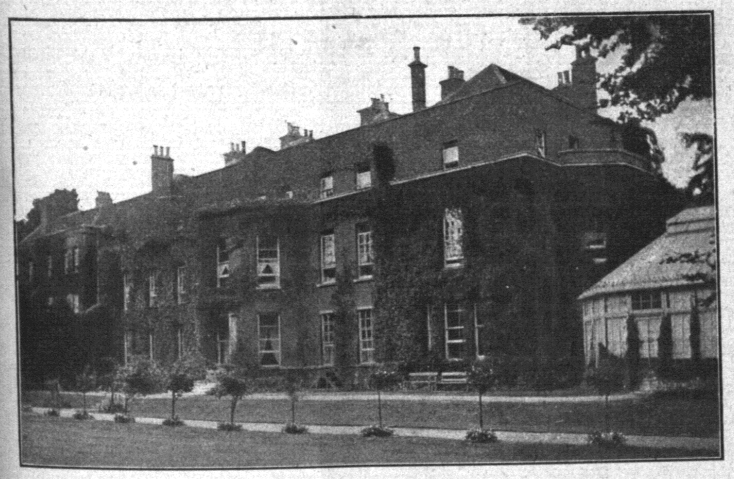
"You have a marvellous white Rose clothing a portion of the mansion?"

"The variety is Aimée Vibert, and the tree is quite fifty feet high. I suppose there are thousands of blooms. Wistaria sinensis grows right up to the top of the house, and, in fact, we do not clip the creepers. Lord Swaythling prefers them to grow carelessly. Other varieties are Ampelopsis Veitchii, yellow Jasminum, Banksian Roses, the Passion-flower, Gum Cistus, Rose William Allen Richardson, and Garrya elliptica. The wing of the house which was added seven years ago is covered by Ampelopsis Veitchii, which runs up the chimney stacks."

"How do you start your Ampelopsis?"

"I plant it in boxes, and afterwards the most important point is to give plenty of water. Directly underneath the house is a border two feet wide, planted so as to furnish a show of bloom all the summer."

Proceeding down the slope, we passed a noble old Cedrus atlantica, and several good examples of Wellingtonia gigantea, Cupressus Lawsoniana, Abies Nordmanniana, and a noteworthy Acacia, close to the latter being a pretty border of Rambler Roses, Delphiniums, Campanulas, and Rudbeckias (Golden Glow). Another border consisted of Geraniums Henry Jacoby and Chelsea Gem, Coleus Verschaffeldtii, and Begonia Fairy Queen, while near a fine old Maple was a clump of Roses, hybrid Sweet Briers in the centre, surrounded by rugosa alba and rosea.



South Stoneham House.

"You desire," I remarked, "to make the gardens as natural as possible?"

"Yes, we do not care about formalism. Water is a prominent feature, and you will see as we go along that we try to make the most of it. By the salmon pool, which we are now approaching, and in which six salmon and eight salmon trout were caught this morning, is a border of mixed Roses and flowering plants, the former growing on the fence. Monk's River runs right through the pleasure grounds, and empties itself in the salmon pool."

The Island Lawn.

"Then there is the River Itchen?"

"Yes, that is the source of the water. The island lawn, as we call the portion just in front of us, and which was made out of a rough meadow, twelve years ago, is surrounded by the Itchen, the lake, Monk's River, and the salmon pool. Here there is more bedding."

"What are the shapes of the beds?"

"One is that of a Shamrock, and the other two Rose beds are Pear-shaped. The centre bed, filled with herbaceous plants, is star-shaped. Of the three round beds, one is filled with Helianthus Soleil d'Or, another with herbaceous Lobelias (cardinalis), intermixed with variegated grasses, both of these being edged with Royal Sovereign Violas; the third, consists entirely of Cactus Dahlias, with edging. In the beds of mixed Roses, the principal varieties are Frau Karl Druschki, Dr. Hogg, Margaret Dickson, Madame Gabriel Luizet, and Paul Néron."

"And the flowering shrubs and Conifers in the long garden forming the boundary of the lawn?"

"Fast-growing plants, such as Philadelphus, Cerasus, Sweet Bay, Copper Beech, Mountain Ash, and Thujas. In front are smaller shrubs, like Veronicas, and double-flowering Deutzias. At the corner of the lawn is a batch of seedling Poppies (scarlet and white), which come up every year, with clumps of Achillea (The Pearl), for cutting."

The River Garden.

The lake next claimed my attention. Its banks are ornamented with Spiræas and various plants which flourish by the water, while in the water itself there are some fifty clumps of Lilies. With its two islands, approached by rustic bridges, its splendid Elm, Yew, Chestnut, and other trees drooping down to the edge of the water, and its boathouse covered with Roses and Ivy, it forms a great attraction, and can only be fully appreciated by personal observation. But now we arrived at the latest of all the additions, which, in time to come, will doubtless prove a splendid acquisition. It is called the river garden.

"Until the beginning of the present year, the six acres which now form the river garden were part of a swamp," said Mr. Hall, "and this addition was only completed in May. As you see, the river runs on either side—hence its name."

"When was the planting commenced?"

"Not until after February 20th. Messrs. Ware, of Feltham, from whom we obtained the plants, gave me valuable assistance by sending me a plan."

"I notice that you adopted the clump system?"

"Yes, there are four thousand herbaceous varieties planted in clumps, and all are thriving. Roses are a prominent feature. The pergola leading to a bog garden, with stepping stones, is planted with R. Hiawatha, and the bog garden contains, among other varieties, Gunneras, Lilium giganteum, Polygonums, Pampas Grass, Rheums, Spiræas, Funkias, Irises in variety, and various grasses."

"You have a charming display of pillar Roses?"

"They are planted one variety to each post, and the posts are attached to each other by a chain over two hundred feet in length. At the back of the Roses is a hedge of Golden Privet."

"What are the varieties of Roses used?"

"Mrs. F. W. Flight, Edmund Proust, René André, Peregrine, Hiawatha, Elize Robichon, Blush Rambler, Thalia, Madame Alfred Carriére, Auguste Barbier, Ard's Pillar, Evergreen Gem, Fortune's Yellow, and Lady Moyra Beauclerc. In front of the pillar Roses are Prunus Pissardi and Acer negundo alternating, in a herbaceous border twelve feet wide, which is edged with yellow Violas. In this border alone I planted a thousand Violas. The lake facing the large summer-house, with seats on the balcony, in the centre, is filled with clumps of the most choice Lilies, and close by are Irises, Bamboos, Golden Willows, Weeping Ash, and flowering Cherries. There are four bridges over the water, all on steel girders."

"How is the adjacent pergola covered?"

"With Honeysuckles in variety, Passion-flower, and Clematis montana alternating. In front of this pergola is a square garden filled with varieties of herbaceous Phlox."

"I should like to know the precise arrangement."

"The centre of each bed comprises four rows, each bed being edged with Violas. The Phlox used are Anatole de Bray, Joubert, Flambeau, Fraulein von Tarramberg, Mont Blanc, Coccinea, Fanfluche, and Fraulein von Laisberg. As to other beds, one consists of Golden Willows, another of Pampas Grass, and a third of Spiræas in variety, a fourth of ornamental grasses, and a fifth of red Dogwood. At the end is a large circular bed of Roses, sixty feet in diameter, with flowering Almonds in the centre, and the raised stonework beyond is adorned with eight specimen Sweet Bays, and Golden Privets, also a number of Hydrangeas (Hortensis) in pots."

"Your river garden has been so admirably planned and executed that I should be glad to know who designed it."

"Mr. F. Rome Guthrie, of London, Mr. Lawrence, of Cobbett Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton, being the contractor for the work. About two thousand yards of deposit were taken from Monk's River and placed in the garden, to form the herbaceous borders. Now you must see a feature which has been in existence for twenty years.

"This," continued Mr. Hall, as we made our way to a delightful corner in the original pleasure grounds, "is the Rosery."

"But the Medlar tree in it must date back for more than a century?"

"It is, I believe, two hundred years old. The Roses are in beds of different shapes, no two of them being identical in either shape or size. They are chiefly Hybrid Perpetuals, but there are a few Teas and Hybrid Teas. The chain supporting the old Yew tree in the Rosery is planted with Clematis montana, and at the end are two large clumps of Spiræa aruncus. Our next extension, to be carried out in the autumn, will be made here. The meadow of two acres, adjacent to the Rosery, will be converted into a rockery and terraces. It will have as background a shrubbery which I planted thirty years ago."

"Are the grounds ever thrown open to the public?" I enquired, as we returned to the south lawn.

"Once a year, in July, and the privilege is much appreciated."

The South Lawn.

"You have a number of pleasing combinations on the south lawn?"

"A stump of a tree planted with Foxgloves, hardy Ferns, Periwinkle, and London Pride makes rather a nice show. Along the path, at equal distances, are standard Roses, planted at the base with Ivy-leaf Geraniums. There are three large beds filled with Pompone Dahlias for cutting; two oval beds with Guiding Star Dahlias (white), and a variety of mixed colours; a bed of scarlet Geraniums (Henry Jacoby), carpeted with white Alyssums, and edged with Fairy Queen Begonias; a bed entirely filled with Marguerites; a large bed containing mixed herbaceous plants, such as Helianthus, Delphiniums, Chrysanthemum maximum, edged with yellow Violas; a large bed of mixed Cannas; and a large bed of Japanese Maples."

"How long ago was the Holly hedge, which divides the kitchen garden from the pleasure grounds, planted?"

"Thirty years ago. Most of the best varieties of our Apples are obtained by grafting. We get the best crops and the finest fruits by cutting down the old trees, and grafting on new ones."

"Which do you find the most satisfactory varieties for grafting?"

"Alfriston, Allington Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Beauty of Kent, Cellini, Bismarck, Blenheim Orange, Egremont Russet, Gravenstein, Grenadier, Lady Henniker, Lane's

The Gardener's Cottage at South Stoneham House.

Prince Albert, Mr. Gladstone, American Mother, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Royal Jubilee, Mère de Menage, Warner's King, Beauty of Bath, Gascoyne's Scarlet, and Baumann's Red Winter Reinette. All these are grown in the Apple orchard. Apples are also horizontally trained in the kitchen garden, and likewise Pears. The varieties of the latter are Pitmaston Duchess, Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Clairgeau, Beurré Hardy, Beurré Alexander Lucas, Beurré Bosc, Beurré Superfin, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Charles Ernest, Marie Louise, and Louise Bonne of Jersey."

"Your south walk appears to be chiefly covered with Peaches?"

"And Nectarines. The Nectarines are Early Rivers, Humboldt, Lord Napier, and Pineapple; the Peaches, Alexander Early, Amsden June, Duchess of Cornwall, Dymond, Early Alfred, Goshawk, Late Devonian, Princess of Wales, Barrington, Royal George, Noblesse, Gros Mignonne, and Sea Eagle."

"What about Plums?"

"They are grown on the east wall, the varieties being Prince Engelbert, Coe's Golden Drop, Pond's Seedling, Victoria, Rivers' Early Prolific, The Czar, Greengage, Transparent Gage, Washington, and Jefferson. On the west wall are dessert Cherries—Frogmore, Early Bigarreau, Bigarreau Napoleon, Elton Heart, Governor Wood, and Selle d'Orleans. In each corner of the kitchen garden there is a Fig tree on the wall, the variety being Brown Turkey. Morella Cherries are grown on the north wall. All the wall fruit is bearing well, and all of it was planted thirty years ago."

The Bush Fruit.

"Your crops of bush fruit are very heavy."

"They also were planted thirty years ago. The Red Currants are Raby Castle, Scotch, Fay's Prolific, and American Wonder; the Black Currants, Lee's Prolific, Naples, and Baldwin's Champion. Of Gooseberries, we grow, amongst others, Crown Bob, Warrington, Whinham's Industry, White Swan, Golden Drop, Golden Lion, Cheshire Lass, Whitesmith, Red Champagne, and Lady Leicester. Raspberries (Superlative) and Loganberries are grown."

"Do you fork amongst your fruit trees?"

"No, but we mulch them with stable manure early in February, applying the same treatment to both bush trees and trees on walls. To that system I largely attribute our heavy crops. We use calico blinds for protecting Peach and Nectarine trees on the walls during the spring, when they are in flower."

"Then there are the fruit houses?"

"We had better take the houses in order. In the first, Roses are grown for winter decoration, the only four varieties being Catherine Mermet, Niphetos, Maréchal Niel, and Liberty. There are four Vineries, one house containing Muscats only."

"You have some good bunches of fruit?"

"They are about six pounds in weight. Another Vinery is devoted to Madresfield Court, and here we have an outside border as well as an inside one. I confess I prefer to have only an inside border, because the roots are more entirely at one's command."

"Do you find that the Madresfield Court Grapes split?"

"I have never seen a split berry, although ours were planted twenty-eight years ago. Split berries, I think, arise from keeping the Vines too dry. I give them a good soaking of water. In a late Vinery we have Mrs. Pince, Muscat of Alexandria, and Mrs. Pearson; and in a still later Vinery, Madresfield Court and Black Hamburgh are grown alternately. Altogether, the show of Grapes is satisfactory, all being well filled in at the top. In the early Peach house we grow Early Alexander Peach and Lord Napier Nectarine. These are just ripening."

"Do you go in largely for Melons?"

"The only two varieties are Royal Jubilee and Sutton's Scarlet Flesh. There are twenty-eight fruits on one side of the house, thirty-two on the other. In the next house we grow Cucumbers (Toogood's Day by Day), and, in the next, Tomatoes—Toogood's Tip-top, and Winter Beauty. Our Strawberries are Royal Sovereign, Sir J. Paxton, Bedford Champion, The Laxton, Eleanor, Elton Pine, and St. Antoine de Padoue."

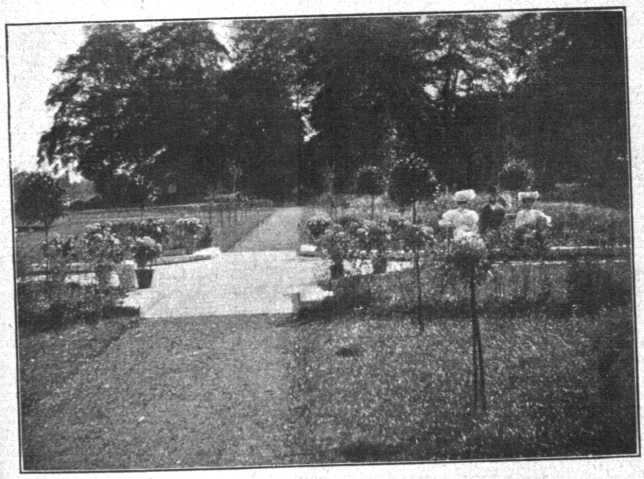
"What are the features of your greenhouse?"

"As a climber, the specimen of Bougainvillea glabra, balloon-shape, and here I grow Malmaison Carnations. The best six varieties are Maggie Hodgson, Monk, Thora, King Oscar, Blush, and Sir Charles Fremantle. The double-flowering blue Lobelias, which you see in little pots, are grown to decorate the conservatory. The stove is devoted to Crotons, Caladiums, Eucharis, Allamandas, and similar plants for house decoration."

"You have not said a word about vegetables, although you seem to have an abundance."

"Yes, we grow large breadths, and the consumption is very considerable, but there is no special feature, though I may mention that we keep up a succession of crops of Ne Plus Ultra, the variety of Pea which we find much the best."

ALFRED WILCOX.



A View in the River Garden at Stoneham House.

Pruning Flowering Shrubs.

In dealing with this subject, it will simplify matters if we make a note of the principal shrubs, and endeavour to make it clear as to how they should be pruned, not only to ensure symmetry and longevity, but floriferousness. It would be idle to say that amateurs generally possess anything but a very scanty knowledge of the business, and it often happens that they all come in for the same treatment, namely, a more or less severe thinning during the winter months, and matters are not improved if left to the tender mercies of the jobbing gardener.

Removing the Flower Heads.

At the outset it is always advisable to remove all flower heads immediately their beauty is past, in order to prevent seed production and unnecessary strain upon the plants. In some instances, the formation and bringing to maturity of a quantity of seeds affects the plants in a trifling degree; the Bladderwort (Colutea arborescens) may be sited as an example, while, on the other hand, Azaleas and Rhododendrons suffer very considerably.

Then there is the Rambler section of Roses, which usually are of strong and rampant growth, and are often found in the shape of an impenetrable mass of crowded growths, and when they reach this stage they become less beautiful and floriferous year by year.

This state of affairs may be obviated and prevented by timely pruning, commencing in their young stages, and consisting in removing bodily a proportion of the growths immediately they pass out of flower. It is true that a number are more or less continuous bloomers, but these produce a main crop, and it is when these are over that the opportunity should be taken to carry out the work. The object is to promote and encourage vigorous growths, which will be responsible for future displays, and this is impossible if room is not provided for development, together with a free entry of light, sun, and air. Precisely the same applies to a number of shrubs, including the Weigelas, the Mock Orange (Philadelphus coronarius, and its vastly improved varieties), Hypericums, Spiræas, Buddleias, Prunus, Cytisus, Ceanothus, Kerrias, etc.

Discrimination in Treatment.

Then, again, others require but little attention in this way, only with a view to maintain symmetry, and, being naturally of loose, open growth, are vastly better left alone. The following are included in this category:—The hardy Hibiscus, Laburnums, Clethra arborea, the Pernettyas, Colutea arborescens, the Judas-tree, hardy Azaleas, Veronicas, Skimmias, and Osmanthus, the Acers and Tamarix, the Arbutus, Euonymus, and Garrya elliptica.

If we desire noble foliage and superb growths in the Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus glandulosus), and Paulownia imperialis, they should be confined to a single stem, and cut down to the ground-level every winter. Treated in this way, they are second to none amongst plants of sub-tropical habit and appearance.

It is a mistake to shorten the growths of the Guelder Rose, Thorns, Mock Orange, the bush Honeysuckle, Forsythias, Lilacs, and similar subjects. Such pruning as is necessary in preventing density should be carried out in winter, when superfluous growths should be removed bodily, leaving the remainder in their entirety, otherwise much bloom will be sacrificed, and much of the grace and beauty of the plants destroyed at the flowering season.

WALTER H. AGGETT.

At the Cardiff Horticultural Show, Messrs. Sutton and Sons, of Reading, had a most interesting and extensive exhibit of horticultural produce, for which a gold medal was awarded.

John Halliday

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1875 n.s. 3

Mr. John Halliday, whose portrait accompanies this notice, though occupying one of the more prominent positions filled by the gardeners of Scotland, is one of those quiet, unassuming, but worthy men of whom comparatively little is heard by the outside world, but who yet contrive to plod on successfully, absorbed in the duties of their avocation. Different circumstances may in different cases conduce to this end, and what these may be in the present instance we need not stay to inquire. Suffice it to say that the visitor to the gardens at Scone Palace in Perthshire, the seat of the Earl of Mansfield, and which are under Mr. Halliday's management, will find in them a good example of North Country gardening.

Mr. Halliday was born on December 27, 1806, at Craigielands, Moffat, Dumfriesshire. In 1826 he entered as an apprentice in the gardens at that place, and remained as a journeyman until March, 1831, He then became a journeyman in the famous gardens of the Duke of Buccleuch at Drumlanrig, in the same county, where he remained for about two years, and then went South; and after having been employed for a few weeks in the Duke of Devonshire's garden at Chiswick, he entered as a labouring gardener in the Horticultural Society's garden at Turnham Green, which was then in its heyday. Here he remained until July, 1837, when he was appointed head gardener to Lord Sondes at Elmham Hall, Norfolk, and which situation was held by him till July, 1842, when he left, and was employed in Messrs, Lee's nursery at Hammersmith for about a year.

The next situation upon which Mr. Halliday entered was as head gardener to General Lord Lynedoch and Heers, Lynedoch, Perth, which situation he held for about two years, when he left to take charge as gardener and forester at Fornham Hall, Bury St. Edmunds, the seat of Lord Manners, with whom he served in these capacities until the close of 1851; and from thence he went to his present situation, Scone Palace, Perth, the seat of the Earl of Mansfield, on January l, 1852, where he occupies the posts of gardener and park forester, and is besides manager of the gasworks, clerk of charities, &c.

Nearly forty years ago Mr. Halliday invented a flower-pot, designed so that a trellis could be more expeditiously affixed to it than to an ordinary pot. For this Mr. Loudon marked him amongst the inventors of improved horticultural appliances, and the pot was, we believe, figured in Loudon's Gardeners' Magazine, though we have not that work at hand to refer to. It appears that on lately asking a Glasgow potter to make a few for him he was met by the objection that the plan was patented.

A very successful Peach and Fig house, erected at Scone in 1860 by Mr. Halliday, from "a walkingstick and gravel sketch" by his noble employer, and which is the subject of an illustration at p. 1293 of our volume for 1871, still continues to answer perfectly. It is an elliptical quadrant, 8 feet 4 inches wide, and 15 feet 9 inches high, furnished with planted-out trees on the back wall, and otherwise furnished with trees in pots; and usually the crops are so plenteous that Peaches at Scone are "nothing accounted of," like the gold in Jerusalem in the days of King Solomon. The entire skeleton of the roof of this house is of cast iron, a point on which Mr. Halliday claims some originality, and the advantages of which he considers to be that when once erected and finished it is too firm to be swayed or shaken by any hurricane ever likely to bear upon it. Mr. Halliday mentions that there have been several imitations of this house in the adaptation of materials, if not in structural form, and as one of the outgrowths from this nucleus he points to Messrs. Downie & Co.'s Winter Garden in Edinburgh.

WOMEN AS GARDENERS.

We have it on the authority of Miss Lilian Hamilton, of Studley Horticultural College, that "all over the country there are women who are either making a good living, or increasing their incomes by gardening."

as Daffodils, Scillas, Tulips, and Hyacinths, and placed, like them, in a cold house, they appeared weeks before any of the others, and are now a long way ahead, not very far off flowering. In one respect I have taken my own line, for instead of using the customary 5-in. pots, I planted the bulbs, which are very small, rather close together in "clumbs," my reason being that these tiny pots are often very useful for house decoration. Cramped, as they must be, the bulbs are not likely to be of much use another year, but that does not matter—they are so cheap. As the soil is completely filled with roots, I give them a little weak liquid manure occasionally. A sandy soil is generally recommended for them. As sand is not easily obtained here, I mixed the ashes of burnt rubbish with leaf-mould. This makes an excellent material for potting—with the addition of loam for such plants as require something more holding. As Ixias are not quite hardy, it is advisable, when they are grown outside, to lift them after the tops have died down, and it is not always easy to find the little bulbs, especially if the soil is at all heavy. Apart from their tenderness, this annual lifting is rendered necessary by the fact that, in their native habitat, South Africa, they are accustomed to a long period of drought, so they require to be dried thoroughly.

February 2nd.—The gardener congratulates himself at this season that insects are few in number, but he is apt to forget that to this cause also he owes the beauty of the spring flowers in so far as their colouring is concerned. The majority of them are yellow, because that colour remains visible for the longest time, an important matter when the hours of daylight are comparatively few, and insects far from common. Hence, too, these early flowers are mostly scented, and last longer than those produced in summer.

The Situation of a Country House.

February 3rd.—The position of a country house is often almost as sure an indication of its age as its architecture. For that reason it does not require an expert to be able to assign the house shown in the photograph to a time before the present generation, at any rate. Nowadays, if we get the chance, we build on the top of a hill; our ancestors invariably built under its lee. There is more in the change than lies on the surface. It means not only new ways of thinking, but always a difference in character. Sometimes, too, it makes one wonder whether our climate or our vegetation has not undergone a change also. For the selection of the hillside as the site of a house seems to have been made in many cases for the shelter of the plants grown in the grounds quite as much as for the comfort of their owners. Yet many of the plants which were sheltered then—which were even tended with the greatest care under glass—are now grown in exposed positions outside, and thrive under the treatment. In one case—and, so far as I am aware, in one case only—the conditions are reversed. At one time Vineyards were fairly common in England, south of the Thames, and even as far north as Cambridgeshire, but with one or two exceptions, notably, the Vineyards of the Marquis of Bute in South Wales, they have all disappeared. This is exceedingly curious, when we remember the number of plants, formerly considered tender, which we treat as hardy. That this hardiness may be the result of the exposure of succeeding generations is probable. In few modern gardens are to be found the high, protecting walls of former days.

H. C. Davidson.

In some tropical countries, it appears, the Cocoanut Palms are attacked by a serious and destructive disease known as "bud-rot." The interior of the bud decays, and the whole becomes a rotten mass. It is said to be caused by bacteria, and all affected trees must be cut down and burnt.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

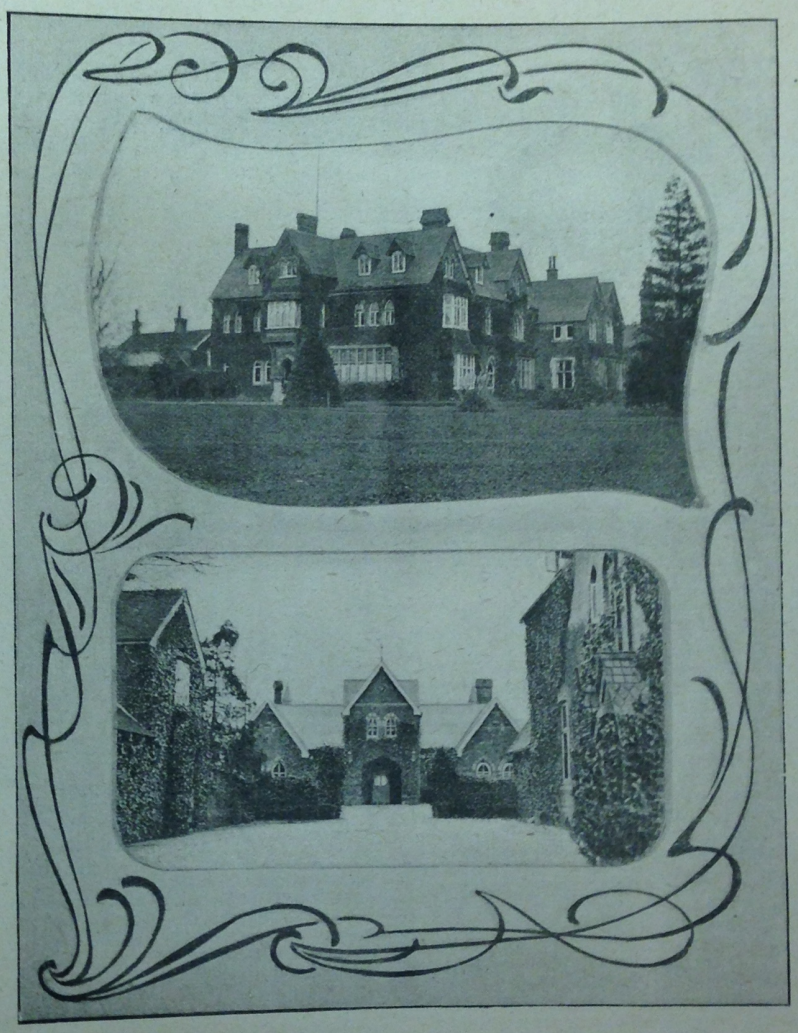
No. 226.—Mr. W. Hammond, at the Gardens, Trueloves, Ingatestone.

By the courtesy of Mrs. Carr, I was able, early in December, to pay a visit to the gardens at Trueloves, a charming country house about a mile from Ingatestone, in the heart of the prettiest Essex scenery. The position of the quaintly-styled residence (according to Doomsday Book, deriving its name from a lane close by, called "Trueloves Lane"), which was built half a century ago, is on the brow of a hill, and the principal approach is through a fine avenue of Limes. Mr. Hammond, the head gardener, who is well known as a successful exhibitor at the local shows, met me on my arrival, and I commenced my questions by asking the names of the creepers on the mansion.

"They include Ampelopsis Veitchii, Aristolochias, Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, Clematis montana, Chimonanthus, Cotoneaster macrophylla, Escallonia macrantha, Pyrus japonica, Wistaria sinensis, and Irish Ivies. Four Aucubas stand well against the red brick-work, and close to the house on the lawn is rather a nice specimen of the common green Holly, clipped."

"I see you have also, on the right, several clumps of Rhododendrons."

"Yes, they are some of the best named varieties. The soil for them has to be made, but we are able to get plenty of peat from Lord Petre's woods."



Two Views of Trueloves, Ingatestone.
Trueloves was built half a century ago, and is placed in the midst of pretty Essex scenery.

Spring Bedding.

"Now, I should like you to tell me, please, about your spring bedding, as I judge, by appearances, that it is a feature."

"First, I may mention one bed on the lawn, which is composed of double Gorse, with Lilium candidum planted underneath, to come up when the Gorse is over. As to spring bedding, there is a bed of Aubrietias, with Tulips Bouton d'Or, and another with Artus Tulips and double white Arabis. In two beds we have a combination of Wallflowers, crimson Tom Thumb, edged with yellow Alyssums. There

are two beds of Violas, Snowflake only; two beds of Tulips Keizer Kroon, with a groundwork of blue Forget-me-nots, two beds of seedling Polyanthus, and two beds of Wallflowers, golden Tom Thumb, edged with blue Forget-me-nots. The front of the clumps of Rhododendrons are edged with Primulas and Mrs. Sinkins' Pink, and planted with perennial Asters, Irises, Hemerocallis, Scabiosa caucasica alba, Montbretias, Helianthus, Erigerons, etc."

"Before we leave the lawn, you might mention the trees that flourish best here."

"The Silver Birch, Wych Elm, Arbor Vitæ, Cupressus, Laburnums, and scarlet Chestnuts. Box, also, as you see, does remarkably well with us—these are kept clipped."

"Have you a large variety in your rock border, which runs right along the front of the lawn?"

"On one side, the Golden Yews are a great feature, and the rock plants include Arabis, Phlox (dwarf), Aubrietias, Sedums, and Saxifrages in variety, small Campanulas, Alyssums, and Cerastiums. On the other side of the border we have standard Roses, including Gloire de Dijon, La Ideal, Senateur Vaisse, Alfred Colomb, Her Majesty, Viscountess Folkestone, Boule de Neige, and Madame Jules Margottin. There are some more Rose beds at the end of the border, which we are going to replant for the coming season. In the round bed on the left-hand side are white Arabis and double scarlet Tulips. Speaking of white Arabis, I have gone in extensively for it, because I find it extremely useful, and one of the most easily-cultivated plants."

"What is your system of cultivation?"

"I lay the old plants in, in a cool, shady spot for the summer, and do not pull it to pieces, but put the cuttings into the beds straight from the old plants in the autumn, about eight inches apart, and find they fill up the beds well. In fact, we dib it in just where we want it to flower. The crimson Wallflowers, planted on the tier leading to the kitchen garden, are entirely edged with Arabis, above the Wallflowers being several of the Scotch Roses. By the way, the Austrian Copper mixed with the Scotch Roses form a very pretty combination."

Then, through an archway of Crimson Rambler and Banksian Roses, we passed into the kitchen garden, in which stands, in a prominent position, the gardener's house. This is covered with Ivy, except the porch, which, later in the year, is adorned with Honeysuckle. Here, too, are several beds, and Mr. Hammond said, "The bed under the east wall at the entrance is full of Lilies of the Valley, while on the wall itself, to which the Peach house leans, we grow Morella Cherries. Another entire bed is prepared for early-flowering Chrysanthemums. Right along the border at the bottom are standard Roses of many varieties, with Canterbury Bells and Polyanthus, edged with Thrift, as a second row."

Herbaceous Plants.

"You seem to go in largely for herbaceous plants."

"We have certainly a splendid collection of perennial Asters, of which, in my opinion, the six best are A. acris, amellus, Robert Parker, Distinction, vimineus and versicolour. Other conspicuous plants are Helianthus Miss Mellish, Rudbeckia Golden Glow, a large number of Irises, large clumps of Lilium candidum, large clumps of Phlox, and Heleniums in variety, Campanulas (white and blue), clumps of Tree Lupins (yellow and white), Erigerons in variety, and Tritomas. The whole of these are edged with clumps of Mrs. Sinkins' Pink, and clumps of Crocus."

"The six round beds, I conclude, are not filled with herbaceous plants?"

"No, they are filled with bulbs—two with Narcissus Emperor, two with Narcissus Empress, and two with Parrot Tulips, all having a groundwork of mixed Violas. In the summer I had three of them filled with Verbenas, and the other three with Phlox Drummondii. Along another border, under the fruit trees in this garden, we have a large quantity of Spanish Iris."

"How do you grow your Apples and Pears?"

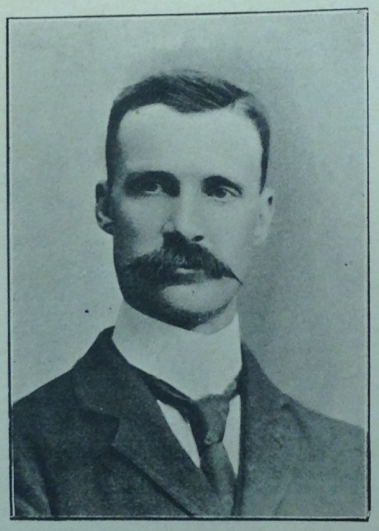
"The Apples almost entirely on pyramids, and the Pears almost entirely on cordons. With regard to Apples, the Blenheim Orange is one of our best croppers. We gathered eight bushels from two trees this last season. I think that the other best varieties are Cox's Orange Pippin, King of the Pippins, Warner's King, Bismarck, Red Reinette, Fearn's Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, Beauty of Bath, Lord Suffield, and Ribston Pippin."

"Which are your best Pears?"

"We have most of the best varieties, but if I had to choose half a dozen, I should select Pitmaston Duchesse, Marie Louise, Beurré Superfin, Beurré Bosc, Doyenné du Comice, and Catillac. We have a number of the old-fashioned standard trees, Apples and Pears, which bear well, also a number of Damson trees."

"What about Plums?"

"Cox's Emperor is a good variety. We had last season half a peck, the fruit being as large



MR. W. HAMMOND.

as hen's eggs. The other varieties are Czar, Orleans, Monarch, Golden Drop, and Greengages."

"You must have made a considerable show of Pentstemons on the walk near the fruit trees at the end of the garden."

"Yes, one side of the walk, which is about a hundred and fifty yards long, was composed of Sutton's seedling Pentstemons, chiefly pink, bright red, and scarlet. On the other side we have yellow Alyssums, with French Roses behind. The Roses flower practically all the year round, although the aspect is due east. Facing the Pentstemons there was a bed of Black Currants, but they were destroyed by the mite. I am now planting another bed right away from this part of the garden, the variety being Boskoop Giant. As you know, some varieties of Black Currant are much more liable to be ravaged by the mite than others."

"It appears to me that you devote a very considerable portion of space in the kitchen garden to flowers."

"That is a part of our plan. We try to make this garden as attractive as possible; for instance, as you notice, there are small pergolas at intervals with Crimson Rambler and Dorothy Perkins, and several other climbing Roses, which are very ornamental. I have just made a new bed at the end of the garden which will be devoted to St. Brigid Anemones. Then there is another long border of herbaceous plants, a hundred and fifty yards long, on each side, with arches of Roses right along. As to the beds just here, we put in anything we can, such as Helianthus, Anemone japonica, and Sweet Williams. This border consists of Aquilegias. Outside is our large vegetable garden."

"Have you anything special in it?"

"There are some nice breadths of Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Savoys, Artichokes, and Parsnips. Asparagus (Colossal) is grown in beds, and does well; and two varieties of Celery—Standard Bearer and Sandringham—also flourish. Here, too, is the new plantation of Black Currants. The aspect is northern, and everything gets thoroughly hardened, so that the frost does not do much mischief."

Returning through another portion of the kitchen garden, Mr. Hammond drew my attention to a large bed of Border Carnations.

"I have put in this bed three hundred plants of the best sorts, including Mrs. Reynolds Hole, Miss A. Campbell, The Bride, Minsterworth, Chetwynd's Pink, Midas (one of the finest), Raby Castle, Benbow, Ladas, Buckheart, and Sir W. Noble. With these there are three rows of the old Clove. Close to the Carnation bed are new beds of Strawberries, the five varieties being President, Sir Joseph Paxton, Royal Sovereign, Latest of All, and Monarch. We have also gone in for the white variety, Bicton Pine. Outside the Strawberries, and behind the fruit trees, is a border of herbaceous Pæonies."

"Do you know the varieties at all?"

"No, they are not named, but they have been there many years, and there is one very lovely white variety. Each plant last summer had from thirty to forty heads on it."

Proceeding to the houses, we started with the late Vinery.

"In this Vinery," remarked Mr. Hammond, "we have four Muscats, one Gros Colmar, and one Alicante. The two specimens of Aloes in this house are considered rather fine; we stand them out in summer. There is also a nice lot of Amaryllis, in two varieties."

"What Grapes do you grow in your early Vinery?"

"Black Hamburgh and Buckland's Sweetwater. Here are some Palms for furnishing the mansion, and behind these are a number of Fuchsias which I exhibited. The varieties include Scarcity, Charming, Miss Lucy Finnis, Eureka, Diadem, and Mrs. Marshall. We have about forty Fuchsias, nearly all specimen plants."

"How do you grow them?"

"Those I exhibit I strike in the spring, grow on through the summer and winter, and keep pinching the points out until eight weeks before I want them to flower for the show. Last year I exhibited specimens from five to six feet high. In this Vinery, Dendrobiums are resting, and some Begonia Gloire de Lorraine."

Begonias a Great Feature.

"Begonias are one of your leading features, I think?"

"Particularly the winter-flowering section. The varieties of these are Agatha, Madame Charrat, Corallina Lucerna and Mrs. Heal, Winter Cheer, Metallica, President Carnot, Gloire de Sceaux, and Fuchsioides (a very brilliant scarlet, useful for putting on to pillars), and Erfordia (used very much for bedding in summer, as well as for winter purposes). Last season I bedded two hundred."

"To what causes do you attribute your success in Begonia growing?"

"One of the principal causes is the care taken in the matter of watering; also, we are very particular in seeing that they get no check whatever. We propagate at the end of January or the beginning of February, and then grow on as fast as we can until May or June. After that we put them into a cool house until Sep-

tember, and subsequently into the quarters where we want them to flower."

"How many do you grow altogether?"

"About two hundred of the winter-flowering, but these include Gloire de Lorraine and Turnford Hall. We also grow enough of the tuber-rooted Begonias to fill one side of the show house, about a hundred and fifty plants. Some of the double varieties include Stanstead Gem, Felix Crousse, Meteor, Mrs. French, and Source d'Or. I may mention that Corallina Lucena is a foreign variety, and is almost always in flower—not merely in winter. The flowers are a beautiful bright coral, and the foliage mottled green. At the back of the house containing these is the Fernery, with a number of Orchids (Cœlogyne cristata) just coming into flower, also Oncidium flexuosum and Forbesii, Cattleya Trianæ and intermedia, Cymbidium Lowianum, Cypripedium barbatum, C. venustum, and C. villosum, and also a number of Poinsettias and specimen Ferns, used for exhibition, including Adiantum cuneatum, A. formosum, Davallia bullata, and Pteris tremula. We grow about fifty Poinsettias, keeping a quantity back for the purpose of decorating the church at Christmas. Poinsettias and Eupatorium riparium go remarkably well together. We make a point of intermingling colours as well as we can. Eucharis, which are just showing their flower spikes again, are also very useful for church decoration, and what I think you will consider a fine specimen of Strelitzia Reginæ is just in flower."

"What is the height of it?"

"About eight feet. It is planted right out in the border, and we give it stove treatment. There are now eight flowers, whose colours, orange and peacock-blue, render it very noticeable; in fact, they are wonderful blooms. This plant has been flowering for two months already, and will keep on until February."

"You have some Ixoras still in flower?"

"Yes, we get the late growth now, but the principal time of flowering is in the early summer."

"I notice, in your Peach house, that your trees are trained towards the front of the house. Did you have a good season?"

"We picked over a hundred dozen Peaches and Nectarines for the mansion through the summer. The Peaches are Barrington, Dr. Hogg, Gros Mignonne, Goshawk, Princess of Wales, and Waterloo; and the Nectarines, Elruge, Lord Napier, Pineapple, and Violet Native."

"Do you grow many varieties of Tomatoes?"

"Outside we grow Holmes' Supreme and Up-to-Date, and the two principal varieties inside are Trophy and Comet, both red. The Melons were Blenheim Orange and Scarlet Invincible; and there is no better Cucumber than Telegraph, in my estimation."

"You have a splendid collection of Salvias in the show house. What is the variety?"

"Sutton's Scarlet Queen. There are about thirty plants, all in 16-in. and 12-in. pots. With respect to cultivation, I advise only one pinching; it is a great mistake to repeat it, as, although you get more bloom, they are much smaller than these. I strike the cuttings about the end of February or the beginning of March, and about the end of May I plant them out. The first week in September I lift them, and these have been in flower ever since they were lifted."

"How many Primulas obconica do you grow?"

"About a hundred and twenty, for house decoration. Chrysanthemums are grown more for furnishing and cut flowers than for big blooms. I pay particular attention to colours. For instance, I think the four best whites are Souvenir de Petite Ami, Madame Gustave Henri, Miss Alice Byron, and Niveus; of yellow, I prefer Phœbus, Mrs. F. S. Vallis, Mrs. H. Godfrey, W. H. Lincoln, Monsieur M. Louis Remy, and Mabel Morgan; of red, Godfrey's King and Godfrey's Masterpiece, and W. R. Church; of pink, Mrs. George Mileham; and of all the Pompons I consider that Snowdrop (pure white) is the most useful for decorative purposes."

The Orchid.

"I see that you have some Cypripediums in flower."

"They are Harrisianums and insigne. Good varieties of Geraniums are grown, including Melanite, Snowstorm, Sisey, La Favourite, Mrs. Joinson, Caroline, Turtle's Surprise, Gertrude Pearson, Cannell's Favourite, Raspail, R. Improved, Sir H. Irving, Lady Brooke, Mrs. Rendal Berns, Fire Flame, Dr. Rawson, Countess of Derby, Dr. Macdonald, Villa de Portiens, King of Denmark, and Sunray, for winter flowering."

From the houses we went to inspect the pretty rockery, which is situated on a mound, with a seat on the top under the shelter of Chestnuts. Below this are the cold frames.

"These," continued Mr. Hammond, "are full of Violets, Marie Louise and Princess of Wales. Under lights for forcing are also Strawberries (Royal Sovereign), herbaceous Calceolarias, Malmaison Carnations, and the bedding Geraniums."

"You have some Freesias in the Cucumber and Tomato house."

"Also about a hundred and fifty seedling Cinerarias, with some Malmaison Carnations, which are earlier than those in the frames. In this house we have brought in between a hundred and a hundred and fifty Stocks to flower early in the year. Now I think we have exhausted the points of interest."

"There remain some details about your own showing."

"I have been exhibiting at the county and local shows for the last ten years, and have taken upwards of two hundred and thirty prizes. I have shown Chrysanthemums, Fuchsias, Ferns, foliage plants, groups of miscellaneous plants, and fruit; also collections of vegetables."

"Where did you commence your career?"

"At Messrs. Cranston's, Hereford. After four years as foreman at Sir James Blyth's, Stanstead, Essex, under Mr. G. Welbourne, I took charge of the gardens at Newton Hall, Dunmow, Essex. From there I went to Highfield, Bushey Heath; and my last appointment, which I held for ten years, was that of head gardener at Eweland Hall, Margaretting. Eighteen months ago I came to Trueloves."

"Of course, you have not yet had much time for showing?"

"At Ingatestone Show, during 1905, I was first for a group of plants, first for Ferns, also collection of fruit, and first for foliage plants. These gardens are six acres in extent. So far, the only alteration in them since I came here has been the remaking of the croquet lawn, which took nearly three months with a staff of four."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 183.—A HOTBED UNDER GLASS.

Dear Kate,—The time of winter rest is over, and there is much to be done in the Vinery and greenhouse, for seeds must be sown, pot Roses started, Strawberries (in pots) brought in for forcing, a hotbed arranged for the benefit of many early-flowering

An Up-to-date Canna—Marshal Oyama.

things, Vines started, and all the pot plants looked over and repotted as they need it (or top-dressed), for they are all awakening, and are sure to need breakfast in some form or another.

How do you manage without a separate hotbed in the garden, covered with a frame? This is, of course, most useful, and, indeed, indispensable, for some things, but you can do a great deal of forcing without it, and for the earliest work it is really more convenient to have your plunging bed under the roof of the greenhouse or Vinery, where one can manage the plants without difficulty even in a severe time of snow and frost, and they are in no danger of a chill when we take them out.

A Home-Made Propagator.

You should get a common deal box at the grocer's; it should be about eighteen inches deep, and of the right breadth to fit on to your hot-water pipes. Then knock out the bottom of the box, and cut two slight half-circles to fit the tops of the two pipes, before nailing a piece of fine-meshed wire-netting in the place of the wooden bottom. You should keep the pieces of wood to regulate the heat of the contents of this box with, for you will find that a piece of wood or glass laid over the top will bring the temperature up very quickly, but you should never cover the box closely, or the plants would be stewed in the steam. We fill our forcing boxes with moss from the woods, which is, first of all, dipped into boiling water to destroy all the germs of insects which may be in it, but if we could not get moss easily, Cocoanut fibre would do, although this material is rather apt to become mildewed, and needs to be stirred up often; so that moss is really the best.

You should have a thermometer at hand to test the heat of your forcing-box, and you can further regulate it by partially covering it on severe nights, as well as by plunging the pots low down (where the heat is greatest), or raising them to the surface, as you wish. This kind of hotbed is so clean, having no unpleasant gases, that it is much better for a greenhouse than one made of manure; but you should arrange a warm corner, sheltered from sharp draughts, into which you can move your nurslings when they come out of the hotbed, for they are sure to be very tender, and must have much care and consideration then. We take off the staging above the hotbed (which is made movable for the purpose), so as to have plenty

always much more—twenty per cent. more in most cases—than for guano containing the same amount of nitrogen; its use is far from economical. Shoddy is largely used in Hop gardens, and apparently with good results. It contains varying proportions of nitrogen. Here, again, the question is, not whether it has any value, but whether it is cheap as compared with other nitrogenous manures. And whether the active ingredient be nitrogen, phosphate, or potash, this is the question by which every substance offered as manure should be tested.

The Bulb Mite.

November 4th.—There is a tiny creature called the bulb mite which often works a good deal of mischief in the garden. When Tulips, Hyacinths, and other bulbs, including Onions, have yellow leaves, or fail to flower, the cause may be some fault in their cultivation, but not infrequently it is this small insect—so small that it cannot be detected without the aid of a good lens. It belongs to the same family as the cheese mites, and, like them, "comes not as single spies, but in battalions." It is to its numbers that it owes its power to do so much harm. Unfortunately, it does not confine itself to the outside of bulbs, where reddish-brown spots sometimes indicate its presence; it also makes its way in between the scales, where it is more difficult to reach. Suspected bulbs should be immersed in a solution of liver of sulphur (about six ounces to the pint of water), and left in it for twenty minutes. It is said that this will kill the mites. It has been asserted that they are not the actual cause of the failure of plants, and that they only attack bulbs which have already begun to decay. This, however, is incorrect, for it has been proved by experiments that they will attack bulbs which are perfectly sound. The mites are remarkable for the fact that they pass through a stage additional to those of other insects. In this stage they possess suckers, by means of which they attach themselves to birds and animals, and thus, in spite of their being wingless, they are able to migrate to fresh feeding-grounds. Hence the necessity of destroying them wherever they exist in the garden.

Grass Paths.

November 5th.—Grass paths are certainly delightful to walk on in summer, and when they are broad and smooth, with fine borders on either side, they are particularly charming, but it is rarely that the labour can be spared to keep them in perfect order, and still more rarely that they are seen, as in the illustration, in the kitchen garden. Of course it is then essential that there should be other paths for wheeling barrows and other heavy traffic. This removes the objection that grass paths are unpleasant in wet weather, for they need not be used, except when it is dry.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of the Right Hon. Sir Savile Crossley, Bart.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. F. HANSON, AT SOMERLEYTON HALL, LOWESTOFT.

THE gardens at Somerleyton Hall enjoy a great and well-deserved reputation for beauty and variety. By the courtesy of the owner, Sir Savile Crossley, I had the privilege of visiting them in August, and though a few minutes after my arrival a violent thunderstorm broke over the district, the brilliant sunshine which followed afforded me the opportunity of seeing them under favourable auspices. Mr. F. Hanson, who has been in charge of the gardens for nearly twenty years, under whose auspices the pleasure grounds and kitchen garden have been extended, and who has won numerous prizes for hardy fruit and Chrysanthemums at the principal shows in the eastern counties, met me on my arrival. As the storm prevented us from making a start in the pleasure grounds, we entered the glass-houses, though even here the rattle of the hailstones rendered conversation difficult. Cultivation under glass is a very considerable feature at Somerleyton, and so many alterations and improvements have been made in recent years, that the range is now a most compact and adaptable set of houses.

SOMERLEYTON HALL, LOWESTOFT.

The Best Tree Carnations.

"What principle do you adopt in regard to quantity?" I said as we went into one of the Carnation houses.

"We grow big batches of plants which are most useful for decorative display, because of their colour. This, and not the growth of a great many varieties, is the object steadily kept in view. For example, the Tree Carnations are chiefly Enchantress and Mrs. Burnett (pinks), Lady Bountiful, White Lawson, and Mrs. R. Norman (whites), and Robert Craig and Britannia (scarlets). Poinsettias are grown in the next house, and a few Tomatoes for winter fruiting. For this latter purpose, I find Winter Beauty and Sunrise very prolific, while for outside Comet is a very useful variety. Here you see we have an old-fashioned plant which is not much grown now, Gesnera zebrina. It is valuable for table decoration, and lights up beautifully at night. Also, it is ornamental by day, though until a few years ago, I never thought of using it for that work. Now I have a number of plants every year."

"Is the cultivation difficult?"

"Not more so than that of the Gloxinia, and Gesnera zebrina does not require quite such a high temperature. The flowers last well into December."

Allamandas and Stephanotis.

"You have some Allamandas in pots?"

"Yes, Williamsii, which lends itself to cultivation as a shrubby variety. It stands much better than the large-flowering kind, and we get a number of nice ornamental flowers in small pots."

"Do you give the Stephanotis in the next house any special treatment in order to secure such a lovely show of blooms?"

"We confine its roots, and keep it near the glass. Gardenias are propagated every year, and in this house is a late crop of Melons—Invicta and Gunton's Orange, two varieties that mature quickly. The other Melons are chiefly seedlings of my own. Allamanda Shortii flowers on the roof throughout the year. The root space is limited."

"Crotons, I gather, are not grown as specimen plants."

"No, we have done away with them this season, and grow only varieties which are useful for house and table decoration. Begonias (Gloire de Lorraine, and all varieties of that section) are grown from leaf cuttings, a system which gives us better stock, and the dwarf shrubby plants we prefer."

"What about Orchids?"

"They are limited to one house now. This year we converted a Cattleya house into a Tree Carnation house, in which, as you see, the stage is used for plants in pots, the others being planted in beds. In the Orchid house, we have a number of seedlings of Calanthes, pure white and very deep rose. The Cattleyas include Dowiana aurea, labiata, Mendellii, and Bowringiana, and Lælia-Cattleya hybrids of our own raising."

"Do you make a speciality of Ixoras?"

"Yes. The variety is I. coccinea, to which we devote one side of a span-roofed house, and they yield a quantity of flowers. The electric

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light shows them up well. The Streptocarpus is our own selection. It is rather a good strain, and we get fine flowers, rich in colour.

"Here," continued Mr. Hanson, "is a house which was originally devoted to Heaths, but is now given up entirely to Malmaison Carnations. It is very light and airy. To grow Carnations quite satisfactorily, it is essential that they should have a house to themselves. In my opinion, no Malmaison is equal to Princess of Wales. Duchess of Westminster is another favourite, and we grow also Maggie Hodson, Prime Minister, Mercia, and Nell Gwynne, keeping always in front of us the importance of masses of colour."

"You have an admirable range of fruit houses. Which are your early varieties of Peaches and Nectarines?"

"Cardinal and Lord Napier do best for early work, of the Nectarines; for later crops we rely chiefly upon Dryden, Stanwick Elruge, and Victoria, the last a Nectarine which requires a warm situation. Our Peaches are principally Waterloo, Hale's Early, Stirling Castle, and Dymond. A quantity of Peaches, Nectarines, and Cherries and Plums are grown in the fruit case."

Grapes and Outside Borders.

"Have you both inside and outside borders in your Vineries?"

"Chiefly inside. Outside borders are more of a nuisance than an advantage; they have to be protected against heavy snowfalls and floods of rain. Inside borders are under control at all times, and can always have the food and water necessary. If anything goes wrong with them, it is one's own fault. In this Vinery no other variety except Muscats, on their own roots, are grown. But we also work Muscats on Foster's Seedling and Madresfield Court, and they ripen up and colour earlier than those on their own roots."

"I notice that you still have left some nice bunches of Black Hamburgh?"

"Yes, that is a variety which invariably does well. Here is a Vinery which was only planted this season, and the Vines have crossed the roof already. The varieties are Madresfield Court, Princess of Wales, Muscat of Alexandria (grafted on Foster's Seedling), and Appley Towers. In the late Vinery are Black Alicante, Princess of Wales, and Lady Downe's Seedling, Lady Hutt, and Black and White Muscats. We grow Grapes exclusively for their flavour, and Alicante is the worst we have, though some people regard it as very good."

"How many varieties are there in the Fig house?"

"Only two, Brown Turkey and Bourjasotte Grise, which are planted in a narrow border. They are the best for forcing, but other varieties flourish here out of doors. Proximity to the sea suits Figs."

The West Front Bedding.

The storm having now ceased, we made our way to the west front, getting a glimpse of the deer park, and of a magnificent avenue of Limes, with one of Elms corresponding.

"Amongst all the charming trees and shrubs that adorn the gardens, which do you consider the most notable?"

"There are extra fine specimens of Cupressus aurea and macrocarpa, Wellingtonia gigantea, Cedrus Libani and atlantica, Araucarias, etc."

"How would you describe the west front?"

"It is partly Italian and partly Dutch. The large bed in the design has Marguerites in the centre with specimen plants of Heliotrope and Veronica on either side. The large scrolls are filled with Paul Crampel Geraniums and Fuchsias Madame Cornellison, a very good variety. Under the marble vase are great masses of striped Petunias, standard Rhododendrons, and clipped Yews, with Pampas Grass and Tritomas between, and planted by the side of the walks. All the walls are covered with flowering shrubs, such as Berberis Darwinii, Azara microphylla, Garrya elliptica, Pyracanthas, Olearia Haasti, and Spiræas. On the hall itself, Magnolias grow right up to the third storey, and make a fine display. Roses and Wistarias flower in their season, and on the lower wall are Cotoneasters, Euonymus, Chinese Roses and Indigofera. Now we will explore the winter garden, which is greatly admired by all the visitors to Somerleyton."

The Winter Garden.

"What is the height of the splendid dome in the main building?"

"Fifty feet. Amongst the plants on the roof are Bougainvillea glabra, and Ferns are planted on the walls, with Rex Begonia in a thin layer of turf, held in position by trelliswork. A general collection of Palms in great variety are another feature, and in the glass in the large corridor are Tacsonia Van Volxemii, Plumbago capensis, and c. alba, and Acacia armata and Riceana. Carnations are used for furnishing the sides, and in beds are Tree Ferns, Camellias in variety, Rhododendrons, Phormium tenax variegata, and Arundinaria falcata (raised from seed, and useful for decoration). There are also plants of Grape-fruit, and a few Oranges, with numerous hanging baskets of Asparagus Sprengeri and deflexus. Over the pool is a very fine specimen of Woodwardia radicans, and in the water is a choice collection of Lilies. Amongst the plants now in flower are Fuchsias (Abundance, Diplomacy, Charming, and Madame Cornellison), variegated Phormiums, Clianthus, and Callistemon grown as a pillar plant Then there are a number of Roses on the walls, which are most useful for cutting, the varieties being Madame Lambard, Fortune's Yellow, and Climbing Niphetos. In various parts of the garden are large tubs of Agapanthus. Later on, Chrysanthemums will be largely used for furnishing."

THE MAIN CORRIDOR IN THE WINTER GARDEN AT SOMERLEYTON HALL.

"Do you furnish this vast building all the year round?"

"Oh, yes! During the first three months of the year the plants used for decorating consist of forced bulbs, and shrubs, such as Tulips, Narcissi, Astilbes, Lachenalias, Freesias, with Azaleas, Spiræa confusa, Lilacs, etc. Arum Lilies, Salvias, and Coleus thyrsoides are also used; but the permanent plants also give a good display at this season. The winter garden covers a large amount of ground, the main building measuring 130 ft. by 100 ft., the corridor 72 ft. by 13 ft., and the Palm house 40 ft. by 34 ft."

Asters in Groups.

Resuming our stroll in the pleasure grounds, and noticing, on the undulating lawns, groups of Lavender, Golden Privet, and Prunus Pissardi, as well as large beds of Kalmias, Azaleas, Rhododendrons, and Andromedas, we arrived at a charming recess with pergolas.

"On the pergolas," said Mr. Hanson, "are Roses Dorothy Perkins, Hiawatha, Minnehaha, and Polygonum Baldschuanicum (which yields a wealth of white flowers in the season), and Jasminum nudiflorum. Near this recess, Bamboos flourish, and are fourteen to fifteen feet high. The soil—stiff, wet clay—suits them."

"You have a fine group of Asters."

"Yes, they are selected in order to flower at the same time, and make a splash of colour. The three rows comprise Sensation (almost white), T. S. Ware (lilac), and Ryecroft Pink. The long border which extends as far as the maze, is planted with Hybrid Tea Roses, and Aster sinensis (lavender and pink), with Hollyhocks at the back. On the other side, in groups, are Rudbeckia Newmanii, Antirrhinums (selected colours propagated from cuttings, in order to keep them true), Salvias (Fireball and Bluebeard), Sedum spectabile, and Fuchsia Display. In the background are strong-growing herbaceous plants, such as Solidago Golden Wings, Asters Chapmanii, and Heleniums Miss Mellish and Riverton Gem, interspersed with Phlox and Gypsophila."

A Pergola and a Border.

Quite a feature of the pleasure grounds is the principal entrance, under a pergola of considerable length. I enquired the length of the wide border on the right-hand side.

"It is over a hundred yards long, and there is no break in it. Roses on a wire trellis are next the walls, and in front are Marguerites, double rows of Phlox Coquelicot and Mrs. Jenkins, and a double row of Pentstemons. On the main pergola are Escallonias Langleyensis, Japanese Honeysuckle, Vitis purpureum, Roses (William Allen Richardson, Dorothy Perkins, Madame Abel Carriere, and Gruss an Teplitz), Clematises (viticella and Kermesina), Jasminum (yellow and white), and Vitis Coignetiæ. In the narrow border, Paul Crampel Geraniums are used as specimen plants, with a carpet of Alyssum.

"There is one other feature of the pleasure grounds," continued Mr. Hanson, "known as 'the Ladies' Garden.' The pergola is decorated with Roses (Dorothy Perkins and Minnehaha), and Clematis. In the centre bed are Acers in the middle, Tiger Lilies and Phlox (General Van Hentz, and Mrs. Jenkins). There is a border of orange-scarlet Antirrhinums, edged with Alyssums, and other beds contain Spiræas (Anthony Waterer), Larkspurs (rosy-scarlet and purple—a very fine combination), crimson Antirrhinums, and Hyacinthus candicans."

Chrysanthemums for Colour.

We then proceeded into the kitchen gardens, and here are many more flowers. In the first, my attention was attracted by a fine display of Sweet Peas, with scarlet predominating.

"Do you sow Sweet Peas in both autumn and spring?" I asked.

"Yes, and the favourite varieties are St. George, Queen Alexandra, Gladys Unwin, King Edward, and Nora Unwin. Chrysanthemums, which you see in pots, are a great feature, especially single Decorative varieties, though we also grow a certain number of large blooms. The varieties are selected for colour, and pinks, yellows, and whites are the favourite."

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"What are the features of the great border in the centre?"

"There, again, colour is mainly studied, and masses of gold and white and red obtained. The varieties include Helianthus, Phlox, Gypsophila, Gladiolus princeps, and Marguerites, and behind them are arches of Roses and Clematis, while the border in front consists of Verbena Miss Willmott."

Three Lines of Flowers.

"You have also a very bright border in the other kitchen garden, with apparently three lines of flowers."

"Yes, the first is a line of Sweet Peas, the second a line of Phloxes (red and white), and the third Calceolarias (amplexicaulis). The narrow border, which extends the whole length of the garden, consists exclusively of Pentstemons, with Lobelias and Alyssums in front, and a Box edging. The Pentstemons are the selected seedling which I raised four or five years ago. Roses are grown in front of many of the fruit trees, and yet another feature outside is a collection of Border Carnations."

"You have a number of varieties of these?"

"The principal are Sundridge, Doncaster, Clove, Miss A. Campbell, Mephisto, Cecilia, and Duchess of Fife. We try to make the kitchen gardens as ornamental as we can."

Hardy Fruit.

"And as useful, for I see that you have a representative collection of fruit on the walls and as trees."

"Apples give best results on this soil when they are grown on dwarfing stocks. The most satisfactory varieties are Lady Sudeley, Worcester Pearmain, James Grieve, Cox's Orange Pippin, King of Tomkins County, and Lord Burghley, for dessert purposes. Of kitchen Apples, which are grown mostly as half-standards, the pick of a large collection are Lord Grosvenor, Pott's Seedling, Gascoigne's Scarlet, Lane's Prince Albert, Blenheim Orange, Striped Beefing, and Bramley's Seedling. Pears are grown on cordons, and on the walls. Peaches are not a great feature out of doors, owing to the fact that damage is usually sustained from the east winds in spring. Of Apricots, Moor Park and Hemskirk give the best results."

A Succession of Strawberries.

"Have you many varieties of Plums?"

"Only Pond's Seedling, President, The Czar, Jefferson, Kirke's, Coe's Golden Drop, Early and Late Gage. Strawberries are confined to a few varieties. Royal Sovereign is relied upon for forcing and early crops out of doors. It is followed by The Bedford and Reward, two most reliable varieties, of good flavour and cropping qualities. The late kinds are Givon's and Waterloo, St. Antoine de Padoue being grown for autumn supplies. The last is planted annually, but other varieties are grown on the three years' system."

"Have you anything to say specially about the vegetables?"

"The best Peas for first-earlies are Pilot and Gradus. These are succeeded by Criterion and Lord Rosebery; the latter I consider the finest Marrowfat in cultivation. Vanguard and Autocrat are used for late purposes. You may like to add that Sir Savile Crossley throws open his gardens to the public every Thursday from the first week in June to the last in September. A small charge is made for admission, and the sum thus obtained is distributed amongst the local charities. As the average number of visitors during the season is between nine and ten thousand, a substantial amount is annually distributed." ALFRED WILCOX.

King of the Scarlets is a Tulip of a bright deep red colour, large, and a good bedder; President Taft is a very large-flowering variety, with white petals feathered with rose. These have both received Awards of Merit from the Dutch Bulb Growers' Society.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 380.—FRUIT TREES FOR PLANTING.

DEAR KATE,—After I had closed my letter to you last week, I remembered that I had omitted to mention a few Roses which do not come under any of the lists given, and yet cannot possibly be left out, because they ought to be in every garden. The Moss Rose, for instance (of which the old pink form is still the best, although you can get white and crimson Moss Roses), the sweet old Cabbage Rose (indispensable for its rich fragrance and for pot-pourri), the crimson China Roses (of which Mademoiselle Resal, Field Marshal, Fellenberg, and the yellow form, Arethusa, are new and valuable hybrids). Then there are the dwarf Polyantha section, of which Perle d'Or is conspicuously the best (with masses of exquisite little "buttonhole" Roses flushed with pink and apricot, from May till November), and Anna Marie de Montravel in pure white is very good; the dear little Scotch Briers, full of fragrance; the yellow Austrian and Copper Briers, most distinct and pretty; and last, but not least, the Rose of England, Rosa Mundi, showing the mixed tints of the Yorkists and Lancastrians, being striped crimson and white. All these should be planted at once, if you have not already done this; they are all robust, and sure to do well.

The yellow Banksian Rose drapes my window most charmingly, but this is not quite hardy, I believe, so that in cold districts it may not do well. In any case, it should have a south wall, as its dainty and profuse blossoms are only produced on well-ripened wood. Don't let any one clip it back tightly, or you will get no flowers; they should hang in their natural spray-like form, and in this way they are charming.

PEAR—LOUISE BONNE OF JERSEY.
A handsome and delicious Pear which comes into season in October.

The fruit garden is perhaps in need of a few good additions, for few of us have as much fruit—clean, and fresh from our own gardens—as we might well provide. In too many gardens there are varieties which are not worth growing, and we need to realise that it is far more economical to grow the best and most prolific of fruits than to waste space and trouble on unhealthy trees, or poor varieties, which give us no returns of value. This is the best time to plant Pears, Apples, Cherries, Peaches,

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HANSFORD Walter of Ebenezer Cottage Wooth Netherbury **Dorsetshire** died 5 May 1929 Administration **Blandford** 14 August to Elizabeth Ann Hansford widow.
Effects £635 16s. 9d.

HANSING Alfred James otherwise Albert James of 69 Packington-street Islington **Middlesex** died 22 November 1929 Administration **London** 13 December to Christian John William Hansing wood turner and Kate Williamson Hansing (wife of the said Christian John William Hansing). Effects £185.

HANSLEY George Harry of 277 Lower Richmond-road Mortlake **Surrey** died 25 September 1928 Administration **London** 13 March to Gertrude Mary Hansley widow.
Effects £285 14s. 9d.

HANSLIP Elijah James of 96 Eleanor-street Grimsby **Lincolnshire** died 21 July 1929 at the Grimsby and District Hospital Grimsby Probate **Lincoln** 15 August to Jessie Eleanor Hanslip widow.
Effects £179.

HANSLOW Alice of 80 Whitehead-road Aston **Birmingham** (wife of Edwin Hanslow) died 5 March 1929 Probate **Birmingham** 19 June to Thomas Edwin Hanslow solicitor's clerk.
Effects £297 9s. 2d.

HANSOM Anne Mary of 110 Palace Gardens-terrace Kensington **Middlesex** (wife of Joseph Stanislaus Hansom) died 25 February 1929 Administration **London** 5 September to the said Joseph Stanislaus Hansom esquire. Effects £144 16s. 11d.

HANSON Ada of 52 Burgoyne-road **Sheffield** spinster died 18 November 1928 Administration **Wakefield** 26 January to Ernest Hanson merchant. Effects £53 10s. 11d.

HANSON Albert of 191 Leeds-road **Huddersfield** died 11 November 1929 Administration **Wakefield** 16 December to Caroline Hanson widow. Effects £433 4s. 10d.

HANSON Alice of 964 Manchester-road Castleton **Lancashire** widow died 1 February 1929 Probate **Manchester** 11 April to Robert Smith motor engineer. Effects £429 3s. 7d.

HANSON Arthur Mort Foot of Pond House 88 Smithy Carr-lane Brighouse **Yorkshire** died 1 March 1929 Probate **London** 5 April to Amanda Hanson widow. Effects £925.

HANSON Charles of 29 Common-road Stafford **Staffordshire** died 13 April 1929 Administration (limited) **Birmingham** 11 July to Henry Hanson labourer. Effects £92 19s.

HANSON Charles Edward of the Mount Gawthorpe Ossett **Yorkshire** died 7 July 1929 Probate **London** 15 August to Julia Hanson widow. Effects £21455 7s. 9d.

HANSON Charlotte Adelaide Wilhelmina of 2 the Avenue Tiverton **Devonshire** widow died 26 March 1929 at 17 the Beacon Exmouth Devonshire Probate **London** 22 May to Arthur Brabazon Urmston solicitor the reverend Ernest Horace Townsend clerk and Lionel Forbes Bridges retired lieutenant colonel H.M. army. Effects £3744 16s. 11d.
Resworn £3866 18s. 7d.

HANSON Christopher of 38 Rothwell-road Gosforth **Northumberland** died 9 May 1929 at Kingston upon Hull Administration **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 15 July to Elinor Hanson widow and Alec Hanson medical practitioner. Effects £2709 13s. 3d.

HANSON David of 24 Station-road Rishton **Lancashire** died 13 February 1929 Administration **London** 8 March to Jane Hanson widow. Effects £252 18s.

HANSON Edith of 5 Lockwood-road Goldthorpe near Rotherham **Yorkshire** widow died 25 April 1929 Administration **London** 16 May to Arnold Hanson miner. Effects £682 1s. 6d.

HANSON Eliza of 27 Southey-place **Bradford** widow died 18 November 1928 Probate **Wakefield** 6 February to Ann Eliza Hanson spinster. Effects £1306 3s. 11d.

HANSON Elizabeth of Durrance Farm Woodcote near Bromsgrove **Worcestershire** spinster died 13 March 1929 Probate **Birmingham** 5 December to Harriet Mary Ann Hanson spinster. Effects £411 11s. 4d.

HANSON Ellen of Bon Vista Bramley-lane Hipperholme near **Halifax** spinster died 14 April 1929 Probate **London** 28 June to Herbert Hanson gentleman Reginal Hanson fruiterer and Eric Hanson Briggs export clerk. Effects £3835 14s. 8d.

HANSON Emily of 3 Syke-lane-terrace Lightcliffe near **Halifax** widow died 15 July 1929 Probate **London** 10 August to Thomas William Hanson furnisher and Eleanor Akroyd widow.
Effects £552 12s. 1d.

HANSON Emily of 171 Horsedge-street **Oldham** (wife of Spencer Hanson) died 28 August 1926 at 10 Broughton-avenue Layton Blackpool Administration **Manchester** 28 August to the said Spencer Hanson solicitor's clerk. Effects £146 2s. 1d.

HANSON Emily Elizabeth Warden of Westwood View Beverley **Yorkshire** widow died 15 October 1928 Administration **York** 3 January to James William Hanson and Nathan Hanson farmers. Effects £1018 10s. 1d.

HANSON Emma of 7 Bristol-street Morecambe-and-Heysham **Lancashire** (wife of Thomas Hanson) died 13 March 1929 at Lancaster Probate **Lancaster** 4 April to Thomas Hanson retired engine driver. Effects £2057 4s. 4d.

HANSON Fred of Victoria View Leeds-road Outwood **Wakefield** died 8 May 1929 at the Clayton Hospital Wakefield Administration **Wakefield** 5 June to John Hanson railway fireman.
Effects £350 19s.

HANSON Frederick of Somerleyton **Suffolk** died 1 November 1929 at 32 Surrey-street Norwich Probate **Norwich** 14 December to John Wisdom Hanson steel salesman and Annie Elizabeth Hanson spinster. Effects £888 13s. 3d.

HANSON Frederick Eales of Brackenhurst Warwick-avenue Earlsdon **Coventry** died 20 January 1929 Probate **Birmingham** 4 March to the Midland Bank Executor and Trustee Company Limited and Margaret Pierpoint Hanson widow.
Effects £34598 11s. 7d.

HANSON Gertrude of Cloverlands Kimberley **Nottinghamshire** spinster died 9 February 1929 Probate **Nottingham** 26 April to Frederick Walker Hanson auctioneer and valuer and Frank Stephen Hanson mining engineer.
Effects £24329 0s. 10d.

HANSON Grace of 23 Damems Farm Damems Ingrow near Keighley **Yorkshire** spinster died 17 July 1929 Probate **London** 21 August to Ben Wade iron turner and Hezekiah Hanson farmer. Effects £1535 6s. 6d.

HANSON Harriet of 64 Alexandra-road Ashton-under-Lyne **Lancashire** widow died 11 January 1929 at 64 Henrietta-street Ashton-under-Lyne Probate **Manchester** 14 February to Lily Fish (wife of Walter Fish) and Albert Haslam commercial clerk. Effects £891 3s. 1d.

HANSON Harriet Hannah of Brund House Kirk Langley **Derbyshire** widow died 2 April 1929 Probate **London** 7 May to Joseph Spalton manager and William Gibbs farmer.
Effects £835 10s. 6d.

HANSON Herbert of 30 Station-road Chapeltown **Sheffield** died 19 January 1929 Administration **Wakefield** 17 May to Anne Reeves (wife of Obadiah Reeves). Effects £54 4s. 7d.

HANSON Herbert Henry of 50 Lavington-road Ealing **Middlesex** died 1 December 1928 Probate **London** 11 January to Herbert Edward Burwell municipal clerk and William Herbert Barton solicitor's clerk. Effects £5272 10s. 11d.

HANSON James Robert of 4 Bramhall-street **Rochdale** died 4 December 1928 at Chadwick-lane Heywood Lancashire Administration **Manchester** 28 January to Elizabeth Alice Hanson widow. Effects £389.

HANSON Jean of Clenchbrae Raikeswood-road Skipton **Yorkshire** widow died 1 December 1928 at Belmont Nursing Home Clarendon-road Leeds Probate **London** 19 January to Thomas Halliday Hanson chemist. Effects £6365 12s. 2d.

other words, the fruit is borne after the plant's energies have begun to fail. By treatment we can reduce its energies locally at an earlier stage, and thus bring it into bearing earlier. If we stop the leading shoots along which the sap rushes unchecked, we obtain side channels where the flow is necessarily weaker, and here fruit will be produced sooner; or we may go farther, and stop these in their turn, thus subdividing and weakening the local flow still more, with the same result as before. But the same result may be far better attained by growing the plant in ordinary soil. Growth is then less luxuriant, and fruiting starts early. That is the time to feed. The food is no longer wasted on useless growth; it not only increases the size of the fruit, but also prolongs fruiting by keeping the plant growing longer than it would otherwise do.

A Record Apple Crop.

May 7th.—I cannot find any statistics as to the age of the Apple, but some trees, like the one shown in the photograph, must be very old. An American specimen is said to have continued growing after it had reached its fortieth year, and to have produced in a single season two hundred bushels of fruit. Even the trees do big things in America. In England, twenty-five bushels is given as a record crop, but perhaps that might be exceeded.

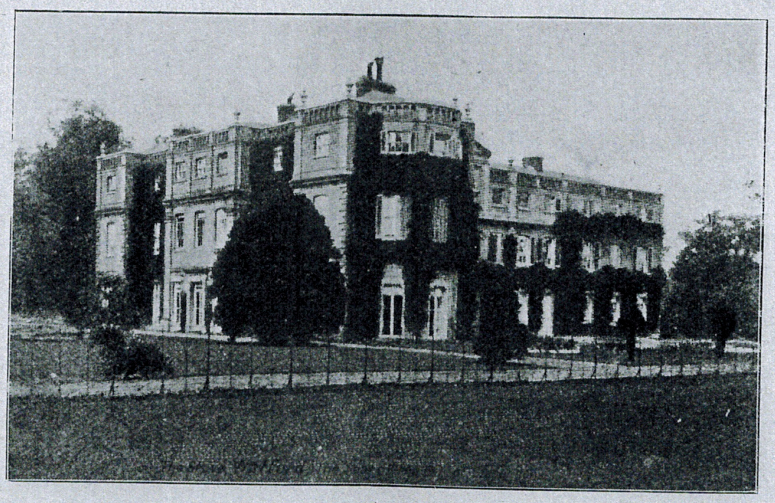
H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of the Earl of Clarendon.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. CHARLES HARRIS, AT THE GROVE, WATFORD.

AMONGST the historic seats in the proximity of London which retain the charms they have possessed through the centuries is The Grove, near Watford. It is not always remembered by the British public that the most famous of all parks was the gift to the nation by an ancestor of Lord Clarendon, who to this day counts among his treasures a gold key presented by Queen Anne to the donor of Hyde Park, which enabled him to enter within any time after the gates were closed. Lord Clarendon's gardens, which I visited by his courtesy early in April, are not large, but they are admirably arranged, and recent alterations, with others in process, cannot fail to increase their beauty. Soon after my arrival, Mr. Charles Harris, the head gardener, pointed out in the flower garden under one side of the mansion, some innovations which were only introduced in the spring of last year.

"It was then," he said, "decided to plant Roses, four large beds and two small, each bed containing only one variety. The varieties in the large beds are pink and rose colours, Papa Gontier, Lady Battersea, Madame Lambard, and Camoens. In the small beds, the varieties are yellow—Le Progres and Madame Chedane Guinoisseau. Then, the long border near the house will consist of Sweet Peas—Mrs. W. Wright (mauve), and Queen Alexandra (scarlet) at the back. Next, a band of Hyacinthus candicans, with Calceolarias amplexicaulis; then another band of tall Antirrhinums (yellow and white), and an edging of Violas Duchess of Sutherland close to the path. Between the two Cedars, we planted Ghent Azaleas. In another place we removed two Thuias, substituting a clump of Spiræas bumalda (pink), in one place, and in the other a clump of Ceanothus divaricata (blue)."



THE GROVE, WATFORD.

"You have several fine specimens of trees in addition to the Cedars?"

"Yes, especially three specimens of Pinus excelsa, a Judas-tree, a Tulip-tree, and a number of Laburnums."

"What are the principal climbers on the mansion?"

"On this side, Queen Alexandra Roses, Jasminum officinalis, Ampelopsis Veitchii, and Ivy. The feature on the south of the mansion is the magnificent Wistaria sinensis, with a trunk as big as a man's body."

The Terrace Bedding.

"Can you tell me how old it is?"

"Quite a century. There is a second Wistaria, and on the south also are four fine Magnolias (grandiflora). Over the entrance, which faces east, there is only Ivy."

MR. CHARLES HARRIS.

"There are a good many Yews on the terrace."

"About a dozen Irish at the bottom, and Golden at the top. As you see, a feature of the beds here is the rows of Rosemary and Lavender. These beds are carpeted in spring with Myosotis alpestris (blue), and Tulips King of the Yellows; in the summer we substitute white Stocks and Gladiolus Brenchleyensis."

A Lovely Rosery.

Proceeding across the lawn, we arrived at a Rosery of excellent design, with climbers in great force

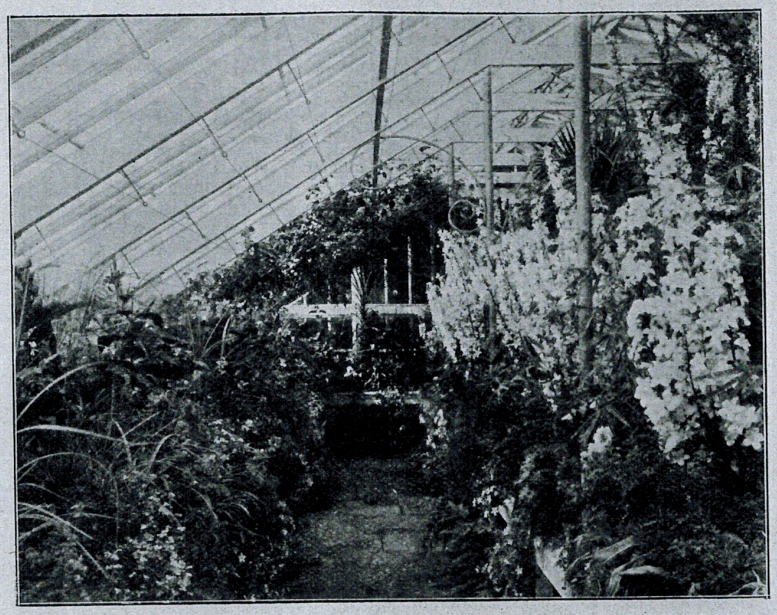
"What is the name of the Roses on chains on one side?" I asked.

"Climbing Belle Siebrecht (rose). Then there is a line of England's Glory (pink), a line of Madame Abel Carriere (white), a line of Francois Crousse (red), and a line of Reine Olga de Wurtemberg (red). The beds of pink are Belle Siebrecht, Caroline Testout, Madame Jules Grolez, Killarney, and, in the centre, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria (white). Then, there are four beds of red varieties, with white in the centre, two of the former consisting of Marquis of Salisbury (a very fine bedder), and Liberty (which grows very strong). The centre bed is filled with Souvenir du President Carnot, which does fairly well."

"You have many more Roses, surrounded by a hedge of Thuia Lobbii."

"We call that enclosure 'the Music Hall,' because of the figures, one of which is supposed to be playing a flute. Of the Rose beds here, two on each side of the large centre one are occupied with Prince de Bulgarie (pink), and the centre by Madame Abel Chatenay. The

sixteen beds at the corners are made up of four Aurora (yellow China), two Madame Eugene Resal (orange-rose), two of Queen Mab (apricot), and two of Madame Laurette Messimy (yellowish rose). At each end of the enclosure are specimen Irish Yews."



CAMPANULA PYRAMIDALIS AT THE GROVE, WATFORD.

"Then there is the long Oak pergola?"

"Climbing Roses on the pergola are chiefly Dorothy Perkins, Carmine Pillar, Waltham Rambler, and Crimson Rambler, while other plants include Jasminum, Lonicera, and Vitis in variety."

Crocuses for a Month.

"How did you manage to get the lawn on each side of the pergola carpeted with such a brilliant and effective display of Crocuses?"

"Nothing has been done to them since they were planted in the grass three years ago. They are at their best the last Saturday in March, but they are in flower for a full month. The colours are white, yellow, and purple, and some of the bulbs have five blooms. The thousand bulbs cost £1, and after three seasons they are still as good as ever.

"Here is another alteration," continued Mr. Harris; "a number of shrubs were taken up, a path made, and a wide border planted with herbaceous varieties, such as Lychnis, Pæonies, Lupins, Phlox Coquelicot, Delphiniums, Anchusas, Scabious, Helianthus, and Iris, with Lobelias, Violas, Alyssums, etc., in front."

"How do you treat the Yews on your lawns if they get into a bad condition?"

"We trench them round, add new soil, with some artificial manure added, and they improve at once. Amongst other trees and shrubs on this part of the lawns are Weeping Limes, Cupressus Lawsoniana, Thuia gigantea, red Chestnuts, Acer negundo variegata dotted about, and Forsythia viridissima."

The Water Garden.

"How do you fill the basins in your pretty water garden, with its four sets of grass steps, and Taxus on either side?"

"Each of the four small basins contains one variety of choice hybrid Water Lilies, and the large basin in the centre has six varieties. On the banks of the water garden are Scilla siberica and Daffodils (blue and gold); while at the end is the stump of a Cedar planted with a Crimson Rambler Rose."

HOUSE-GROWN STRAWBERRIES.

Leaving the water garden, and noticing some exceptionally good specimens of the Flowering Almond, Wellingtonia gigantea, Thuia occidentalis, Picea nobile, a cluster of Copper Beeches, Hornbeams, and a remarkable hedge of Yews six to seven feet across, we made our way to the kitchen garden, which is separated by a portion of the park from the pleasure grounds. In the park are many noble trees, of which there is one unique specimen, said to be the finest of its kind in the country. It is a Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair tree) of amazing dimensions and great age, but in an admirable state of preservation.

The Cultivation of Violets.

The plant houses, a considerable feature at The Grove, are enclosed by a Thuia Lobbi hedge, with arches twenty feet high, and these, which are on one side of the kitchen garden, first claimed my attention. But before entering one of the houses, I noticed a splendid collection of Violets in frames, with flowers an inch and three-quarters across.

"That variety," said Mr. Harris, "is La France, the largest, and the one of which I grow most. The other singles are Kaiser Wilhelm and Princess of Wales. I also grow the double Marie Louise."

"Your La France are so good that I should be glad if you will tell me how you treat them."

"I take runners during the first and second week in April, putting them in a frame in a mixture of light soil, with some sand added. They are kept close for a time, and about the third week in May they are well rooted. They are then transferred to their summer quarters, which is a border on the east side of a wall. Here they are kept well watered and syringed every evening in dry weather. All the runners are removed from time to time, and about the second week in September they are planted in the frames and pits where they are to flower. I find it very useful to pot up a number of both double and single Violets, by which means I am able to obtain a succession of flowers from October to April."

"Are Gardenias a speciality?" I enquired, as we passed into the house containing them.

"Yes; they are used largely for the house. Amaryllis, Ixoras, and Begonias Gloire de Lorraine are also grown in quantities. We are just going to plant Cucumbers here. The variety is Unique, and we are never without fruit during the winter. Here are Strawberries Royal

Sovereign, which we begin to pick on March 20th."

The Best Carnations.

"You have two Carnation houses?"

"Yes, one for Malmaisons, and one for Trees. I do not believe in growing a great quantity of varieties. The favourite colours of Malmaisons are pink, red, and blush. Princess of Wales is the best pink. Horace Hutchinson, Mrs. Trelawney, and Draycot are three very good reds, H. J. Jones an excellent dark, and we also grow the old Blush. Yaller Gal is the best yellow."

"How long does your season of Trees last?"

"We cut them nearly all through the year. The best red varieties are Britannia, Robert Craig, Yuletide, Christmas Eve, Flamingo, Harry Fenn, and Harlowarden; the best pinks are Mrs. Burnett, Fair Maid, Enchantress, and Floriana; and the best whites, Lady Bountiful, Mrs. S. J. Brooks, and White Perfection."

Features of the Flowering House.

"You have a fine specimen of Stephanotis on the roof of your stove."

"We have picked as many as half a bushel of blooms off that tree. Another feature of the stove is the arch of Clerodendron Balfouri, every growth of which has a flower. The house also contains a representative collection of Crotons, Dracænas, Palms, and Ferns."

"I think you have no conservatory?"

"We use the flowering house, which we are now entering, as a conservatory. There is one very old Rose, La Marque, which yields a large quantity of flowers, as also does Fortune's Yellow. Other Roses are William Allen Richardson and Francois Crousse. The plants in flower include Daffodils, Emperor (fifteen flowers in a pot), Azalea mollis, Calla æthiopica, Hyacinths in variety, Clivias, Celsia arcturus, Cytisus, hybrid Nicotianas (in different colours), Deutzia gracilis, Laburnums (in pots), Lilacs (Souvenir de Louise Spathe), Boronia megastigma, Spiræa japonica, several varieties of sweet-scented Geraniums (two of the best being Crispum and Lady Scarborough), and a very fine variety of Cineraria—Antique Rose—which has been in flower for a month."

"Which do you consider the best varieties in your Rose house?"

"Of course, these are all forced in pots, and they all do well, but I perhaps may specially recommend Captain Hayward, Frau Karl Druschki, Ulrich Brunner, Lady Roberts, Madame Abel Chatenay, Caroline Testout, Dymond (the best red), Madame C. Guinoisseau, Catherine Mermet, and Joseph Lowe. The first Rose I cut on the second day of March this year was Hugh Dickson."

How Chrysanthemums are Treated.

"Do you go in largely for Chrysanthemums?"

"Very considerably, Japanese being grown for large blooms. The best varieties are Miss A. Byron, Madame P. Radaelli, Jumbo, W. R. Church, Mrs. F. S. Vallis, F. W. Vallis, Dorothy Goldsmid, E. J. Brookes, Lady Talbot, Madame Oberthur, Edith Jameson, R. C. Pulling, Madame P. Rivol, Mary Anne Pockett, Soleil d'Octobre, Reginald Vallis, Mrs. A. T. Miller, W. Jinks, Mrs. E. Thirkell, Norman Davis, Lady M. Conyers, Mrs. J. E. Dunne, Beauty of Leigh, Merstham Yellow, Mrs. H. Barnes, Mrs. W. Knox, and British Empire."

"Which are your principal single varieties grown for decorative purposes?"

"These include Kitty Bourne, Mary Anderson, Edith Pagram, Bronze Edith Pagram, Dolly Hunt, Mary Richardson, Ladysmith, and Mrs. Brown Potter. The bush varieties for late use are Tuxedo, Madame P. Rivoire, W. H. Lincoln, Niveus, and Lady Canning."

"When do you put the cuttings of Chrysanthemums in?"

"For large blooms, in small pots, we put them in during the first week in December; the others go in boxes. As soon as they are rooted, they are potted in 'sixties,' in a mixture of loam, leaf-soil, and sand. At the end of March they are potted in 'thirty-twos,' and the final potting is made at the end of May or early in June, the compost then being four parts loam, one part leaf-soil, half part cow-dung, and a half part sand and mortar-rubble, with a sprinkling of soot and some artificial manure. The plants are next stood in their summer quarters, where they are attended to, watering and syringing being done daily. We commence to take the buds at the beginning of August, and then to feed with artificial manure, the plants being usually housed about the third week in September. For grouping purposes, we grow a large number in 'thirty-twos'; these are struck in April, stopped once, run up on one growth, and fed well. The blooms can be obtained almost as large as those in big pots, and the height of the plants when in flower is from two feet upwards."

The Cultivation of Schizanthus.

"Do you make special features of any other flowering plants?"

"I grow a considerable number of Schizanthus, which are just coming into flower, including the pinnatus variety, retusus, and Wisetoniensis. The seed is sown in boxes in a cold frame the first week in September. As soon as the plants are large enough, they are pricked off into 'sixties,' five in a pot, all but the Wisetoniensis, which are placed singly in thumb pots. When rooted sufficiently, they are potted in 'thirty-twos' and 'thirty-eights' respectively, in a mixture of three parts loam, one of leaf-soil, and a small quantity of sand. They are then grown in a cool house, come into flower in April, and last quite six weeks. I also find Campanula pyramidalis and calycanthema very useful for pot work. They come into flower after the Schizanthus, and are very easily grown from seed. Now we had better take the fruit houses."

Peaches and Grapes.

"How many do you devote to Peaches?"

"Three. We begin to pick Peaches at the end of May, and sometimes go on picking until the middle of October. In the early house, where you see the fruit well set, the varieties are Royal George and Barrington, with Nectarine Precoce de Croncels. In the late house are Dymond and Nectarine Lord Napier. A few Peas, Langley Gem, are also grown here. Then there is the Fig house, with two crops of Brown Turkey, some of which we gather in the middle of May."

"And the Vineries?"

"In the early house there is Black Hamburgh only. Another house is devoted to Muscats (which should always be grown by themselves, in order to be satisfactory), and a late Vinery has Lady Downe's Seedling and Madresfield Court."

Apple and Pear Walks.

Walking through the kitchen garden itself, which is on a very large scale, my attention was attracted by an Apple tree border, filled in below with several varieties of herbaceous plants and annuals. On the wall facing this walk, and elsewhere in the garden, are Pears, the best varieties being Doyenne du Comice, Marie Louise, Williams's Bon Chretien, Thompson's, Beurre Superfin, Beurre Hardy, Beurre d'Anjou, Emil d'Heyst, Fondant d'Automne, Durondeau, Josephine de Malines, Souvenir du Congres, and Louise Bonne of Jersey. Many of these are in the Pear Walk. Apples in another walk include a number of favourite dessert varieties. Besides these there were Peaches on the wall, of which I asked the names.

"The varieties are Hale's Early, Early Louise, Early Beatrice, Barrington, Dr. Hogg, Alexander Noblesse, Dymond, and Prince of Wales (a good late variety). Plums and Morello Cherries are also grown on the wall, and Raspberries, Currants, and Gooseberries do very well generally. The Strawberries are chiefly Royal Sovereign and Sir Joseph Paxton. We pull them up the third year; if they are kept longer, the fruit is small."

"You grow a good many flowers outside in the kitchen garden?"

"Yes, and notably a batch of Border Carnations in front of the fruit houses. There are about a thousand plants, and each bed contains one variety. The best of the varieties are The Countess, Hayes Scarlet, Trojan, Sir John Forrest, Daffodil, Lady Hermione, Irene Vaughan, Ketton Rose, Old Clove, Mrs. Eric Hambro, and Blood-red. Amongst the flowers that do well in the borders are Tree Pæonies,

THE GARDENER'S HOUSE AT THE GROVE, WATFORD.

Gaillardias, Alstrœmerias, Aquilegias, and Phlox in variety."

The System with Celery.

"Have you any specialities in vegetables?"

"Celery is largely grown. For early use I like Veitch's Early Rose, sowing the seed the second week in February. For the main crop, the seed is sown the third week in March, the varieties used in addition to Early Rose being Major Clarke, Standard Bearer, and Veitch's Superb White. When large enough, they are pricked off in a cold frame. In June they are planted in the trenches, which have been previously prepared for them, the manure used being well-rotted horse and cow-dung and leaf-soil. Celery is always kept well watered, and the first earthing is done about the middle of July, so that we can cut by the end of August. We maintain a succession until the end of March."

"Do you go in at all for French cultivation?"

"We do a little in respect to Radishes, Lettuces, and Turnips, using frames instead of the bell-glasses. We have not been without Lettuce during the winter. The only Potatoes forced are Ashleaf Kidney and Sharpe's Victor."

"Have you done much showing, Mr. Harris?"

"I have a silver Banksian medal for Gardenias, and for Strawberries, but I have only shown on four occasions. On the one occasion I showed Chrysanthemums, a prize was awarded for all the classes."

"Where did you begin your own career?"

"I started with my father, who was gardener at Hammerwood, East Grinstead. I then went to the Royal Gardens, under Mr. Owen Thomas, and from Windsor to Eaton Hall, Cheshire. On leaving Cheshire, I was foreman for four years at Parkhill, Surrey, and came to The Grove eight years ago as foreman. At the expiration of two years I was appointed head. Lord Clarendon takes the keenest interest in his gardens, and, I believe, knows all the Roses by name."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 354.—THE HERBACEOUS BORDER.

DEAR KATE,—The garden is now full of promise, the herbaceous border (which was mulched with manure early in March) being specially interesting, as it is covered with strong young foliage, each shoot crowned with buds. Fifty years ago, herbaceous borders were out of fashion, and could scarcely be met with, except in old farm gardens; everything then was arranged in small beds dotted about, each holding a special half-hardy kind of flower (such as Geraniums, Heliotropes, Asters, Phlox, etc), only; in fact, bedding-out was the fashion, and all the sweet old hardy things were cast aside. But bedding-out entails much trouble and expense, for the plants must either be propagated in winter, under glass, or purchased afresh every spring; moreover, it is quite possible to tire of the sight of the same arrangements year after year; and so herbaceous borders are now again popular, for in them is endless variety. Most of the perennials resent much disturbance of their roots, and should not be taken up more often than every third or fourth year—in either October or March, the border being then deeply dug and enriched, and the plants replanted at once, only a small portion of the herbaceous border being taken in hand on the same day, to avoid long exposure of the roots. October is the best time for this work, because there is then no danger of disturbing early bulbs, and injuring the shoots of Pæonies, etc.; but, with care, and the cautious use of a fork (instead of a spade) to raise the plants, you may rearrange them in February or March.

This becomes occasionally necessary from the fact that the stronger-growing plants are continually encroaching on their weaker neighbours, and we find it best to clear away many roots of Michaelmas Daisies and Helianthus (perennial Sunflowers) every year, as they are so terribly rampant, strangling the roots of more valuable things if not kept in order. But they are both so pretty in the autumn that we have not the heart to destroy them all, and they always come up again smiling.

A FLOWER-LINED GARDEN WALK.

The Scheme of Arrangement.

I think we should aim (in filling our herbaceous borders) at arranging the plants in such a way as to contrast well, both in height and colour, and also to form a grand mass of harmonious colouring several times during the season. At the back of the border there are now growing up tall blue Delphiniums (mostly of the sky-blue shades, which I greatly prefer to the heavier and darker tints), in masses, with white Foxgloves, yellow Foxgloves, and pale pink ones in groups of five or six. In front of these, the exquisite pink, carmine, and yellow shades of the Kelwayi Pæonies are shown to great advantage, and if you have not plenty of them, I should advise you to write to Langport now, for a few specimen blooms, and you will be charmed with their great beauty. The single Pæonies are like enormous wild Roses, in delicate pink, red or white, with a large tuft of golden stamens; and the quaint beauty of the tufted varieties, with rows of fringe, in carmine, white, and apricot, piled high one above the other, is quite unlike anything else. Pinks (such as Snowdrift, or Mrs. Sinkins) edge the border, but there is room between them for tufts of dwarf Sweet William in salmon-pink, and also of Myosotis Royal Blue, so that this border is a harmony of pink, white and blue in June, to which the great German Irises add beauty.

But directly these flowers have faded, and the blue Delphiniums are cut down, there would be a dull time, unless we were prepared with Dahlias (started on a hotbed in March), which can be potted up (giving them large pots and rich soil), and should be carefully hardened off in May. The white and spotted Foxgloves (which are now sown in the kitchen garden yearly) are pulled up as soon as they are past their best, and the Dahlias fill the gaps at once. Hollyhocks, too, will then be pushing up their tall spikes; great Madonna Lilies, Tiger Lilies, Oriental Poppies, the beautiful apricot blooms of Papaver pilosum, the rich clusters of the perennial Phloxes, and lovely Pentstemons, blue Salvias, Carnations, and white and yellow Marguerites, all form a mass of deeper and richer tints than those of the spring show, though not more delicate and lovely, while as the autumn begins, the splendid spikes of the grand Gladioli add to the effect, with the golden Helianthus, and the cool, feathery sprays of the Michaelmas Daisies behind them.

The Japanese Anemones, too, grow tall and large by that time, and are most effective with the great red-hot-pokers of the Tritomas. But these two plants are in a shady part of the border, where more sun-loving plants do not do well, and with them are associated Violas and Pansies, Rhododendrons, Azalea mollis, and Japanese Liliums, which seem to prefer a slight shade, but must have plenty of water in the summer.

escapes in the form of nitric acid, a very deadly gas. The moral is—If you don't understand the properties of the various fertilisers yourself, get the advice of somebody who does, or buy them ready mixed.

A Problem.

April 23rd.—A well-known weekly used to set its readers social problems to solve. Here is one on similar lines: A and B are neighbours, both proud of their garden, the former with a good knowledge of the subject, the latter with very little, but with an exasperating habit of copying all that A does, and getting the same plants. A grows Melons very successfully; B attempts to do the same, but gets no fruit. A knows the reason—B does not fertilise the blossom. What should A do? Tell B, or hold his tongue? In the abstract, the answer may seem ridiculously simple. But put yourself in A's place. Or, again, put yourself in B's place. I doubt if I, as B, should care to be told by my successful rival that I had made such a fool of myself.

Fairly Tall.

April 24th.—There are so many fine specimens of Wellingtonia (or Sequoia) in English gardens that I was surprised to find it was not introduced into this country until 1853. It must, therefore, grow much more rapidly than most Conifers. In California there are specimens over three hundred feet in height, and one trunk has been measured at more than four hundred feet. This must be a world's record for any tree.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Mapledurham House, Oxfordshire.

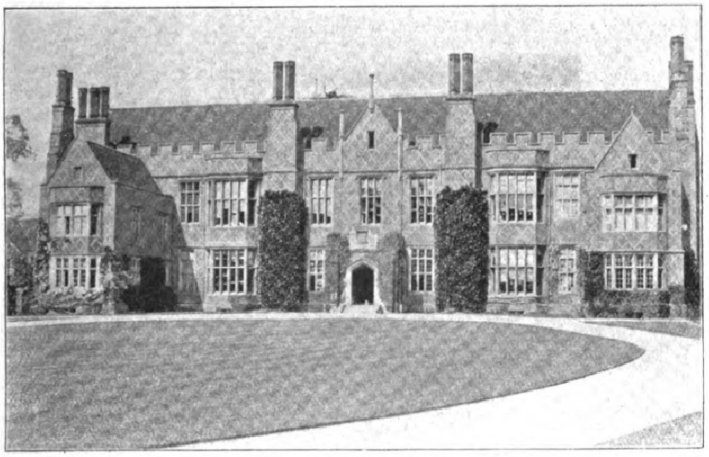
INTERVIEW WITH MR. D. HARRIS.

MAPLEDURHAM HOUSE is one of the finest examples of the Elizabethan style of architecture in Oxfordshire or any other county in England; and the gardens, which I visited in March, are in harmony with the mansion and park. The boundary on one side is the river Thames—which Mr. Algernon Mills uses as his waterway by launch to Tilehurst Station—while a splendid shelter is afforded from the east by Park Wood. On my arrival, the head gardener, Mr. Harris, who resides in a pleasant house facing the park, suggested that we should begin with an inspection of the immediate surroundings of the mansion, and as we proceeded I noticed a Cedar clothed down to the ground, which had several branches destroyed by the storm in April, 1908, but still remains a very fine specimen. Quite a feature at the entrance of the mansion, which faces south, is a pair of Magnolia grandiflora, one on each side, perfectly even, with enormous stems.

"We take off all the laterals in the spring," said Mr. Harris, "and this throws all the strength into the flower-buds. Last year there were two dozen blooms open on the two trees at once, and they perfumed the rooms in the house. Over the door is variegated Ivy, which we clip well every year, in order to get the foliage as good as possible. Other climbers on the front of the mansion include Clematis montana, Wistaria sinensis, Cratægus Lælandi, Longworth Rambler Roses, yellow Jasminum, Choisya ternata, and Cydonia japonica."

"You have a fine stretch of lawn in front of the mansion."

"Yes, that has always been all grass, and no scheme of bedding would, I think, improve the outlook, which, as you see, also embraces an avenue of noble Elms, a mile long. The perspective also includes a notable specimen of the Maidenhair tree, and of evergreen Oak. More to the left are a few Japanese Maples, and a Japanese Chestnut between thirty and forty years old. It may be worth while to note the Cratægus odoratissima (Scarlet Thorn). The foliage was beginning to go, and I took out the turf, gave the soil a good soaking, put in some manure, and brought the tree round. In my opinion, it is often a very great mistake to have the turf round trees. It is also well to remember that trees pay for nourishment."



MAPLEDURHAM HOUSE, OXON.

MR. D. HARRIS.

"This one looks thoroughly healthy."

"I hope it will flower in the season. Of course, the soil, which is loam on gravel, has to be taken into account. But now we might look at the bedding on the north side. Perhaps before we go into details, you may like to know that the primary object, in regard to flowers here, is not so much to obtain masses of colour as to secure fragrance of perfume. Mr. Mills takes a delight in strongly-scented flowers. The spring bedding, therefore, naturally includes Wallflowers."

The Cultivation of Wallflowers.

"What varieties do you use?"

"In the Maltese cross which is represented by the bedding here, I use Faerie and Purple Queen, which make a good contrast. For the two single beds I have Sutton's Blood-red and Cloth of Gold Wallflowers; two others have Myosotis Sutton's Royal Blue, and two more small beds are filled with Violas—Sutton's Giant White."

"And the four beds in the centre?"

"Two are filled with yellow Polyanthus, and two with Myosotis Royal Blue. Then, there are the two little beds close to the sundial, in which are Sutton's Giant Purple Pansies."

"When do you sow your Wallflowers?"

"In the middle of May, in shallow drills on a north border of well-prepared ground. Before the seedlings become drawn, they are transplanted nine inches apart, in an open part of the garden. We choose showery weather for this. By the autumn they are nice bushy plants. Then we take them up with as much earth as is necessary, and transfer to the beds."

Summer Bedding.

"How do you make up the Maltese cross in the summer?"

"With Begonias of mixed colours, not planted thickly, but showing up as single plants, carpeted by Sedum glaucum, which protect the

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Begonias. The edging is double blue Lobelia and Echeveria. As to the rest of the bedding in summer, there is one bed of bright scarlet Geraniums (Lady Constance Grosvenor), also two beds of the Peppermint-scented varieties—odoratissima, radula major, Prince of Orange, and fragrans. We plant these out with sweet Verbenas, Aloysia citriodora, and Humea elegans, plunged in their pots in as many parts of the garden as possible. The preference for sweet-smelling flowers extends to annuals, and Night-scented Stocks and Mignonette are sown in any odd pieces of ground which would not otherwise be used.

"The two next beds," continued Mr. Harris, "are filled with dark Heliotropes, grown as specimens in large pots. These are plunged into the beds, with the spring-struck plants planted out between. The edging of these beds is Pyrethrum Golden Feather. The two corresponding beds consist of Ivy-leaf Geraniums, Souvenir de Charles Turner, which we treat in the same way as Heliotropes, some being tall plants, and others quite small; they are edged with double blue Lobelias. As to the other raised beds, two contain in summer pink Geraniums Madame Christine, edged with Legion of Honour Marigolds and Echeverias Castor-oil plants (Bronze King) being planted on either side, at intervals. There are five on each side, from four to five feet high. In the centre bed are Henry Jacoby Geraniums, interspersed with Agapanthus umbellatus, and a ragged edge of blue, dwarf Ageratum. The little beds near the sundial are composed of Sutton's Miniature Begonia, pink and white."

Crimson Ramblers as Standards.

"What is the height of the striking Yew hedge which runs all round the flower garden?"

"Quite twenty feet. In the Rose border, standards are the feature. Crimson Ramblers make splendid standards, but the old growth requires to be thinned out, and the flower-buds only left. These have been planted about six years, and we have to protect them with stakes in the summer. Enchantress, Gloire de Dijon, Clio, and the old Cabbage Rose, are also grown as standards. We fill in the border with bushes, many of which are old varieties."

"What use do you make of the houses here?"

"One is an old Rose house, in which Isabella Sprunt, Marie van Houtte, and President are the varieties. This house, which is not heated at all, also contains Clematis Stratford de Redcliffe, and Solanum jasminioides, which has flourished through the winter. By cutting back hard, we get blooms earlier than out of doors. The other old house used to be devoted to Palms, but we make a show-house of it in April. Here we grow Lilium auratum singly in pots, as the soil is not suitable to their culture in the open ground. They make useful dot plants, but do not come up evenly, and are therefore best potted singly."

How Liliums are Grown.

"Any hints as to their cultivation would be useful."

"After potting, they are plunged up to the rims of the pots in a cold pit during the winter, until they are well up Then a top-dressing of well-rotted cow manure is given, and they are removed to this house, where they develop their flowers to perfection. The platyphyllum variety is the most robust. The sweet Verbenas, which you now see covered up, were put here last year. Though planted out, they are well protected with straw tied round, and thirty degrees of frost has done them no harm."

The Statue Walk.

We next made our way to the "Statue Walk." The higher portion of the pedestal of the statue is covered with a close-clipped Irish Yew, and a lower tier with the Golden Yew.

"In planting Golden Yews, I find it better," said Mr. Harris, "to select smaller ones."

"And the beds on each side of the walk?"

"In spring there are four of mixed Polyanthus, four of blue Myosotis, four of white Violas, and two of purple Violas. In summer, of the fourteen beds, four are filled with single Fuchsias; four with Baden Powell Ivy-leaved Geraniums (large and small plants); two with Calceolaria amplexicaulis and Salvia patens, the best gold and the best blue; two with Florence Nightingale Heliotropes (dark blue), and sweet Verbenas behind; and two with scarlet Geraniums, Madame Christine. The edging throughout consists of blue Lobelias, Pyrethrum Golden Feather, and Echeveria secunda glauca."

A Famous Chestnut Tree.

"There are several nice specimen trees in this part of the pleasure grounds."

"Yes, particularly two Judas trees, an Italian Juniper, the Hollies near the old summer-house (where the bats find a sleeping-house), and the Horse Chestnut."

"The last is, indeed, a large specimen."

"Or several specimens, branches having dropped on the ground, layered themselves, and grown up into big trees. They are all attached to the parent tree, yet, when rooted, seem to be quite independent of it."

"Can you account for such an extraordinary growth?"

"Probably the moist surroundings and the almost tropical heat in the summer are contributory causes."

A Magnificent Border.

Entering a large walled-in fruit garden, I at once observed that considerable space is devoted in it to flowers. To begin with, there is a herbaceous border sixteen feet wide and about sixty yards long.

Among the principal varieties which we plant in groups," said Mr. Harris, "are Delphiniums, German Iris, Michaelmas Daisies, Oriental Papaver, Pæonies, Montbretias, Gypsophila paniculata, Lupins, Gaillardias, Heleniums, Phlox in variety, Monarda didyma, Achillea The Pearl, Eupatorium, and Lychnis chalcedonica. In the spring, we fill in the front spaces with annuals, such as Asters, Stocks, Zinnias, and a few sweet-scented Geraniums, Heliotrope, and Violas. A good plan is to keep a reserve stock to fill in any vacancies as they occur. By the way, we grow in the border the Helianthus Miss Mellish, a variety which many people do not grow in the border on account of its roots straying amongst other plants. We take it up every year, and plant sufficient to form a bold group. Near the clumps of Delphiniums I leave a little space, to be filled in with Michaelmas Daisies, which yield a wealth of bloom."

"Do you stake the border?"

"Yes, that is work which I always do myself, the stakes being of different heights from five feet downward. For the Michaelmas Daisies, the old Pea stakes come into use. The main point is to keep the groups in as natural a form as possible, and take care that the colours blend."

Groups of Chinese Pæonies.

"You seem to have groups of plants in different parts of the garden."

"Yes, there are many things which do much better than when planted in a border. For instance, Chinese Pæonies. I did away with a lot of old Gooseberry trees, and put five clumps of Chinese Pæonies in their place, giving them large doses of liquid manure. I staked each one out separately, and the three, forming a clump, make quite a bold mass. They were planted four years ago, the colours being white, pink, and red. They are beautifully scented, and I may say that here, as well as in the pleasure grounds, the flowers are largely chosen for their fragrance."

"Do you protect the Chinese Pæonies from the frost in winter?"

"No; at the beginning of the winter I mulch them with horse droppings, and in the spring I protect the young growth from frost with short branches of Portugal or common Laurels about two feet long. English Irises are also planted in little groups, and in some places Tea Roses have superseded Gooseberry bushes. I have also taken a number of Lilium candidum out of the large border, and planted with the Roses in groups. They come on when the Roses have done flowering, or are not at their best. These Liliums do better where they can grow undisturbed. Of other Liliums, tigrinum splendens is a good border variety, and, planted in bold groups, forms a very pleasant feature in the perennial border. The same applies to Lilium aurantiacum. Behind the Liliums is a row of Sweet Peas, embracing most of the leading varieties."

Autumn-sown Sweet Peas.

"What is your system with them?"

"The first sowing is made in the third week in September, and these will begin to flower in any ordinary season by the end of May. For this sowing, I have Sutton's Giant mixture, which are very fine. The length of the stalks is from sixteen to eighteen inches, with a large percentage of blooms on each stalk. Amongst other batches of flowers grown specially for cutting are Anemone japonica, summer-flowering Chrysanthemums, Aquilegias, and Spanish Iris on a warm, dry border. In another part of the garden are a few seedling Carnations, of which I think the best are the late Mr. Martin Smith's strain; and facing the houses is a Rose border, with a little space below devoted to Cactus Dahlias, Hollyhocks, Tree Lupins, and a few Giant Sunflowers, fourteen feet high. The Roses in the border include Liberty, Viscountess Folkestone, Pride of Waltham, Frau Karl Druschki, Betty, Countess of Derby, and Madame Gabrielle Luizet. Just here, too, we grow the Crinums, white and pink. It is better to grow them in pots. They are planted singly, two feet deep, on a layer of broken brickbats, with a layer of green turf (to keep the drainage open), and a layer of cow manure, and then some soil. We protect the plants with litter in the winter.

How to Keep Black Currants Clean.

"Before we go into the houses, you ought, I think, to tell me something about the fruit. I notice, for example, that you have a very fine plantation of bush fruit; in fact, I never saw Black Currant trees looking better."

"We have never had any trouble with them. They are thinned out in the autumn of each year, and we put a quantity of soot between the trees to sweeten the ground."

"What are the features of your wall fruit?"

"The Morello Cherry trees on the north wall are as full of bud as they can hold. We get very good crops of Apricots (Moor Park). We have suffered from canker, but directly a tree is infected we destroy it, and put a young one in its place."

"All the wall fruit appears to be protected by nets."

"We put the nets on from the first week in February, and keep them from dragging on the ground by piling on branches of Portugal Laurels. As soon as the fruit is set, we take off the nets. We usually get good crops of Peaches, Gros Mignonne, Hale's Early, Dr. Hogg, Noblesse, and Barrington, and also of Plums. We grow Kirke's variety on both north and south aspects, where it succeeds equally well, but we get the fruit on the south wall a fortnight earlier."

"Do you care to say anything about Apples and Pears, which, I see, are planted right round the garden?"

"They are quite old trees, but we get very fair crops from them. On the wall, a very old Fig tree (White Ischia) is notable. It makes tremendous growth, and we have to thin it all out, and train it in. Fig trees do much better in a sheltered place, where they can grow exactly as they like."

"What is your procedure with Strawberries?"

"We plant half a dozen rows every year, and

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do away with the same number. The only two varieties are Royal Sovereign, and Sensation, which has a very good flavour."

Celery Cultivation.

"You do not grow many vegetables in this garden?"

"No, most of them are grown in a garden by themselves. The Potatoes which do best are Sutton's Ashleaf, Kidney, and Up-to-Date. We are now getting ready for early Peas. Sutton's May Queen and Ringleader are sown at the same time, one being a fortnight later than the other. Last year we commenced picking Peas the first week in June, and continued, without missing a single day, until November 14th."

"Do you go in for Celery considerably?"

"It is rather a feature. We sow at the end of March, prick off into frames, and plant out into trenches five feet apart, in single rows, in June. Constant attention is given so far as watering is concerned, and this, with the occasional use of liquid manure, will ensure a good crop of nice crisp heads. The more rapidly Celery is grown, the better its quality. By the way, I am trying Sutton's Pioneer Pea this year, and I might add that the Peas are grown in boxes, and then dropped into little trenches."

Fragrant Plants and Shrubs.

As we went into the Vineries, which are also used for plants, Mr. Harris said, "Inside, flowering plants are also chosen for fragrance. Before we refer to these, I may say that the Vines are Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling. They are very old trees, but we get very good crops.

"I see you have some fine blooms of Amaryllis in the greenhouse."

"They, of course, are not fragrant, but are grown for colour. I bought a packet of seed, from which I got eighty plants, varying in colour from scarlet to light lavender. Freesias are grown in large quantities, not so much for pot plants, as for cutting. The variety is refracta alba."

"What is your system of cultivation?"

"They are potted in rich, fibrous loam, in August or September, plunged, and lightly covered with finely-sifted leaf-soil, and kept watered until they are beginning to show through the covering, when the covering is removed to prevent them being drawn. They are kept in the cool pit, and transferred to the warm greenhouse, as required, in batches. There they bloom profusely, giving a supply of cut flowers from Christmas to the end of April. We also grow shrubs for their fragrance. Daphne indica rubra has a most delicious perfume, and is very valuable as a pot plant when well grown. It may be had in bloom from November until April. Only ordinary greenhouse temperature is necessary, but great care must be exercised in limiting the supply of water. After the Daphnes have made their new growth, they may be placed out of doors for the summer."

Magnolia fuscata.

"What other shrubs are grown for their fragrance?"

"Myrtles and the Mexican Orange, which are grown in the same way as Daphnes. Choisya ternata is a very useful room plant, and very delicately scented. Then there is Magnolia fuscata, a strong and beautifully-scented variety. It needs great care in cultivation, but will well repay special attention. Ordinary greenhouse temperature is suitable, and these, too, may be placed out of doors during summer, to make their growth. We also grow Boronia megastigma for its perfumed flowers; and Cytisus fragrans, whose yellow flowers are ornamental as well as fragrant."

"Where did you acquire your experience, Mr. Harris?"

"Having worked for some years as a boy in a nursery, I obtained the knowledge of propagating both hard and soft-wooded plants, and many useful methods of planting and moving trees and shrubs. I followed on my experience in well-kept gardens until I had my first charge, under Miss Jekyll, at Wargrave Hill, Henley-on-Thames. I went with her to her beautiful garden at Munstead House, Surrey, where I spent about fifteen years, helping her to carry out the great scheme in gardening for which she is so famous. My present appointment is a very happy one, under the Hon. Algernon H. Mills."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 352.—THE COLD GREENHOUSE.

DEAR KATE,—There are few modern houses without some sort of greenhouse attached to them, yet I think very few of these small glass structures (often without hot-water pipes) are really made the most of. In passing down a road of villas with glass porches, for instance, you may count up those which are at all decorative on the fingers of one hand, whilst those which contain a few miserable leggy Geraniums and Fuchsias, a defunct Heliotrope, a half-dead Palm, two or three greenhouse Ferns in various stages of decrepitude, a few old dolls, with a perambulator perhaps, or a bicycle, are horribly numerous.

Yet such a place should be a mass of flowers just now, and there is no valid reason against the show being kept up until December, or even January (for late Chrysanthemums can be easily kept back until that time in a cold house), and by then the earliest Tulips (Van Thols) and Roman Hyacinths are in bud. The misfortune is that most people try to grow flowers which require warmth in a cold place; but, as there are plenty of lovely things which need only the shelter of glass over them, to blossom early and well, why should this be? I should advise you, if you have a cold greenhouse, to discard the more ordinary plants (especially Geraniums), and grow only those flowers which are almost hardy, though not quite enough so to stand the winter in the garden without more or less injury.

Camellias, for instance, do better without fire heat than with it, and are now one mass of exquisite bloom; Azalea mollis, the most beautiful of all the tribe, is of the same mind and habit; early dwarf Rhododendrons are opening their great heads of blossom, too, in the richest tints of red, pink and white; and Tulips, Hyacinths, Scillas, and Narcissi in great variety make a fine show of colour in the foreground, with blood-red Wallflowers, turquoise Forget-me-nots (Myosotis), and salmon-pink Sweet Williams, all three potted up from the ground just as their buds began to open, taking care to keep the soil on their roots in doing so, and keeping them moist and shaded for a few days after the operation.

AZALEAS AND LILIES IN A COOL GREENHOUSE.

Under the glass roof, Roses are in bud, and some in bloom; on the walls there grow Abutilons in rich yellow, pink, red, and white, which are seldom out of bloom; a hardy Palm and a Dracæna make a picturesque background, while Oleanders, Myrtles, shrubby Veronicas, Choisyas, Deutzias, Spiræas, find place with other choice shrubs. By the time that all the spring flowers are over you may have a grand show of tuberous Begonias, stately Cannas, Crinums, and Liliums, all of which only need to be kept fairly dry (though not quite so) in the cellar (or any frost-proof place) through the winter, and started under glass in March or April. The curious velvet flowers of Auriculas do well in a rather shady place, and plenty of hardy Ferns are useful to place amongst the rest. The pale mauve blooms of the double

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Harrison, Joseph (1798–1856), *horticulturist and writer*
by Anita McConnell
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Harrison, Joseph (1798–1856), horticulturist and writer, was born in 1798 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, the eldest of nine children of Charles Harrison (*d.* 1855) and his wife, Ann, *née* Coe. In 1805 his father was appointed head gardener to Lord Wharncliffe at Wortley Hall, near Sheffield. When he moved to Petworth in 1828 to be head gardener to Lord Egremont, Joseph Harrison took his place.

In 1830 Harrison and Richard Gill Curtis were granted a patent (no. 6007) for a new method of glazing, which gave a plane surface, presumably intended for horticultural glasshouses. In 1831 Harrison and Joseph Paxton edited the *Horticultural Register*, which abstracted and reviewed articles from other journals. In 1833, the year that Harrison was elected an honorary member of the Doncaster, Bawtry, and Retford Horticultural Society, he commenced publication of the *Floricultural Cabinet*, a monthly magazine. Claiming to embrace everything useful in horticulture, natural history, and rural economy, it was an immediate success, and was said to have sold 59,000 copies in the first nine months of its life. Twenty-seven volumes had appeared by 1859, when it became the *Gardener's Weekly Magazine*. His magazine *The Gardener's and Forester's Record* was restricted to information of practical use to gardeners; more general material was published in *The Garden Almanack*, later *The Gardener's and Naturalist's Almanack*, from 1852.

In 1837 Harrison left Yorkshire to begin business as a florist at Downham in Norfolk, where George Harrison, his brother, was in business at Lynn Road between 1833 and 1836. Joseph Harrison was still there in 1850, but he subsequently moved to Larkfield Lodge, Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey, where he traded as a florist and nurseryman while continuing his writing and publication. On 21 August 1818 he had married Ann Louise Weightman, at St Peter's Church, Tankersley, Yorkshire; their eldest son, Charles Weightman Harrison, an electrical engineer, and his wife, Eliza, and their four young children, also lived at Larkfield Lodge, as did Joseph's younger sons, Joseph John and Edward Harrison, both following their father as nurserymen and writers.

Joseph Harrison died in Plumstead on 16 May 1856 and was buried at St Nicholas's Church there on 24 May. His sons Joseph John and Edward took over the running of the *Floricultural Cabinet*, which they renamed *The Gardener's Weekly Magazine and Floricultural Cabinet* in 1859. Two years later they sold it to Shirley Hibberd, who in 1865 renamed it *The Gardener's Magazine*. It ceased publication in 1916.

ANITA MCCONNELL

Sources census returns, 1851, 1861 · directories, Richmond, 1851 and 1853 · W. White, *History, gazetteer, and directory of Norfolk* (1836) · *Horticultural Register* (1831) · *Floricultural Cabinet* (1833–59) · G. E. Fussell, 'Joseph Harrison, sometime florist', *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 3rd ser., 128

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Joseph Harrison (1798–1856): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/12439

good watering should be given to them. We strongly advise a dressing of chemical manure in the autumn, consisting of two parts superphosphate and one part kainit, mixed, and applied at the rate of four or five ounces per square yard over the whole root area. A light dressing of nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia is of

Mr. H. Harris.

great assistance to the trees when setting their fruit buds—at the rate of about three-quarters of an ounce per square yard of root area is quite sufficient—and another similar dressing when the fruit is swelling, that is, about the last week in April, and a later dressing during the first or second week in June. Each application should be made during showery weather, and immediately hoed or lightly pricked in." I presume that this abundant feeding is recommended solely for Apples on the Paradise stock, and Pears on the Quince. If given to trees on more vigorous stocks—for example, to the Pear on the Pear—it would inevitably result in the production of a great quantity of wood, but very little fruit. The former class, however, occupy a different position. Both the Paradise stock and the Quince form dense masses of fine, fibrous roots, which are, therefore, confined to a somewhat limited area—close to the stem and close to the surface. The soil in this area must consequently become exhausted in a comparatively short period unless it is renewed from time to time, so in this case feeding with artificial manures or top-dressing may certainly be useful. But it must be done with discrimination. It is far better for a fruit tree to be underfed than overfed. So long as the crops show no deterioration in quantity or quality, the wisest plan is to leave it alone.

November 11th.—The ordinary greenhouse does not form an attractive object in the garden; the photograph shows one which, by a skilful use of shrubs and trees, has been made to look quite pretty. Of course, if they are allowed to grow tall, they overshadow it, but by a little management this can be avoided. A screen of shrubs on the north and east sides will save a good deal in the coal bill.

H. C. Davidson.

The autumn and winter-flowering Crocuses are not nearly as generally known, or grown, as they might be. A few of the best are C. speciosus, C. sativus (the Saffron Crocus), and C. longiflorus (odorous)—these are autumn-flowering, while the following bloom in the winter:—C. Cloth of Gold, C. Imperati, and C. biflorus.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 215.—Mr. H. Harris, at the Gardens, Denne Park, Horsham.

Roses are a feature at Denne Park. The owner, Mr. E. M. Eversfield, by whose courtesy I visited the gardens on October 12th, is himself a member of the National Rose Society, and takes a great interest in the cultivation and exhibition of Roses, while Mr. H. Harris, the head gardener, has won a large number of prizes at the leading Rose shows. Accordingly, soon after my arrival at Denne Park, which is situated on very high ground, some two miles out of Horsham, and approached by a magnificent avenue of Limes, Mr. Harris took me into the Rosery.

"It was made," he said, "twenty-nine years ago (when I came here), out of an old orchard, and, as you see, there are still some of the Apple trees left, also a belt of Walnuts. When the Roses are in flower below, and the Apples are on the trees above, the sight is very pretty. This year, unfortunately, we had no Apples."

"But you did well with Roses, I gather, from the appearance of those which are still in flower?"

"Very well, indeed. They are Tea Roses, chiefly, which flower late. I think we have all the new varieties of each section. The clay subsoil suits the Roses."

"How many do you grow altogether?"

"Nearly two thousand. Some of the best Tea varieties, several of which are in flower now, are Maman Cochet, White Maman Cochet, The Bride, Souvenir de Pierre Notting, Catherine Mermet, Marie van Houtte, Medea, Madame Lambard, Souvenir de S. A. Prince, Mrs. Edward Mawley, Comtesse de Nadaillac, Bridesmaid, Muriel Grahame, Sylph, Souvenir d'un Ami, Cleopatra, Anna Olivier, Rubens, Ethel Brownlow, Madame Alfred Carriere, and the Hon. Edith Gifford. These are the cream of the Teas, and none is more useful at this time of the year than White Maman Cochet, whose blossom is of the purest white."

"Which do you consider the best of the Hybrid Perpetuals?"

"There is no white equal to Frau Karl Druschki. A. K. Williams is also one of the best; and, if you asked me to select a representative list, I should include Charles Lefebvre, Ulrich Brunner, Mrs. John Laing, Helen Keller, Marie Baumann, Alfred Colomb, Charles Darwin, Victor Hugo, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, Madame Gabriel Luizet, Comte de Raimbaud, Crown Prince, General Jacqueminot (which is good sometimes, but cannot always be depended upon), Captain Hayward (very bright), Ben Cant (rather uncertain), Suzanne Marie Rodocanachi, and Gustave Piganeau. But Teas and Hybrid Teas do better with us than Hybrid Perpetuals."

"I should also like the names of a few of your Hybrid Teas."

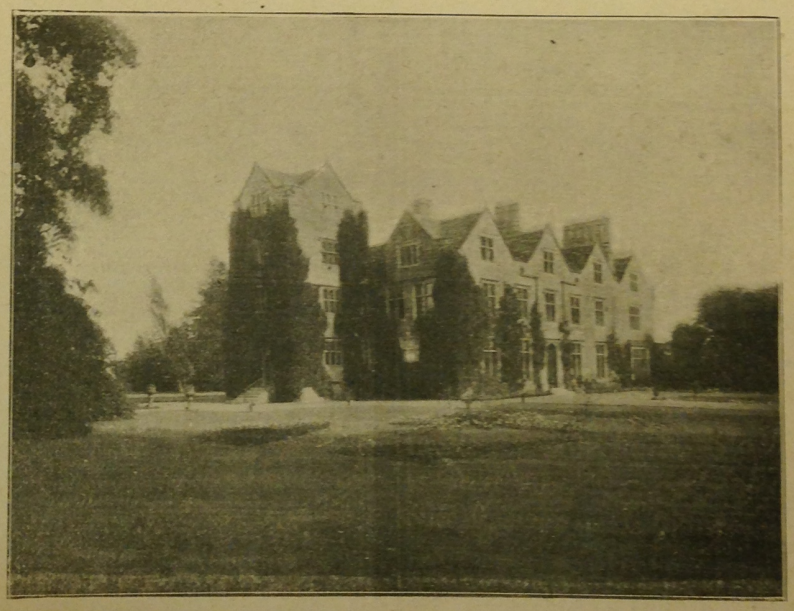
"Some of the newest are Marquise Lita, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, La France, and Souvenir de Madame Eugene Verdier. Our collection also includes Mildred Grant, Caroline Testout, Bessie Brown, Killarney, Augustine Guinoisseau (now in bloom), Antoine Rivoire, Lady Battersea, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Mrs. Stephen Treseder, La Tosca, Aimée Cochet, Madame Abel Chatenay, and Viscountess Folkestone. In the central part of the Rosery we are turning the Roses out and planting bulbs, the newer Roses going on to newer ground. The bulbs are chiefly Narcissi and Daffodils."

"Then you have Sweet Peas along the borders?"

"Sweet Peas are another speciality. We grow them six inches apart in the rows, and they get up to seven feet in height. The best varieties are Dorothy Eckford (which is still in bloom and budding), Scarlet Gem, King Edward VII., Lady Grisel Hamilton, Countess of Radnor, Countess Spencer, King of the Blues, Mars, and Boreatton (a purple)."

"You seem to grow a quantity of Nicotiana Sanderæ?"

"It flowers from the beginning of July until the frost comes. You notice that, in addition to the scarlet variety, there are some flowers with tubes the colour of an Apple blossom and



Denne Park, Horsham.
Denne Park is about two miles from the town of Horsham, in Sussex, and is approached by a magnificent avenue of Limes.

pink edges. There is only one plant like this, and it is very distinct and peculiar."

From the Rosery we went to the herbaceous garden, which contains, in profusion, such varieties as the old Michaelmas Daisies, the old Bergamot, Achillea The Pearl, Spiræa palmata (the Palm-leaf Meadow-sweet), Echinops ritro, some very good varieties of Phlox, Japanese Anemones (white and pink), Gentianas, Funkias, Hepaticas, the common variety of Solomon's Seal, and one of the old varieties of Tansy.

The herbaceous garden leads into the rock garden, which was made by the late Mrs. Eversfield herself, and includes a picturesque mount, with ponds on each side of it. There is also a fine old oak, with seats round the stem. Mr. Harris called my attention to two Yuccas (gloriosa) on the summit of the mount, on which, he said, there were tremendous spikes of bloom all through the summer.

"As to the varieties of Alpine plants," he continued, "they include Arabis alpina, Saxifragas in variety, Lophospermum prostratum, dwarf varieties of Phlox, Golden Thyme, and Ferns of several varieties (including the Hart's-tongue and Polystichum proliferum)."

Between the rock garden and the kitchen garden there is an avenue of Rhododendrons sixty to seventy yards long, and so well does the soil (without peat) suit them that they have to be cut back every year to keep the pathway in order. We also passed a little island in a pond which is planted with spring flowers. It is close to the gardener's cottage, which is very pleasantly situated and presents quite a charming appearance. There is a fine Bay tree close to the cottage, which was cut down to the ground by the frost ten years ago, and has since shot up in an amazing manner. On the top of the kitchen garden walls are Wallflowers and Ferns, and the garden itself, which is one hundred yards square and over two acres in extent, is full of interest.

First of all we went into the greenhouses, and in the cool stove I noticed a number of Bouvardias.

"What is your system with Bouvardias?" I inquired.

"We grow them out of doors in the summer, lift and bring them in in September, and they keep flowering all the winter. The best of the varieties are President Cleveland, Alfred Neuner, President Garfield, Priory Beauty, Vreelandi, and Hogarth flore pleno. A plant we grow in this house is Nerine, whose deep pink flowers come before the leaves—they throw up more in the spring. In addition to a batch of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, Poinsettias, and Cyperus variegata, we have, in the cool stove, a small number of Orchids, including Cymbidium Lowianum, Brassia verrucosa, and Zygopetalum Mackayi, with some Streptocarpus seedlings."

"I see that you have more Orchids in the warm stove."

"The most notable of those are, perhaps, the Calanthes Veitchii, from which we shall get some nice flowers presently. There are also a number of Cypripediums insigne, Cœlogyne cristata, Cattleyas, and Dendrobiums. We find Caladium argyrites, with its small leaves of vivid green and white, one of the most useful table plants. Another plant, which, however, is of no use for table decoration, is Reidia glaucescens; it flowers on the leaf, but the leaf closes up at night. Dracænas, Gardenias, Crotons, Pandanus, and Acalyphas are also grown in this house."

"You have several varieties of Figs indoors?"

"Yes; this is a second crop. St. John's and Brown Turkey are the chief early varieties, and the other two are Negro Largo and Violette Sepor, which ripen later. The Chrysanthemums in this house are Anemone varieties, and we force here about two hundred Strawberries—Royal Sovereign and Sir Joseph Paxton. The Coleus thyrsoideus do well with us, and the Malmaison Carnations in this house promise well."

"Which do you consider the best varieties of the Tree Carnations growing on the main shelf of your flowering house?"

"Mrs. S. J. Brooks is certainly the best of the white, and among the most satisfactory varieties are Mrs. T. W. Lawson, Miss Joliffe, Franco, Duke of York, and Yule Tide."

"I do not remember the name of the small yellow flower which looks so bright."

"You mean the Oxalis ortgiesiana. It came from Scotland several years ago, and flowers continually. There is no difficulty about the cultivation, as it simply requires ordinary greenhouse treatment. Cyclamens, Gloxinias, and Primulas are also grown in this house. Sutton's Superb is one of the best of the Primulas. The Gloxinias are seedlings. The Pachyphytum bracteosum, now in flower, is planted out of doors and requires no water in summer. It is, of course, a succulent."

"How many Browallias do you grow?"

"About two dozen. The seed is sown in the spring; the plants are then potted on, and in the winter transferred to a warm house."

"I observe that you have Violets just coming into bloom."

"Violets are grown very largely. We have nineteen lights which are tilted up every day. The principal varieties are Marie Louise, Neapolitan, and Comte de Brazza. All the

THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE.

Violets are planted out of doors, every single runner being dibbed out in the open ground in April. They are lifted in September, and then planted in these frames. We have no trouble with red-spider, but have an abundance of fine blooms all through the winter."

"What Peaches do you grow in the early house?"

"Crimson Galande, Royal George, Violet Hative, and Early Rivers; also Pineapple Nectarines. In the second Peach house are Barrington, and Nectarine Lord Napier. We do not grow many Peaches or Nectarines outside, but Figs are grown in pots both outside and inside; just now, the Chrysanthemums are in the Peach houses, but we shall make a group of them presently and put them in the Vinery."

"How many of the 'show' Chrysanthemums do you grow?"

"About a hundred and fifty, including the Vallis family, Godfrey's Triumph, and his best varieties, Mrs. A. K. Knight, Mrs. Thirkell, Mafeking Hero, Valerie Gresham, Miss Olive Miller, Maude du Cros, Ethel Fitzroy, S. T. Wright, Madame Carnot, Maynell, Mrs. Mease, Mrs. T. Longley, and Ernest Bettisworth, etc. On the stage are the usual bedding Geraniums, just housed for the winter."

"How many Vineries are there?"

"Four. In the early one the varieties are Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling. Between the early and the late Vineries, outside, you see on the wall Aloysia citriodora (the lemon-scented Verbena), which does well, but requires to be pruned severely in the spring. In the late Vinery we only grow Alicante Grapes. On the back wall is Cereus colubrinas, a night-blooming variety of Cacti. The next Vinery is devoted to Muscats and Figs. The centre is filled with Figs, and the Muscats are at each end. Lady Downe's Seedling, Hambros, and Madresfield Court are grown in the adjoining house. On the walls are Geraniums, Gloire Lyonnaise Rose (with an ever-recurring succession of bloom), and Heliotrope Miss Nightingale."

"You have a third Peach house," I said.

"Yes, in which we grow Grosse Mignonne and Nectarine Lord Napier. The climbing Roses in this house are Souvenir de J. B. Guillot, Niphetos, and Souvenir d'un Ami. There are blooms on these trees all through the winter. Standard Heliotropes are rather a feature, and we have about a dozen in the beds during the summer."

"Now, about the fruit outside?"

"On the west wall, where I am introducing cordons, we have all the leading varieties of Pears, of which half a dozen of the best are Doyenné du Comice, Duchesse d'Angouleme, Beurré Diel, Madame Treyve, Clapp's Favourite, and Rivers' Princess. The last is an improved Louise Bonne of Jersey."

"You have Roses again in the herbaceous borders along the centre and cross walks."

"The herbaceous plants are intermixed with Roses, and filled up with annuals. Of the former now in flower, there are Gaillardias, Pentstemons, Rudbeckias, Antirrhinums, early-flowering Chrysanthemum, Sedum spectabile, flowering Lychnis, Poppies, single Asters, Statices, the Shasta Daisy (only sown last spring), with a number of Dahlias."

"I believe you have raised a striking Dahlia yourself?"

"Yes; the variety is called Mrs. Harris, and was sent out by Messrs. Cheal and Son. The Cactus varieties we grow include Mr. Seagrave, Manxman, Mrs. Edward Mawley, Mrs. Robertson, Vesta, Mrs. Grace Cooke, H. F. Stredwick, J. H. Jackson, Ariadne, Columbia and G. Wilkinson."

"The contents of the conservatory in the centre of the garden, of course, vary?"

"Except that we have Roses in it all the year round. I had a splendid lot of Oranges, which are grown for the flower and the ornamental fruit; also the old Brugmansia Knightii, a trumpet flower, which, with beautiful scent, flowers all through the summer. Then there are between forty and fifty plants of Solanum capsicastrum, which is planted out in the summer, and bears red berries in the winter.

"With regard to outside fruit," continued Mr. Harris, "we grow Apples, chiefly on the bush and standard system. As to varieties, six of the best are Cox's Orange Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Ribston Pippin, Lord Suffield, Peasgood's Nonsuch, and Newtown Pippin. On the north wall Morella Cherries are grown, and bush fruit, while Gooseberries and Currants are grown on wire espaliers. We are going to put Raspberries and Loganberries on them also. With respect to vegetables, we have about a thousand head of Celery (Sutton's Pink), good beds of Savoys and Brussels Sprouts, and one thousand plants of Onions (Ailsa Craig). We also grow a considerable collection of Potatoes, the varieties being Up-to-Date, Ashleaf, Sir John Llewellyn, Windsor Castle, and Sutton's new sorts; also quantities of Peas and Beans, Brassicas, and the usual root crops for winter."

Proceeding to the front of the house, and noticing the fine old gates, which are upwards of a century old, I asked how many Limes are in the avenue facing the gates.

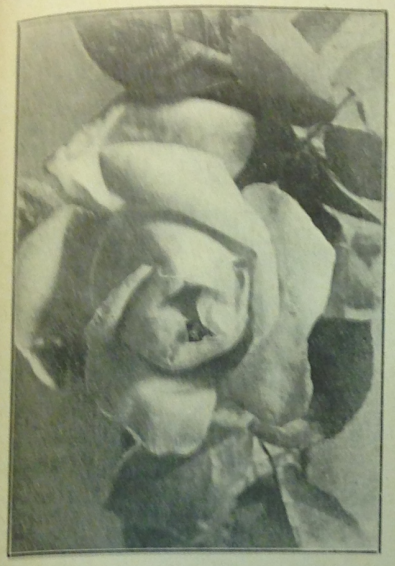
"Over five hundred, and the avenue is half a mile long. On the mansion there is Clematis montana, Magnolia grandiflora, and a great deal of Ivy."

"Have you filled up your spring bedding yet?"

"I have just finished it. Some of the beds are of Wallflowers and Hyacinths; others of Tulips, edged with Silenes and Forget-me-nots. I have also just planted five hundred blue and white Crocuses in the turf."

"You have a fine specimen of Wellingtonia gigantea near the tennis lawn?"

"That tree was planted in 1859. I put a tape measure round the stem, at a foot from the



A Popular Rose.—Mildred Grant.

ground, the other day, and found that it was twenty feet round. It is about a hundred feet high, and I believe that there is no finer specimen of Wellingtonia in Sussex. Other specimens of trees include Araucarias, Cedrus deodara, Cedars of Lebanon, Weeping Ash, Thuja gigantea, Acer negundo variegata, several varieties of Firs, and a number of evergreen Oaks."

"What about your formal bedding on the lawn?"

"It is a Prince of Wales' Feather design, and was made before my time. Here, in the summer, we had the standard Heliotropes, Fuchsias, and Geraniums, edged with Echeverias and Lobelias, with Roses at the end (chiefly old hybrids). Nearly ten thousand bedding plants are required for the summer bedding."

Then, having spent a little time in the Pinetum (two or three acres in extent), which contains a great variety of trees and shrubs, all named, I induced Mr. Harris to tell me something about his experiences in showing.

"They range over a period of nearly thirty years. For example, we have taken, for Roses only, a gold medal, ten silver medals, and eight bronze medals, beside silver plate. Other exhibits have been Chrysanthemums, collection of fruit, cut flowers, herbaceous flowers, and collections of vegetables, and I have received a good sum in money prizes. Among this year's prizes, I obtained the silver medal at Brighton in August, for Cactus Dahlias; and as far back as May 24th, 1872, I took the first prize at the Alexandra Palace, when it was first opened, for a dish of Peaches. We have also won first prizes, medals, and cups at the London shows—South Kensington, Temple, and Westminster—the Crystal Palace, Richmond, Croydon, Sutton, Epsom, Reigate, Reading, Tunbridge Wells, Brighton, Worthing, Horsham, Salisbury, Farnham, Ryde, Eastbourne, and Southend-on-Sea, all for Roses."

"Where did you serve your apprenticeship?"

"I was at Delapré Abbey Gardens, Northampton, for seven years, and subsequently I went to Wootton Hall, Northampton, as head gardener for eighteen months, under Major Whyte-Melville. Then for eight and a half years I was head at Naseby Woolleys. During that time, my old friend, Mr. Gilbert, of Burleigh, brought out the famous double Chinese Primulas which bear his name, but which were originated and produced by me a few years before. It was while I was in Northamptonshire that I succeeded in ripening Peaches on March 31st, 1874, for which I received a certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society—a record which I do not think has yet been beaten."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 171.—HOW TO STRIKE ROSE CUTTINGS.

Dear Kate,—I hope you put in plenty of Rose cuttings every year? Roses are flowers of which we can scarcely have too many, and few of us have such a good collection as we might if we propagated them in this way. I don't wish to incite you to steal, but most people who have good Roses will exchange cuttings, so that after you have once started a few good varieties, it is only a matter of barter, and this is an excellent time for the work. The autumn has been so extremely dry that we have not yet finished making our plantations of Rose cuttings, for sunny, dry weather does not suit them in this light soil. Some cuttings, however, which were put in early in September (and covered with glass), are doing very well. I have put in cuttings during a mild time as late as January, which have every one rooted; these were from the Niphetos Rose, which grows in a border in the conservatory, however, and this variety is an easy one to propagate. Last year we put in some of the prunings of our pot-Roses under a frame, too, in January, and several of these have rooted; but the finest of all last year's cuttings is a plant of Mildred Grant, an immense creamy-white flower, which grew from a little bit of stalk given to me with a blossom on it. It has already produced three splendid Roses, and is now planted in a new Rose-bed which we have just made. I send you a photograph of one of its blossoms, cut the last week of October. The secrets of success in propagating Roses are worth knowing, especially as many of them do far better on the roots with which Nature provides them than on the strong wild-Rose stocks which the nurseryman prefers, but which are often the cause of disaster, as they naturally do their best to throw up suckers of their own variety and starve the poor, delicate Rose which has been foisted upon them, unless these said suckers are constantly cut away.

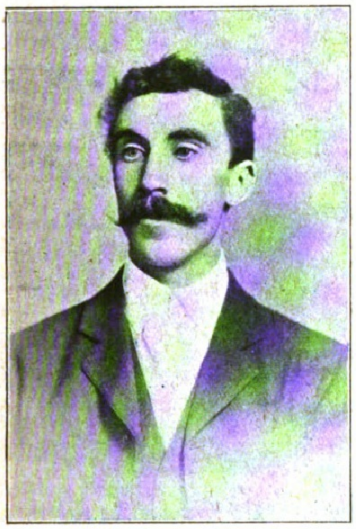
Well, if you want to grow Roses on their own roots, you should select well-ripened pieces of this season's growth, about nine inches long, and of medium size, for neither the thickest stems, nor yet the weak, twiggy wood will suit the purpose. Cut it off with a sharp, clean cut just below an eye (or place where the leaf is), or, better still, slip it off from the old wood with a slight "heel" of this on it, but as this is not very good for the tree from which it is taken, it is not always feasible to take slips instead of cuttings. Snip off the leaves on the stem, only leaving the two leaves at the top (for at least six inches of the stem must be buried in the soil), and be sure, in doing so, that no sort of injury is given to the stem, for it will surely rot if this is the case. For instance, it is a fatal mistake to strip off the leaves with the hand; they must be cut clean off close to the stem—not even dragged in using a blunt knife—a pair of good scissors should be used for this work. If you have a lot of cuttings to put in, the best way is to cut a slanting trench on firm, good, kitchen-garden soil, with a spade; then lay at the bottom of it some sharp sand, mixed with charcoal dust, and it is on this good rooting material that the ends of the cuttings must firmly rest. Then put back the soil, and tread the whole until it is very firm, after which you can leave them alone until the end of February, when the calluses formed

A Ghent Azalea.

of our native Orchids are the Butterfly Orchis, the Bee Orchis, the Purple Orchis, the Spotted Orchis, the Marsh Helleborine, Orchis latifolia, O. pyramidalis, Gymnadenia cinopsea (delightfully fragrant), Ladies' Tresses (scented like a Hyacinth), and Cypripedium calceolus. All of them, and any others, can be bought from a nurseryman, and it would be a pity to attempt to get them in any other way. There are few enough of them left in the country as it is. We don't want to lose them altogether.

Raspberries on Dry Ground.

June 30th.—There can be no doubt that Raspberries grow most luxuriantly in moist soil. I have seen them growing almost like Bamboos by



MR. F. HARVEY.

the side of a stream in the Isle of Man, and also in a little glen not far away. Yet that they will also succeed in a dry position I have proved here. When I took the place, there was a desolate yard which had been used as a poultry-run. It consisted almost entirely of stones, gravel, and ashes. A more unpromising place for plants of any kind could hardly be imagined, but something had to be done with it, if only for the sake of appearances; so, after some of the largest stones had been cleared away, the ground was dug, manured, and planted with rows of Raspberries, with a few fruit trees to add to the effect Of the latter, the Pears have made slow progress, but the Plums (Victorias) have done well, having grown strongly and borne good crops. They have evidently got their roots in the soil below the layer of stones, gravel and ashes. But as the roots of Raspberries keep close to the surface, it is surprising to find that they have been a complete success, throwing up strong shoots every year, and producing an abundance of fine fruit. There are certainly an unusual number of suckers which have to be hoed down at intervals, but when this is done they do not seem to interfere with the growth of the plants. To those who are thinking of trying Raspberries in conditions which cannot be considered favourable, this experiment may be encouraging.

July 1st.—The Wellingtonia is certainly a noble tree for the lawn, but those who plant it are very apt to forget how large it will become in the course of twenty or thirty years. The proper position for it, therefore, is the end, or, in some special cases, the side, of the lawn. The centre should always be left open. No tree of any sort should be planted there, and certainly no tree which will attain the size of the Wellingtonia. The mistake is more common in the town than it is in the country, where gardens are generally larger, and unfortunately it is in the town that light is most wanted.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of Lord Monson, at Burton Hall, Lincoln.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. F. HARVEY.

IN the fruit-growing world, the gardens of Lord Monson have long been held in high esteem, and when I visited Burton Park, in order to have a talk with Mr. Harvey, the head gardener, respecting the features of the domains under his charge, he observed at once that his employer is chiefly interested in hardy fruit. Mention must, however, first be made of the fact that Burton Hall is situated in one of the most delightful parts of Lincolnshire, easy of access from the cathedral city, and yet far removed from its noise. As I had arranged to drive to the kitchen gardens first, we made a considerable descent from the heights on which are the magnificent terrace walks, the glory, from a scenic point of view, of Burton. But the kitchen gardens are far above the valley, and, with the Orangery, the gardener's house, and the picturesque surroundings, bathed in sunlight, presented a most attractive appearance on a lovely May morning. In order not to lose any time, Mr. Harvey suggested that we should turn our attention to the Apple trees which I noticed on my arrival near a singularly pretty pergola.

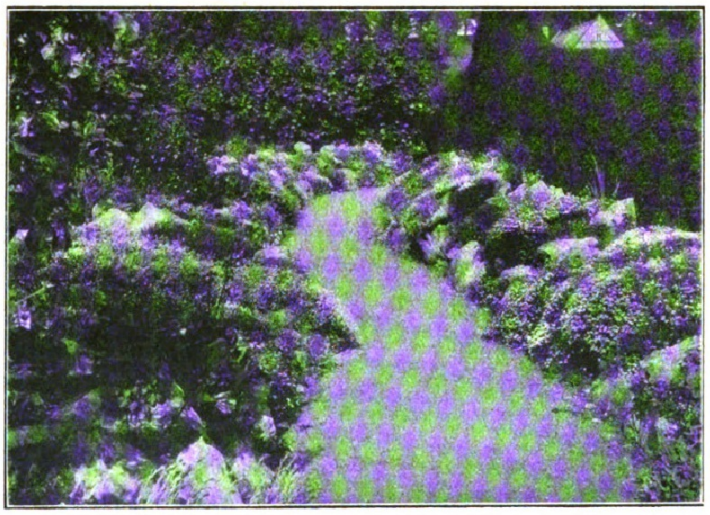
"We keep our varieties together as much as possible," he said. "These trees are Lane's Prince Albert, of which we have about fifty. The soil, heavy loam, on a bed of clay and ironstone, is congenial to this variety. Probably the iron helps to give the fruit a good colour. We consider that, for the North Midlands, we get a very good colour in most of our Apples, and, if you get the colour, you get the flavour, always taking into account the fact that there are bright-looking varieties which are not the best. Prince Albert is an every-year cropper, and a good keeper."

"Do you usually get good Apple crops?"

"During the five years I have been at Burton, we have not missed one, though other growers in the locality have not been so fortunate. One of our natural advantages is that we are sheltered by the hill from the east wind. Near the trees of Prince Albert are a few of White Transparent, a very nice Apple for early use. Some people like it for dessert. It has rather a sharp flavour, is soft in the flesh, and, besides being a fair eater, is a capital cooker."

"I shall be glad if, as we go along, you will tell me the other Apples which, under the conditions of climate and cultivation here, do well."

"Adams' Pearmain never fails to yield us a crop. It colours wonderfully well, has a very attractive appearance, and will not only keep, but retains its flavour until the end of April. King of the Pippins is an excellent Apple. But if the trees carry a heavy crop one year, they do not bear well the next. If, however, they are thinned fairly hard, they do all right."



A PART OF THE ROCKERY AT BURTON HALL.

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"What about Worcester Pearmain?"

"It is an every-year Apple, and in this soil it colours splendidly. But, of course, it does not keep well. Court Pendu Plat, which is very late in flowering, and usually escapes the frosts, is a very difficult Apple to keep. The fruit should be allowed to hang on the tree until it is ready to drop. By adopting this precaution last season, we kept some of the Apples until May in fair condition."

"There is an old tree near the Worcester Pearmains that seems worthy of notice."

"It is an Irish Peach, which crops every other year. Irish Peach is an Apple which fruits at the end of the branches only, and does not stand pruning. It is inclined to develop moss, but, by spraying every winter, we keep the tree clean. You may care to know that, for this purpose, we find the knapsack machine very useful. It is a great time-saver. We have two machines, and they can be worked with one man each.

"Speaking of Apples that keep until May," continued Mr. Harvey, "here are some trees of Tower of Glamis, of which we still have some fruit in good condition."

"You seem to keep all your trees open?"

"Yes, we get as much air and light into them as possible. One of the great secrets of success, if not the only one, is cleanly culture. In this batch of Newton Wonder, which is a variety that does remarkably well, success is also attributable to fairly hard thinning. Newton Wonder has a strain of Blenheim Orange in it, and, like Blenheim Orange, if a tree has a too heavy crop one year, it has a very light one the next."

Spring Pippin and Hereford Pearmain.

"Then you do not, as a practice, allow the trees to carry a heavy crop?"

"We make exceptions. Here are two trees which were permitted to carry very heavy crops last year, and, as you see, they have only a sprinkling of blossom, while on the surrounding trees there are thousands. Yet the two with scarcely any are equally vigorous trees. Near the Newton Wonder is a tree of a dessert variety not generally grown. It is Spring Pippin, and crops well every year. The flavour is good, and the size medium."

"Do you grow Beauty of Bath?"

"Yes, and it is an excellent early variety, but it does not keep long. Herefordshire Pearmain, on the other hand, keeps well, and is an admirable dessert variety, of nice flavour and good appearance. Perhaps because of its small size—though here the Apples are not so small—it is not grown so much as it might be."

A First-rate Variety for Amateurs.

"Can you recommend any varieties specially to amateurs?"

"Allington Pippin is a first-rate variety for amateurs to grow. It crops splendidly on quite small trees, which take up very little space. The finest-flavoured cooking Apple is Normanton Wonder, called in other parts of the country Dumelow's Seedling, or Wellington. It is also one of the best of keepers. Mr. Gladstone is an early Apple which I can recommend as a cropper. Then, New Hawthornden is a very free cropper, though it does not carry much bloom. It is a healthy grower, and can always be depended upon. We cut down the Old Hawthornden, because they were inclined to spot; the New Hawthornden does not spot at all. Barnack Beauty is not quite first-rate in quality, though attractive in appearance. The next batch consists of Newtown Pippin, a variety which is not supposed to succeed very well in this country. We cropped these trees for the first time last year, and I think that they will flourish. But now I will show you the newer piece of ground, where we have all our young trees, from which we get our best fruit."

The Importance of Root-pruning.

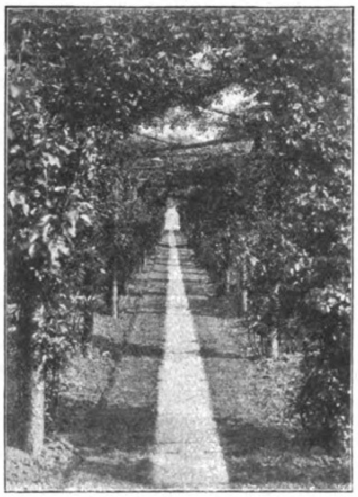
This is just outside the high walls of the kitchen gardens, and is skilfully arranged.

"The varieties are all in groups here?"

"Entirely. The first is a group of Ribston Pippin. This variety crops well, but the trees are rather inclined to canker, except in the warmest soil. By keeping the roots near the surface, we manage to avoid the mischief. The next group is one of Peasgood's Nonsuch. The first two or three years, though vigorous, the trees yielded little fruit, but for the last two years we have had excellent crops."

"What is the next variety, with every tree smothered in bloom?"

"Bramley's Seedling. All that flower is the result of careful root-pruning. You may like to know, with regard to root-pruning, that if trees are small, we lift them if there are signs of too vigorous growth. If the trees are larger, we root-prune one side one season; and, if they are still growing strongly the next, we root-prune the other side. If we think that they were checked enough the year before, we let them alone until the third year. This is how the batch of Gascoigne's Scarlet was treated. It is one of the slowest-fruiting Apples, but the



THE PERGOLA AT BURTON HALL.

treatment given to these trees has made them splendid croppers. I ought to say that the soil just here is deep and rather rich."

The Finest Dessert Apple.

"Do you share the opinion that Cox's Orange Pippin is the finest dessert Apple?"

"When it is well grown and well coloured it surpasses all other varieties in flavour, and it is the favourite at Burton. It crops every year. Claygate Pearmain, which forms the next group to Cox's Orange Pippin, is a very fair cropper, of excellent flavour, though its appearance is rather against it. You will observe that among the Blenheim Orange trees are some with light crops. These carried very heavy crops last year. Blenheim Orange, in a young state, is always a shy cropper, and yields more fruit when the trees are between fifteen and twenty years old. There is another row of Blenheims on the other side, and, although they are not more than ten years old, they have not failed to crop; but this is quite an exception for Blenheims. In this position, partially shaded on the north side, the trees carry crops every season. Of the other groups, Beauty of Kent is a moderate every-year cropper, an excellent cooker and fair dessert Apple; New Northern Greening carries enormous crops every year, though these trees are only six years old; Alfriston is a very good cropper, but rather inclined to canker; while Margil, a very excellent substitute for Cox's Orange Pippin, succeeds where Cox's fails, and, though it is rather small, it has a delicious flavour, and I strongly recommend amateurs to grow it."

An Historic Mulberry Tree.

We next proceeded to the orchard, where the standard trees are grown, passing, on our way through the charming Yew walk, a very old Mulberry tree, which every year yields a wonderful crop, and had masses of berries on the ends of all the shoots.

"In the orchard," said Mr. Harvey, "is a very fine tree of Blenheim Orange, twenty years old, from which we gathered, in one season, twenty stone of fruit. The soil here, again, is different, a much darker loam, with the result that some varieties, like the Queen, colour wonderfully. The Queen, however, is not first-rate in flavour, though very attractive in appearance. We have been cutting down a dozen not very good trees of this variety, and grafting them with Blenheims."

A Decorative Apple.

"I must confess that the thing that most impresses me in this orchard is the superb colour and show of blossom which makes a tree in one corner quite a picture, rivalling in beauty the most ornamental shrubs."

"Those are the blossoms of a variety of Apple which we think is well worth growing solely for the sake of its flowers. It is called Lincoln Holland Pippin, and crops exceedingly well, as a rule. I quite believe that, if people only knew what it was like, they would plant it for purposes of decoration alone. That brilliant show of colour lasts for three weeks."

"What other Apples are represented in the orchard?"

"Lord Derby crops well. There are five trees of one variety, with fruits identical, and growths very distinct. This is probably due to the influences of different stock. We grow Warner's King, but it wants a warmer climate to flourish. Betty Geeson is a very good keeper and cooker; Duke of Devonshire is a good keeper; Cockle's Pippin a very good cropper, of excellent flavour; and Lord Suffield a very good early Apple."

Pears and Plums.

Subsequently, I saw in the fruit-room a quantity of Apples in first-rate condition, including Newton Wonder, Alfriston, Barnack Beauty, Beauty of Kent, Blenheim Orange, Newtown Pippin, Tower of Glamis, Lane's Prince Albert, Herefordshire Pearmain and Betty Geeson. Pears next claimed our attention.

"Here," said Mr. Harvey, "on the west wall is a tree of Souvenir du Congres. Formerly it did not bear well, but three years ago I root-pruned it, and it has since carried wonderful crops. The tree opposite, Emile d'Heyst, is a wonderfully free cropper, but has to be thinned very severely when it is covered with bloom. Beurre Superfin does wonderfully well, and carries a fine crop; and a new tree of Conference, grafted on to Conference old stock, has been very successful."

"What have you to say about Doyenne du Comice?"

"With us it ripens up well on a south wall only, and there we get the full flavour which is necessary. We are going in largely for that variety. Louise Bonne of Jersey has a good flavour, and does well. Durondeau does not crop freely in a young state, but yields plenty of fruit in the ninth year. A number of other varieties are grown on double or treble cordons, including Pitmaston Duchess, Beurre Hardy, Marie Benoist, Glou Morceau, Charles Ernest, and Madame Treyve, a very good Pear indeed."

"How about Plums?"

"Coe's Golden Drop does not carry big crops,

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but the flavour is excellent, and the fruit can be kept for some time. Kirke's is one of the best croppers, and fruits a little earlier on the west than on the east wall; Victoria is very dependable; and Transparent Gage also does better west than east. With regard to Cherries, Morellos yield a big crop every season. We avoid the use of the knife as much as possible, a precaution which is especially necessary with stone fruit, in order to keep them from cankering. We planted, two seasons ago, a number of sweet Cherries, and the varieties, Early Rivers, Bigarreau Napoleon, Emperor Francis, Late Duke and Governor Wood, are all cropping freely. Then there are Apricots. Many of our trees are worn out, and we shall have to replace them. They are nearly all Moor Park, and crop well, but lose their branches."

Peaches on the Walls.

"Your Peaches seem to be covering the walls?"

"Particularly the south wall. Dymond, for instance, is no good anywhere else; a very good Peach which is little grown is Sulhampstead, of good size and good colour. Amongst the older trees is one of Waterloo (which yields an enormous crop), and Alexander (an excellent early Peach, but not equal to Waterloo). In 1907 we gathered Waterloo on July 18th. The young trees, which we are using in the border, include Princess of Wales, Condor, Nectarine Peach, Sea Eagle, and Coolidge's Favourite, a very good fruit. Then, to finish the Peaches, we grow inside most of the varieties which we have on the walls. But there is one exception. Early Cronstein is a very good early variety, but can only be grown under glass. In this house we have a few cordon Pears which promise to crop well. For getting a quick return, I think the cordon the best system of growing fruit."

Getting Rid of the Black Currant Mite.

"You grow Red Currants on the walls?"

"Yes, and keep them hanging there until November or December, for the shooting season, our busiest time. The new cage for bush fruits is for Currants, Gooseberries, and Raspberries. Our Black Currant trees were smothered with mite, but I destroyed the whole of them, and had none for one year. Then I planted all Boskoop Giant, which are quite free from the mite, and carrying a good crop. Two years ago I planted Loganberries on the wall, and this year they will fruit to the top, fifteen feet high."

"When do you begin to gather Strawberries?"

"In the earliest border, at the beginning of June; and we go on till the end of July. We keep the plants for three years, and rely chiefly upon Royal Sovereign. President follows, and The Bedford is very useful. Viscountess is grown for jam."

"You appear to have large breadths of vegetables, which, I suppose, find the heavy soil congenial?"

"Yes, we have no difficulty with vegetables. There is one kind which is not very much grown. I allude to Indian Corn. It is raised inside, and a little manure put at the bottom of each plant, which is subsequently planted out. It is an excellent vegetable, and should be more generally grown. Of Potatoes, Sir John Llewelyn is one of the best, and Up-to-Date the best maincrop, the early varieties being Ringleader, Sharpe's Express, and Duke of York. Peas are grown in great quantities, and all the Brassicas do well. There are seven varieties of Broccoli (including Late Queen, which is so useful in the winter), and the Cauliflowers are Dwarf Forcing (grown outside and inside); the Celery, Standard Bearer, Dwarf Gem, and Wright's Grove White; and we have Spinach Beet, which we were able to gather when we could not obtain winter Spinach."

Lincolnshire Lilies.

"I notice that you have a large number of Lilies of the Valley under one of your walls."

"They are the same as those which grow wild in the woods in Lincolnshire. We dress them with old, spent manure every year. When the crowns get very much overcrowded, they should be lifted and replanted three or four inches apart. They soon fill up again, and yield enough fine flowers. The foliage of these Lilies is as pretty as the blooms."

"We must not leave the kitchen garden finally without referring to the pergola, which is one of its principal ornaments."

"It extends the whole length of the garden, about a hundred yards, and the Roses planted on it include Madame Plantier, which is exceptionally good for pillar-work, with its masses of small, double white flowers."

As we passed into a house containing Perpetual-flowering Carnations, I enquired about Chrysanthemums.

"We grow between fifty and sixty varieties," rejoined Mr. Harvey, "largely for show purposes. Of Carnations, we make rather a speciality. All the Tree varieties have been discarded, except Enchantress, Mrs. Lawson, Britannia, Mrs. Burnett, White Perfection, Floriana, and Robert Craig. Of Malmaisons, we are now getting a stock together, the varieties being chiefly Princess of Wales, Blush, and Mrs. Trelawney. Border varieties are represented in a few useful sorts. With regard to the other houses, which are very old, though they afford a little more shade than some of the modern buildings, we get some very good Peaches from Royal George and Hale's Early, and Nectarines from Stanwick Elruge and Cardinal. Tomatoes are permanently planted, and also in tubs in the front, the varieties being Carter's Sunrise and Duke of York. The Melons are Countess of Lathom, Hero of Lockinge, and Gunton's Scarlet. We get some very nice fruit from these, eight plants averaging five or six Melons each."

Annuals for Cutting.

"There remain the Vineries?"

"The varieties of Grapes are chiefly Black Hamburgh, Lady Downe's Seedling, Alicante, and Muscat of Alexandria, the smaller house being full of Muscats. You may like to notice the collection of Eucharis amazonica, which flower remarkably well here. I give them a long rest in the summer, and get two hundred spikes of flower when they bloom."

"You have said nothing about the kitchen garden borders?"

"They are planted chiefly with annuals, the back of the borders being devoted to Sweet Peas, of which two hundred clumps are grown. The annuals are generally grown in large clumps of each variety, for the supply of cut flowers, as well as for ornament."

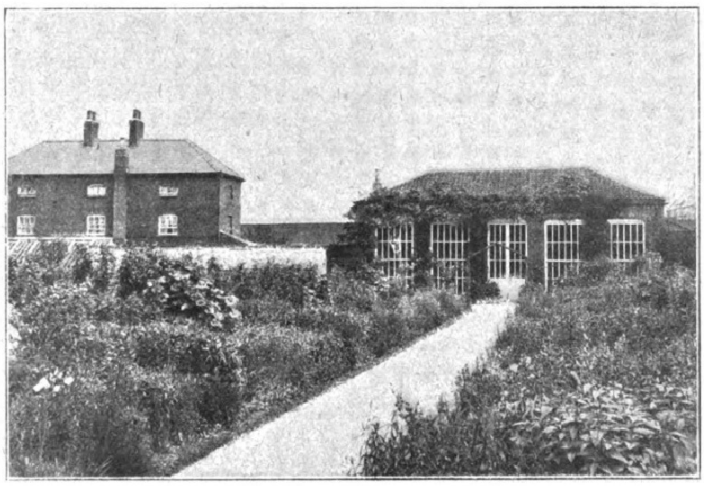
A Splendid Herbaceous Border.

"When was your fine herbaceous border in the new fruit plantation made?"

"Only three years ago, when we took out Apple trees to make room for it. It is fourteen feet wide, on each side, and thirty-five feet long. The plants grown have proved themselves adapted to this soil and climate, and are chiefly late summer and autumn-flowering varieties. Just now, for spring effect, you see we are using a quantity of Violas, Blue King, Kitty Bell, and White Queen. At the end of the herbaceous border is the little rockery."

"Which is very attractive. I should like to know the names of a few of the varieties."

"Aubrietias (of which Dr. Mules is one of the best), Arabis, Helianthemums, Cistus, Dianthus, Campanulas, Ramondias, Saxifraga, Alyssum, Androsace, Arenaria, Gentiana acaulis, Linaria, and Megasea."



HERBACEOUS BORDERS AND ORANGERY AT BURTON HALL.

The Terrace Bedding.

We then proceeded in the direction of the Hall, which is finely placed, and has a number of handsome trees in its vicinity."

"What is the scheme of the beds?" I enquired.

"Colours in masses, the shades preferred being pink, and pale blue, with silvery-grey foliage and white and blue edging. The plants used are Begonias, Heliotropes, Centaureas, Cineraria maritima, Antirrhinums, Ageratums, Alyssums, and Lobelia compacta. Standard Heliotropes are employed for dotting. Other varieties are used in beds not in close proximity to the Hall."

"But you do not go in largely for bedding?"

"No, it is not at all a feature of the place, but in the park, through which we are now passing, there are a great many fine specimen trees."

"You get delightful views from the terrace walks."

"Yes, both north and south. The walks are each about a mile long, and there is another drive below called 'The Kennel Walk,' with a double avenue of Oaks. The terrace walks have lately been opened out, in order to obtain

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vistas, tall-growing shrubs being cut down, and dwarf substituted for them. In the centre of one of the walks is an arbour, with a look-out over the plains. At all seasons of the year there is plenty of shade in the walks, and yet they are always protected from the winds."

"Previous to your appointment as head gardener at Burton, what positions have you held, Mr Harvey?"

"I started my gardening career at Westwood, Sydenham, which is now built upon. Then for two years I was at Havering Park, Romford. I left Essex to go into Yorkshire, and was at Studley Royal for two years. My next post was at Balcombe Place, Sussex. At the end of two years, I left Lord Denman's service to be foreman at Buckland, Breconshire, returning to the South of England after three years, as foreman at The Wilderness, Sevenoaks. I remained in Kent for four years, until I was appointed in 1904 head gardener to Lord Monson."

"You have shown a good deal since you came here?"

"Hardy fruit and Chrysanthemums only at Lincoln and Gainsborough. First prizes were taken in 1906, 1907, and 1908, and Lord Monson was this year awarded a Silver Banksian medal by the Royal Horticultural Society for a collection of Apples. As you have seen, we spare no pains in the cultivation of fruit, and I hope that our successes will receive additions this season."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 362.—CLIMBERS UNDER GLASS.

DEAR KATE,—In selecting your conservatory climbers, you must first consider what minimum temperature you intend to keep up in winter, and also the aspect of the place, for success depends largely on these two points. For a warm greenhouse with a south aspect, in which the thermometer does not go below fifty-five degrees in winter, there are few more gorgeous climbers than Streptosolen Jamesoni, a native of Southern Spain, which is said to wreathe the ruins of the Alhambra, and must add greatly to their charm. It is not a good plant for a pot, as it requires plenty of room for its roots, and any amount of rich food and drink during its time of activity, which lasts from February until October, blossoms appearing in extraordinary profusion throughout the whole of the summer. It delights in the sunshine, and likes to be baked under the glass.

The Glory of the Conservatory.

In my conservatory it is trained up a slight pillar, having a free root-run in good soil (which is richly top-dressed every year in spring), and we prune it a good deal in October, cutting away a quantity of the older wood from the ground, for it grows very strongly, and it is on the due ripening of the stout young growths that the next summer's display depends. The plant is profusely watered, and also soaked with thin soot-water, too, except during the winter (*i.e.*, from October until the middle of February), and certainly it well repays us for these attentions to its wants, as it is literally covered for months with great bouquets of fire-coloured flowers (of a tint which glows in the sunshine in a remarkable way), hanging from under the glass roof in rich masses, so that the foliage is almost buried in flowers. I tried to grow it in a pot for some years, but the poor thing always looked miserable and dropped its leaves until it was almost bare; but now it is the glory of the conservatory, making an archway with the Heliotrope (Bouquet Parfait), the cool mauve blossoms mingling with the intense red with great effect.

Heliotrope is, of course, indispensable; it, also, loves the sun, and will blossom continuously on a south wall. But it gets too wild without pruning, so that it should be cut back to within three inches of the wall early in August, if you wish for plenty of blooms in winter. Just at that time we have plenty of Heliotrope in the garden borders, both of this variety and of the darker but less fragrant kinds, so that in this way you can cut plenty of "Cherry-pie" all round the year. But it is as hungry and thirsty a plant as the Streptosolen, and should have its roots in the border under glass, with the same treatment as the Streptosolen with regard to feeding. In February you

THE CLIMBING FERN—LYGODIUM JAPONICUM.

can put in as many cuttings of its young shoots as you like (for bedding-out purposes, window-boxes, etc.); they take root quickly at that time in a warm Vinery, and can be potted up separately in April, pinching out their points, when they make nice plants by the end of May. Heliotropes can be grown easily from seed, too, but do not flower the first year. We use them as a carpet between Carnations and dwarf Roses, etc., as their cool tints and sweet scent are so delightful in the summer garden, as well as under glass.

The Winter Jasmine.

Another valuable winter-flowering climber is Jasminum grandiflorum, which provides us with an abundance of richly-scented white flowers from October to February. This plant is said to be nearly hardy, but I have not yet tried it without warmth in winter, and I doubt whether its flowers would be so fragrant in a cool greenhouse. It likes to throw its sprays far and wide under the glass, and needs constant tying down to the wires a foot below it during the summer, or it gets too wild.

Unfortunately, that horrid little blight—white scale—is terribly fond of it, and it becomes necessary to cut it back severely in spring, and scrub the stems with some soapy insecticide, afterwards spraying them from a scent-vaporiser with methylated spirits, which is specially destructive to this pest. Cuttings (or slips) of the young shoots can be rooted under glass in April or May, and in this way plants free from blights can be secured. I hope to try one in the cool greenhouse, and will then let you know the result.

The beautiful Feather Asparagus (plumosus), which grows in long wreaths amongst the other climbers, is also rather troubled with white scale, but it does not seem to check its luxuriance, as we take down the long sprays of feathery greenery in the winter or early spring, cut out (from the ground) any old or half-dead wood, and treat the rest in the same way as the Jasmine, first scrubbing the stems, and then spraying the whole with methylated spirits.

In March yearly, all these climbers are top-dressed with old hotbed material, mixed with a little soot, first removing the upper soil in the borders to the depth of a few inches, without injury to their roots, and afterwards sifting a little fine loam over the manure. Do not forget to water the borders thoroughly in summer, for climbers need plenty of liquid in such a warm position.

Climbing Ferns.

In the more shady end of the warm conservatory, the walls are covered with Fuchsias (which look specially well when trained under glass), and with Begonia corallina, which produces terminal drooping sprays of coral-red blooms in place. Then the climbing Ferns (Lygodiums) are lovely there; Lygodium japonicum grows about eight feet high, and is deciduous, so that it should be cut down to the ground in February, and not over-watered in the winter. It covers wire-netting on the wall most elegantly with its graceful greenery. L. scandens is evergreen, and rather more hardy, and so is L. palmatum. All these are worth growing, but are not often seen in our greenhouses.

With less warmth (but enough to keep frost at bay in winter) you may grow climbing Roses more easily than with greater heat. Any temperature above forty-two degrees will suit them well; and nothing can be more beautiful than a well-grown Rose under glass. No blights must, however, be suffered in its neighbourhood; green-fly especially is troublesome, with red-spider and other pests if the atmosphere be too hot and dry for the Rose. Constant syringing in bright weather will help to keep insects in check, but it is necessary to vaporise with nicotine as soon as the first buds appear in spring to destroy the early green-fly.

Dangers of the Paraffin Wash.

Do not, on any account, syringe your Roses with paraffin wash; the young and tender buds and foliage are ruined by it, especially where it is not mixed (as paraffin should always be, when used as an insecticide) with hot milk before adding it to the soap and water. If you keep to the proper amount (*i.e.*, one ounce, or two tablespoonfuls, of paraffin to each gallon of water, and each ounce of soap), and beat the oil up in twice its bulk of hot milk, it will mix evenly, as no amount of stirring up will make it do without the milk.

A friend of mine has lately ruined his Maréchal Niel in the greenhouse by using paraffin without milk, as recommended (unfortunately) too often; but all young growths are destroyed by its burning touch, and it is quite impossible to distribute

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THE GARDENS AT CAVENHAM PARK, MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK.

Interview with Mr. Gilbert Hatch.

AMONGST the beautiful gardens in Suffolk, a place of honour must be given to those of Cavenham Park, the seat of Mr. A. B. H. Goldschmidt. Situated midway between Newmarket and Bury St. Edmunds, three miles north of Higham Station, the estate extends over several thousand acres. On the occasion of my visit in December, Mr. Gilbert Hatch, who has charge of the gardens, met me at Higham, and pointed out, in the course of the drive, some of the improvements which Mr. Goldschmidt has made since he purchased the property. We speedily reached its boundaries, and, passing through a fine old avenue of noble trees, approached the handsome mansion, which is built of brick and stone in the Elizabethan style, and, with the gardens, is surrounded by a well-timbered park, containing, amongst other trees, some excellent specimens of Beech.

"Mrs. Goldschmidt," said Mr. Hitch, "takes a keen interest in the gardens, and under her directions many important changes and additions have been made. You will like to see the more prominent features?"

"Yes, please, beginning with the pleasure grounds."

"First of all is the 'Dial' garden. The beds here are planted in spring with Darwin Tulips and Pansies; in summer with Cannas, Lobelia cardinalis, and Fuchsia Mrs. Marshall, and a groundwork of Madame Crousse Ivy-leaf Geranium. With its background of golden Yews, the little garden looks especially bright when the Roses, Dorothy Perkins and Eliza Robichon, with its pink clusters of bloom, are in flower."

Features of the Dell.

"But there is also a charming-looking Rosery, evidently fashioned to a design."

"It was laid out to represent the Prince of Wales's feathers. The Roses are mixed, Teas, Hybrid Teas, and a few Hybrid Perpetuals. Among the varieties grown and doing well are La France, Madame Abel Chatenay, Madame Ravary, Souvenir de S. A. Prince, Mrs. John Laing, Duke of Edinburgh, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Killarney, President Carnot, Dean Hole, Maman Cochet, Catherine Mermet, The Bride, Madame Leon Pain, Richmond, and The Lyon. The natural soil being chalk and sand, and very poor, all the Rose beds were made, the new soil being two feet deep. The Rosery was replanted eight years ago. The pleasure grounds were originally planned by the late Mr. Milner, but many and various improvements have been made since. The dell we are just entering is, in its present shape, one of the new features on the south side. Romneya Coulteri and Berberis stenophylla do well here. Plants suitable for the position have been chosen. In places, the dell purposely resembles a wild garden, and the trees which surround it are in keeping with its character."

On the south side of the lawn is a Rose bower, designed by Mr. Hatch, according to Mrs. Goldschmidt's own idea, about seven years ago. The Roses covering it are chiefly Dorothy Perkins, Crimson Rambler, Blush Rambler, Carmine Pillar, Thalia, Lady Gay, and Flora. In the beds Hybrid Teas are used. These are about to be replanted in the shape of four baskets. The practice is to replant Rose beds every four or five years.

"Mention should be made," I said, "of several of the thriving trees and shrubs on the lawn."

"They include foliage and flowering varieties, the shrubs most noteworthy being golden Yews, with some fine young specimen trees of Cedar of Lebanon, C. atlantica glauca, Abies pinsapo, lasiocarpa, and pungens glauca, Juniperus chinensis, and Thujas in variety."

The Terrace Bedding.

"Your gravel paths on the terrace look as if they have never known weeds."

"We keep everything as clean as possible.

MR. GILBERT HATCH.

The bedding near the fountain is composed in spring of Wallflowers and Darwin Tulips. The varieties of the former are Veitch's Dwarf Red and Selected Yellow, and Sutton's three 'Queens,' edged with Centaureas, and Pansies in variety. From the terrace a pretty view of the lake in the park can be obtained. The beds here are occupied in summer by Geraniums and Fuchsias. Of the former we use Lady Ilchester, Pink Christian, and Madame Rozaine; of the latter, Mrs. Marshall and Manglesii. The vases are always planted with Madame Crousse. The only climber on the house to speak of is Clematis montana, which is trained up to the first floor, and not allowed to go beyond."

"A point in the conservatory seems to be that there is nothing planted out?"

"Everything is movable, even the big Palms in tubs, so that we can the more easily arrange them, and avoid straight walks. Just now, Chrysanthemums and Salvia splendens, with fine baskets of Asparagus Sprengeri hanging from the roof, are the prevailing elements. In summer, the Aloes in the tubs are put out each side of the entrance, and taken in during October."

Pursuing our stroll past the front door of the mansion on the north-west side, the ornamental gate, and through three fine avenues of Limes and Chestnuts, we came in full view of the commodious modern stables. The features of the very considerable kitchen garden, with its tributaries, are numerous. The houses claimed our attention immediately, priority being given to the collection of Orchids.

Calanthes and Eucharis.

"Calanthes reign supreme," I said, noting the splendid colour of the handsome flowers.

"There are about two hundred. The principal variety is C. Veitchii, many of the spikes carrying forty to fifty flowers. Other varieties are C. vestita, luteus, vestita rubra, W. Murray, and Bella. Cattleya labiata is another favourite, which repays good cultivation. Orchids are flowered for the shooting season. In the next house, Eucharis amazonica is still in flower; it always does well."

"And the Ferns?"

"These are only a portion of them, others being in the grotto, but they include a good specimen of Adiantum Farleyense, and Microlepia hirta cristata, A. fragrantissimo, A. lopodes elegans, A. Mariesi, and A. trapezeforme. The Orchids in another house are Lælia anceps, Cœlogyne cristata, and Cypripedium insigne."

"But quite the most striking of the contents is the spike of Vanda cœrulea, with fourteen flowers."

"All the Cypripediums, about fifty plants, some about two feet across, are in excellent condition. The greenhouse, you see, is devoted to Chrysanthemums, the Japanese varieties including Acquisition, Algernon Davis, Beatrice May, Beecham, Keeling, Exquisite, George Mileham, Hon. Mrs. Lopes, Joseph Stoney, Lady Crisp, Sir F. Crisp, Lady Talbot, Madame P. Radaelli, Magnificent, Mary Inglis, Miss Ellie Green, Lady E. Letchworth, Miss Nellie Stoop, Mrs. A. T. Miller, Mrs. C. H. Totty, Mrs. R. H. B. Marsham, Mrs. R. Luxford, Reginald Vallis, Valerie Greenham, White Queen, W. Howe, and many others. Besides these, we grow many Decorative and Single varieties."

The Cultivation of Ferns.

"Are your Ferns in the grotto a speciality?"

"We make no particular speciality. The Stag's-horn Fern, at the entrance to the grotto, is doing well, and the specimen plants seem to be much appreciated. We pot them up once a year in February, and generally cut down close. The compost is a mixture of best loam, peat, a little leaf-mould, old mortar rubble, and silver sand. The temperature is sixty to seventy degrees."

"How did you get the Rex Begonias such an enormous size?"

"By means of care, shade, and moisture. We go through them every February, and give them fresh soil. Carnations of the Tree sections are grown in quantity, with Carola and most of the leading kinds flowering well. Now, I think, we had better inspect the fruit houses."

"Commencing with the early Peach house."

"In this there are half a dozen varieties, Early Alfred, Dymond, Crimson Galande, Waterloo, and Dryden, and Pineapple Nectarine. In the early Vinery, I am just renovating the border, and going to plant three or four young Vines, Madresfield Court and Appley Towers. The Muscat house is limited to Muscat of Alexandria and Cannon Hall Muscats, of which we have several good bunches; and in the late Vinery are Black Alicante, Lady Downe, Mrs. Pince, Mrs. Pearson, and Gros Guillaume, carrying excellent crops."

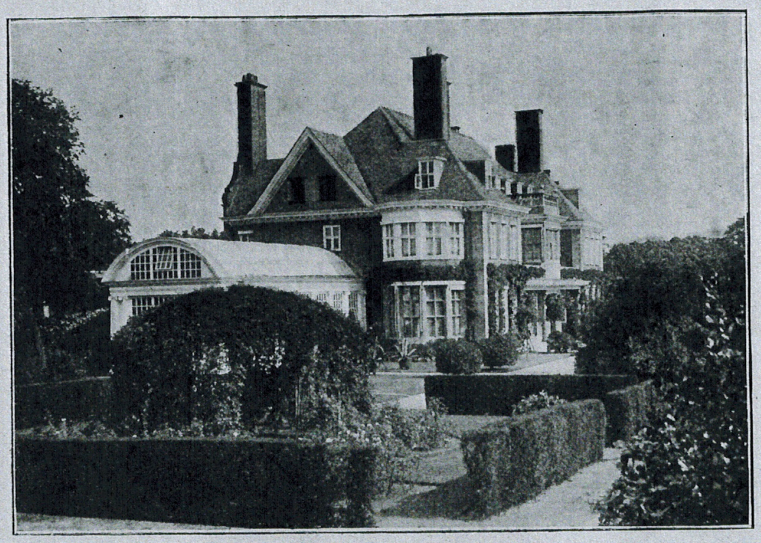
"Where are the other Peaches grown?"

"In the Peach case and outside. The varieties in the case are Dryden, Humboldt, Lord Napier, and Early Rivers Nectarines; Devonian and Crimson Galande Peaches. As a rule, we gather excellent crops from these."

The Making of a Herbaceous Border.

"Then, there are the flowers outside?"

"The borders on each side of the central path on each side of the main kitchen garden, with grass in front, are devoted to herbaceous varieties. There are five rows, and this year I had all the plants up, trenched the borders, and replanted them. The secret of success in these borders is to have varieties that flower at different times, and so I include in a long succession various kinds of Iris, hardy Lilies, Phlox, Erigerons, Delphiniums, Gypsophila, Antirrhinums, Doronicums, Heleniums, Pyrethrums, and Pentstemons. The length of the border is about one hundred yards, and the width on each side seven feet. Border Carnations in the leading varieties are grown in front of the houses. Sweet Peas are cultivated in quantity in the kitchen garden, in deeply-trenched, well - manured ground. They are grown in single rows five feet apart, and one foot between the plants. As to varieties, here are twelve very good kinds:—Nora Unwin, King Edward Spencer, Countess Spencer, Constance Oliver, Charles Foster, Mrs. C. W. Breadmore, Elsie Herbert, Mrs. H. Sykes, Mrs. W. J. Unwin, F. Dolby, Mrs. R. Hallam, and Nubian."



CAVENHAM PARK, MILDENHALL.

The Fruit Garden.

"The hardy fruit is grown outside the kitchen garden walls?"

"Yes, in the fruit garden, which we had better look at before taking the vegetables. This covers an acre, with a grass path in the centre, the borders being planted with cordon Pears, with Gooseberries behind, fan trained, and Apples gridiron trained. The circular beds are planted at one end of the garden with Crabs, the other with Japanese Wineberries and hardy Vines, and the centre with Roses. The object, as you will understand, is to make the place look pretty as well as useful."

"How long does your Pear season last in a favourable year?"

"From August till February. This is not a good Pear district, although we get a fair sample. Six kinds that do fairly well here are Beurre d'Amanlis, Marie Louise, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marechal de la Cour, Doyenne du Comice, and Glou Morceau, and eight others almost as good are Jargonelle, Madame Treyve, Souvenir du Congres, Beurre Hardy, Pitmaston Duchess, Winter Nelis, Marie Benoist, and Josephine de Malines."

THE GARDENER'S HOUSE AT CAVENHAM PARK.

The Best Apples.

"What about Apples?"

"Twelve good Apples that do well here, and carry over the winter and well into the spring months, are Lord Suffield, Warner's King, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Bismarck, Flander's Pippin, Lane's Prince Albert, Lady Henniker, Bramley's Seedling, Lord Derby, Wellington, The Sandringham, and Royal Late Cooking. Twelve dessert varieties are September Beauty, Worcester Pearmain, Cox's Orange Pippin, King of Tompkins County, Melon Apple, Margil, King of the Pippins, Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Cockle Pippin, Brownlee's Russet, and Scarlet Nonpareil."

Asparagus Culture.

"I should like details of just the principal vegetables which you grow in quantity."

"There are the Asparagus beds, which were sown when I came nine years ago, and produce very fair samples. But for the past eight years I have always sown one or two large beds where they are to remain. The soil here, being of a light nature, is especially suitable to the cultivation of Asparagus, and the results have been excellent. At the present time I am forcing some that was grown where sown seven years old from time of sowing. This is producing a good supply of fine, large heads. I always leave a quantity of heads uncut all through the season. The varieties are Sutton's Perfection and Giant French. Onions, you see, are being trenched ready for next year. We trench the ground in October, about two feet deep, digging plenty of manure into the bottom, and putting plenty between the spits. The varieties are Ailsa Craig, Premier, Sutton's Perfection, A1, and Magnum Bonum. The varieties of Peas I prefer are Early Giant, Best of All, Maincrop, Matchless, Autocrat, Edwin Beckett, Latest of All, and Gladstone. With regard to Potatoes for early use, I like May Queen, Ringleader, and Ashleaf, growing also in order, Duke of York, Sharpe's Express, Royal Kidney, Ideal, Superlative, Reading Russet, Sensation, and Up-to-Date. But Superlative is the best Potato with us. A great quantity of Parsley is grown. I sow it early in the spring, and again in August, which gives us an abundant supply all the year round. Savoys, Cauliflowers, Broccoli, Leeks, Artichokes, and Carrots are largely grown. I sow Summer Carrots in July, and they come in for use during autumn and winter. The variety is Inimitable Forcing, and some of the French varieties are valued here, and for main crop we grow Scarlet Model, Matchless Scarlet, and New Red Intermediate. Here I may say that we use frames in a similar way to French gardening for growing early supplies for French vegetables, including not only Carrots, but Radishes, French Lettuces, Cauliflowers, Turnips, and early Potatoes. The frames are filled with about two and a half feet of fresh leaves, and in autumn or winter, as the case may be, a little time before planting, all the ground in the kitchen garden is trenched, and, being sandy soil, I give it plenty of farmyard manure. In my opinion, artificial manure is not of much use without the aid of farmyard manure."

Strawberries.

"Your Strawberries are grown in the kitchen garden."

"Yes, and they do remarkably well. I keep the plants three years, grow them in the same way that we grow the forcing Strawberries, and fruit them the first year. We always get the finest fruit the first year—and why not? After all, the sun will ripen the fruit in the open ground as well as in a house, and it is the more natural way. We have just started forcing, and shall fruit about one thousand plants from February on. The principal variety is Royal Sovereign, and others are Laxton's Reward, Madame Moulet (a very large fruit, rather late), Laxton's Latest, and The Bedford. There is one house you have not yet seen. It is filled with Veitch's climbing French Beans, which have been in bearing now continually for twelve

weeks, and are still in fair bearing condition. My system is to grow one plant in each pot, and the crops are in quantity ten times as large as the ordinary Dwarf Beans. In the beds underneath the climbing Beans we grow Asparagus, which we cut from November through the winter months. Speaking of vegetables, one of the best Tomatoes, which we grow in pots, is Sutton's Eclipse, which is excellent for autumn and winter use. I find the new Cucumber, King George, excellent, and Sensation is also a good variety."

Forcing Lilacs.

"There are one or two other questions I should like to ask you, but as time is pressing I will now only enquire how you force your Lilacs?"

"I place a few plants in a temperature of about fifty degrees for a week or ten days. They are then housed in a temperature of about fifty-five to sixty degrees, a few plants being brought in every ten days. In this way we get a supply from Christmas onwards. When the flowers are fully opened, they are moved to a temperature of forty-five to fifty degrees, as these keep better when cut. Some two thousand Tulips and Narcissus are forced, and Violets in four varieties are grown in great quantity."

Mr. Hatch commenced gardening in 1875 at Warren's Park, has always been in good gardens since, and was gardener to Sir John Edwards-Moss, Bart., for ten years, previous to taking up the position of gardener at Cavenham in 1902. ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week we shall publish an interview with the Instructor of Horticulture at Reading University College.

SWEET PEA TOPICS.

By THOMAS STEVENSON,

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Sweet Pea Society, Author of "The Modern Culture of Sweet Peas," thrice Winner of the Eckford Memorial Cup, and of the N.S.P.S.'s. Provincial Cup, and a Judge at all the Leading Shows.

THE cultivation of Sweet Peas under glass is being much more widely adopted than hitherto, not only by actual lovers of Sweet Peas, but by those who have to provide cut flowers either for the use of their employers, or for market purposes.

Early Blooms.

Amateurs who have a greenhouse, and are interested in Sweet Peas, are among the most ardent enthusiasts of this phase of Sweet Pea culture, as it allows them to sport a buttonhole of Sweet Peas long before their less favoured friends are able to do so from the open ground. Provided the greenhouse is of fair height, it is not a difficult matter to have Sweet Peas in bloom early in May, and much earlier than this if the Telemly hybrids are grown; but it must be borne in mind that these latter are not nearly so good at present as are our own Spencer varieties, though I hear they are gradually being secured in the Spencer form, which not only means that the flowers are better, but that the plants themselves will gain in vigour and strength.

Sweet Peas in Variety.

During my recent visit to France I was privileged to visit the seat of Baron Edmund Rothschild, Armainvilliers, Gretz, where gardening is carried out on a grand scale. Practically the first house I went into was a house full of Telemly Sweet Peas and Pompon and Pæony-flowered Dahlias, all in full bloom. As it was a beautiful sunny day, it made one think we were enjoying an outing in the middle of the summer instead of the 8th or 9th of November.

However, harking back to the Peas, these were planted two or three in a "thirty-two" sized pot, and were about two and a half to three feet high. As M. Bultel, the head gardener, told me they would go on flowering through the winter, the thought crossed my mind that these do not require the amount of pot room in the winter that our Spencer varieties do for flowering in the late spring. But I am sure his system of cultivation must be right, as everything grown at this beautiful place—whether Sweet Peas, Chrysanthemums, Orchids, or anything else—was in the very best condition, and all growing with a fixed object in view, *i.e.*, to provide a big display at one particular season or another.

I do not think that we should succeed so well here in England during the winter with Sweet Peas as near Paris, as there the light and air seems better, but we certainly can get good flowers by the time mentioned. Plants sown in September are the best for very early blooming, but, failing these, October-sown plants will do quite well. These should be brought into the greenhouse at once, and as soon as possible be potted into their flowering pots—10-in. or 12-in. being the most suitable sizes, with three or four plants in each pot. Fairly holding loam should be used, mixing a little leaf-mould, wood ashes, and sand to keep it porous, and also a little bonemeal.

After potting, they should be placed pot to pot in a position where they will not become drawn. For some little time they must be kept quite cool, fifty degrees at night being high enough even in mild weather. As the plants make growth, small stakes must be put to keep them upright, but allow the growth to spread out well, or they will soon get puny and weak. Water sparingly until the days get longer and warmer, when, of course, they will begin to take more. At no time must they be pushed either with too high a temperature or with manure, or the possibility of good, early flowers will be lost by growth getting sappy and the flower buds dropping.

A VETERAN GROWER AMONG HIS SWEET PEAS.

When about eighteen inches high, the plants must be spread out, giving them all the space they are to occupy when blooming, and putting the permanent stakes to them. These should be three or four long Bamboos, which, if tied to a small wire hoop at the top, look tidy, and rob the plants of much less light than anything else. A string of matting run round them as the plants make growth easily keeps them in good order.

Avoiding a Check.

The period when the flower buds begin to show is always critical with indoor Peas, a check of any sort making the buds drop. So look carefully after them at this time. Once you get a few blooms to open nicely, they will go on well, and will then take a good deal of water as well as manure. Commence by feeding with cow manure, afterwards giving them doses of artificial manure as they seem to require it, remembering that the season indoors is not a long one, though the flowers come in at a time when they are especially welcome, most of the various forcing plants and bulbs being over by the middle of May, when indoor-grown Sweet Peas should be coming on nicely.

When there is plenty of head room, there is no objection to planting Peas out in the houses, but if this is done they will be found to make considerably more growth before they commence blooming, although the resulting flowers will be better. Further, the plants will go on blooming longer, and take less water than those in pots, so whichever system is adopted there are some advantages. With new varieties in pots, or those that are recognised bad seeders, it will be found that they will set their pods quite freely, even if they are taken out of the house and plunged in the open ground, and thus leave the house free for another crop rather sooner than when the Peas are planted out. THOMAS STEVENSON.

SWEET PEAS THAT DO WELL IN THE SOUTH.

(Concluded from page 294.)

A Striking Lavender.

IN Lavenders we have names galore, but one variety stands alone in my estimation. This is Lavender George Herbert. It is, unfortunately, not fixed, but its lovely colour, refined appearance, numbers of four-bloomed sprays, and its splendid constitution, make up for what few rogues we get. Florence Nightingale I put next in order of merit. Nettie Jenkins is also a very fine lavender that I advise everyone to grow. Asta Ohn is probably the largest lavender I have grown, but shows more pink in the standard, and is not so refined as the first three mentioned. Masterpiece and Mrs. Charles Foster are inferior to Asta Ohn in these gardens. I advise small growers to try Lavender George Herbert and Asta Ohn.

There is nothing very startling under the lilac or pale mauve section. Perhaps Messrs. Dobbies' Mauve Queen may be good, but we must wait and see.

Magenta.—Menie Christie is a nice flower that I have always liked, but it was not seen in good condition in 1911. It took disease very badly in these gardens. We want another good magenta, as at present we have nothing else any good, so far as I have tried.

Marbled and watered.—In this section I

£60 an acre. If bush-fruit is planted between the rows, another £5 must be added. I presume that this estimate includes the cost of manure—probably fifty loads to the acre, which, at the rate of four shillings a load, would account for £10 of the total. An acre would take three hundred and three dwarf trees, planted twelve feet apart, and these, at £7 a hundred, would cost, with carriage, £22 or £23. If the remaining £27 or £28 is allowed for labour, it certainly seems rather excessive. But, perhaps, drainage and other items are included in the estimate.

MR. ELDERBERT F. HAWES, F.R.H.S.

November 27th.—It will be advisable for all owners of gardens to examine their stored roots at intervals this autumn and winter. I have been looking at some Carrots, and find that, in consequence of the excessive damp, they are all sprouting afresh. The sprouts must be rubbed off at once. It will probably not be enough to do this once, for it seems impossible to keep the roots really dry. The same thing applies to Onions. Bulbs, generally, are very unsatisfactory. I see that quite a number of Hyacinths, not yet planted, are beginning to decay because they have not been properly dried. I can't blame anybody; what chance has there been of drying anything this year? Daffodils are better here, but in other places they must be bad also, for many of the leading growers have put up their prices. In this connection, I was asked a question the other day—Why are the prices at auction rooms very much lower than those charged by good firms? The answer is simple—because the quality is, as a rule, also very much lower. A moment's consideration will show this. Every firm of growers has two classes of regular customers—firstly, the retail firms, who buy largely, and, secondly, private persons, whose individual purchases may be small, but whose total comes to a considerable amount—and it is not until they have supplied them that they send anything to the auction rooms. What is thus sold, therefore, is merely the surplus produce, in most cases necessarily inferior. Moreover, as the prices realised are very low, it does not pay to take any trouble with it, and on that account it is often very much mixed. No dependence can be placed upon its being true to name.

November 28th.—A manurial mixture very strongly recommended in America for Roses is as follows:—Superphosphate of lime, one hundred and thirty pounds; sulphate of ammonia, thirteen pounds; nitrate of soda, thirty-one pounds; and sulphate of potash, twenty-six pounds. These amounts may, of course, be reduced, if the relative proportions are adhered to. One ounce of the mixture is to be dissolved in a gallon of water, which is to be applied once a week to every two square yards.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 113.—MR. ELDERBERT F. HAWES, F.R.H.S., AT THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK.

IT may be doubted whether the manifold charms of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Regent's Park are as fully appreciated as they deserve to be, except by the Fellows and their friends. They have, however, always, since they were established, considerably more than half a century ago, been a centre of interest, and it is satisfactory to know that the financial condition of the society is not only sound, but that the difference between the receipts and expenditure is steadily increasing on the right side. Not the least successful event of the season of 1903 was the remarkable show of Chrysanthemums which delighted the large company present at the "At Home" given last month by the Fellows. I had the good fortune to see Mr. Elderbert Hawes, the head of the gardening staff, and the chief instructor of the practical gardening school, the afternoon prior to that function, when the Chrysanthemums were in all their glory. Subsequently, after pausing to admire a number of the lovely blooms, he conducted me through the whole of the ranges, of which there are fourteen, and the gardens, which are twenty acres in extent, pointing out the notable improvements which have recently been effected, with the result that at the present time their condition and appearance are thoroughly worthy of the antecedents and position of the Royal Botanic Society and its representatives.

Naturally, we started in the large conservatory, which the Chrysanthemums made brilliant with colour. It covers an acre of ground, was the first iron house of any size built in England, and is mainly filled with decorative plants.

"Which," I inquired, "do you consider your finest specimens?"

"Some of the Palms are very fine," Mr. Hawes replied, "and notably the Umbrella Palm, the Date Palm, the Kentias, and the Bamboos. There is a large plant of Ficus elastica, under which is a dense mass of Monstera and Philodendron climbing up the trunk, as in the Tropics. Of course, there are Tree Ferns in variety, and succulents, among the last being a specimen of the Century plant, which blooms once in a hundred years. As a matter of fact, this plant flowered in these gardens when about fifty years of age. Indian Azaleas, the Orange and Shaddock, also the Giant Bamboo, towering to the roof, are features of this house. There is a nice specimen of the rare Philodendron selloa, and a piece of the night-flowering Cactus, which blooms here annually. Small decorative and flowering plants are used to finish up the margins of the principal beds and borders."

"How many Chrysanthemums are there in the conservatory now?"

"About two thousand plants, or just a thousand more than we have ever grown before. The display is also better as regards quality, and represents all the best varieties by the leading growers."

"It would be interesting to know which you think are the best?"

"Among the principal Japanese varieties, I include Mrs Emma J. Fox, Mrs. Barkley, Millicent Richardson, Edward VII., Madame Gustave Henry, Mr. T. Carrington, Mrs. H. Emmerton, Simplicity, Mrs. Greenfield, Miss Alice Byron, Le Grand Dragon, Mrs. Coombes, and Miss Lucy Evans. Of the Incurved, I recommend especially, Madame Ferlat (both white and golden forms), Emily Nonin, Baron Hirsch, Charles Curtis, Pearl Palace, Lady Isabel, R. C. Kingston, President Bevan, Mrs. F. Judson, John Lyne, Empress of India, Madame Edmond Roger (of a pale yellowish-green), and Topaze Orientale."

"What about the other sections?"

"The best of the decorative, I think, include Soleil d'Octobre, Source d'Or, l'Ile des

CYPRIPEDIUMS AND CHYSANTHEMUMS AT THE BOTANIC GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK.

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Plaisirs, Mabel Morgan, Margot, Crimson Pride, Chas. Davis, Viviand Morel, Goacher's Crimson, Nellie Bean, Madame Desgrange, and the 'Madame Masse' family, with its sports. Of the singles, Ladysmith is very charming. We have plants grown for cutting over three feet across and three feet high, bearing hundreds of blooms. Mary Anderson, Sir George Bullough, Bertha Jinks, and Earlswood Glory are also among the best; while, of Pompons, Madame Edward Lefort, Piercy's Seedling, Fremy, Black Douglas, Sœur Melaine, William Westlake, Madame Marthe, and Prince of Orange, are specially good. I may say that, though all sections are represented already, I intend to augment the stock in every section next season, both in order to provide an object of interest to the Fellows in the dull season, and also on account of the increasing interest taken by the public in Chrysanthemums. This year I have a hundred and thirty more varieties than we had last."

"The conservatory itself is a very handsome building, and suitable for the purpose to which it is devoted."

"Yes; it was built by Turner, of Dublin, on the ridge and furrow principle, with curvilinear roof, and along the front at intervals are grand glass pilasters, which help to give the house a most effective appearance. The suite of rooms which forms the Fellows' club-house is on the east side, and consists of entrance hall, drawing and dining-rooms, and a well-equipped reading-room."

"They all seem very comfortable and admirably appointed."

We then went into the Victoria house, of which the great feature is the Victoria regia, the queen of the Water Lilies.

"This," said Mr. Hawes, "is the principal plant in the garden during the season. It is grown as an annual, and its seeds are about the size of a round Pea. Sown in January, a plant by July has about ten large leaves, over six feet in diameter."

"When does the flowering commence?"

"Almost concurrently with the full development of the leaves in June or July. The flowers, when first they open in the evening, are pure white. They remain open during the night, and close in the morning, until about 3 p.m. Then they open again, and the colour changes rapidly from white, through the various shades of pink, to deep crimson. In this condition the flowers sink below the water without again closing, in the course of a few days, and beneath the water the seed is ripened. In spite of the dull season, there were twenty-six flowers developed and matured this year, a fact which is most noteworthy, as other specimens grown in the vicinity of London were not so successful."

"What are the features of the growth and characteristics of the Victoria regia?"

"Both are very remarkable. Every leaf of the plant turns up round the margin, and forms what appears to be an immense tray, or dish, but provision is made by nature to prevent the collection of water. At a point opposite the leaf-stalk, on the side nearest the plant, a small channel occurs, which takes off all moisture falling in the shape of rain. The leaf also is very strong and capable of supporting very considerable weights."

"How is the support obtained?"

"By a series of veins or ribs on the underside of the leaf, crossing each other in all directions, forming a series of miniature hollow squares. These, as the leaf unfolds outwards, collect a small quantity of air in each compartment, which is thoroughly air-tight. The compartments are very numerous, and produce the buoyancy of the leaf. The underside and outside margin of the leaf are densely covered with very strong spines, which form a protection from fish and other enemies. Another extraordinary feature of the plant is that the leaves push out all foreign plants from the centre, which might cause damage either to the young leaves or to the bloom."

"I see that the Cocoanut Palm also flourishes in this house?"

"Yes; and the rapidity of the growth of that specimen is astonishing. It is now about eight feet high, and it was grown from seed which only germinated in February, 1900. Near the Cocoanut Palm, and grown in the large tank, is the Nelumbrium speciosum, a sacred Bean of India, with flowers similar in form to a glorified Cottage Tulip. They are produced on stalks, from four to six feet high, the leaves are peltate, and have a peculiar coating of wax on the upper surface which renders them absolutely waterproof. The Rice plant is also annually fruited here, and produces the form known commercially as 'Paddy.' Some specimens of the plant, (which are now arranged in the museum, and were brought from the Far East) show that the plants grown by the society are quite equal to those imported."

"Another plant, floating as a mass on the water, entirely without soil, and producing spikes of azure blue," continued Mr. Hawes, "is the Eichornia azurea. The growth of the plant being rapid, it causes serious checks to the navigation of Brazilian and South American rivers, but here it is an ornamental feature, in tanks. The rhizomes spread quickly in all directions. Eichornia crassipe has leaf-stalks which are hollow and rounded near the base, and form an air chamber. These assist the plant to float on the surface."

"You have a fine specimen of the Egyptian Paper-plant at the opposite end of the tank. Can you tell me how the paper is prepared?"

"By cutting the stems in longitudinal strips. The stems of the Cyperus papyrus—our specimen is ten feet high—possess a small quantity of mucilage. The strips, when cut the required length, are placed side by side, and another layer is placed transversely over the first, in a similar manner, pressed down into position, and allowed to dry. When they are dry the paper is complete. Specimens have been prepared in the gardens, and are now side by side in the museum, with ancient documents, showing the growth of plants now cultivated here to be equal to any grown by which the ancient paper was produced. This plant is sometimes known as the Bulrush of the Nile."

"Then there are the Bananas, in the tank."

"Some time ago I had an idea that this house had an ideal atmosphere for Bananas, and early last year I determined to make an experiment. Two concrete pits were built in the tank, and well provided with drainage; into these, young plants were placed in February, 1902. In a short time new suckers were formed at the base, the growth of which was very rapid—indeed, more rapid than that of the parent plants. I therefore decided to remove the parent plants, and let the young suckers have entire possession. The result was that in less than eight months from the commencement of the growth of the suckers above ground a bunch of fruit was formed. Unfortunately, this was at the worst season of the year for light, which is never too brilliant during winter in the middle of London. However, the plant continued its growth and development, and in the early months of 1903 the bunch was matured, weighing about thirty-eight pounds. This is believed to be a record for Banana-culture in England. There is now, as you notice, a plant, bearing a small bunch of fruit, which has been grown until flowering stage in a 10-in. pot."

"What is the special in the smaller tank in the corner of the building?"

"Some fine plants of Vallisneria spiralis, which is of great botanical interest. This is one of the plants in which, as you saw just now, may be observed, when placed under the microscope, the life movements in protoplasm. The other decorative plants include Crotons (Codiæums) in many varieties, and the margin to the outer staging is formed by clumping Panicum variegatum and Ficus repens."

But it was in the next house that I was most struck with an arrangement of Ficus repens, covering the entire wall surface of one end. Into this pockets are made, and various Ferns, such as Adiantum and Pteris, are placed.

"A peculiar feature in connection with the Ficus," observed Mr. Hawes, "is that the plant itself grows in a stove temperature, in which the roots are placed, while a portion of the top of the outside wall, about four or five feet square, is covered by the Ficus, which grows well without any protection in the sharpest weather experienced. This house contains Pandanus, stove Ferns, Rondeletias, and various climbing plants; also some types of Orchids. The latter is a collection I hope to improve at an early date. There are several plants of Nidularium, with thin, scarlet flowers, protruding from the centre, and also some varieties of Tillandsia suspended from the roof. These are epiphytic plants, which grow without any large quantities of soil, obtaining practically all the nutriment necessary from the mineral salts dissolved in the moisture in the atmosphere. One species, usneoiodes—the Cuban Hair-moss—is suspended by a piece of copper wire, without any soil, but is in a state of active growth. One more interesting feature in this house is a Lata[illegible] which was collected in Brazil by one of the Fellows early this year, and presented by him to the society. It shows the natural growth of the Orchids in the branches of trees."

"You have some Orchids in the house devoted to Ferns?"

"The principle is Ferns on one side and Orchids on the other, and some Japanese Ferns, shapes, formed of Davallias, are suspended from the roof. Among the Orchids are fine specimens of Cœlogyne cristata; these plants, in the early months of the year, bear over three hundred and fifty blooms. In the shaded recess, at the end, are grown Filmy Ferns, including the Killarney Fern, in an excellent state of health. In the six houses adjoining this are grown plants for garden and conservatory decoration."

"You have a splendid batch of Gloire de Lorraine Begonias in the propagating house."

"And, I think, a goodly number of Poinsettias, which are rapidly developing the brightly-coloured bracts. In addition to several frames for general propagating purposes in this house, a special arrangement is fitted for raising aquatic plants from seed."

Passing round to the left, we came to another range of houses, exclusively reserved for medicinal and economic plants. On the roof was a specimen of the true Currant Vine, which forms no seeds. I asked Mr. Hawes to name some of the numerous interesting specimens.

"Monstera deliciosa, in fruit, with its lattice-like leaves, which admit light to the lower leaves of the plant; the Tea, Coffee, and Chocolate plants, the Gambooge, Sugar Cane, Arrowroot, Cinnamon, Camphor, Guava, and Loquat, with the various Peppers clothing portions of the walls, the Sycamore Tree of scripture (a dwarf specimen), and the Banyan, which forms such large avenues in India, with its support-like roots crossing in all directions from the branches."

On our way to the kitchen garden we looked into a small house containing the nucleus of a collection of British Ferns. In the kitchen garden itself, which is used entirely for educational purposes by the students of both sexes belonging to the gardening schools, is a small range of glasshouses, in which Melons, Cucumbers, and Tomatoes are grown.

"The kitchen garden," remarked Mr. Hawes, "contains various varieties of Apples, Pears, Plums, and Cherries, the trees being arranged around four central plots, of which the interior are used for vegetable culture. It was rather gratifying to find that, about two years after this garden was formed, when an audit of Apples was made by a section of the horticultural Fellows, only three of the thirty varieties recommended by a number of experts were missing from the collection."

This, of course, is not the time for Rhododendrons, but we inspected the site of the famous Rhododendron exhibition. The beds and borders are arranged in a natural undulating position, and it is easy, even in winter, to understand the enthusiasm of a contributor to an American paper, who described the show itself as one of the loveliest sights to be seen in London during June. On leaving the Rhodo-

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dendron dell, Mr. Hawes pointed out a fine specimen of Napoleon's Willow, grown from a cutting brought over from St. Helena by Captain O'Shea. Near by are two plants of Catalpa bignonioides, with the Paulownia growing between for comparison.

"Here," proceeded Mr. Hawes, "the Diospyros Kaki, or Kaki Plum, grows, and during the years 1901-2 ripened a crop of fruit. The Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus glandulosa) thrives well, and on some occasions has matured its fruit."

"What is your system in the spring garden?" I asked, as we reached it, after passing the Viburnum and Ribes beds.

"It is filled first with bulbs and other spring flowers, and, later, with summer bedding plants. A special feature is the three noted basket-beds, formed with Ivy growing round the sides and over the handles."

On the south-west and north-east sides of this charming spot is a herbaceous border, with a background of evergreen and deciduous shrubs, and some sheltered nooks for garden seats. The museum, adjoining some remarkable growths of the Weeping Ash, Fraxinus excelsi, or pendula, contains an excellent representative collection of vegetable products, obtained from plants grown in the gardens and elsewhere. With a peep into the botanical and horticultural laboratory, which is used for the purpose of original investigation and for teaching purposes, and a glance at the Cratægus group, sundial, and summer-house, we arrived at the main entrance to the gardens, near the end of the lake, with a mound beyond. As we contemplated the admirable model of English landscape gardening in the early Victorian era, which the gardens and grounds form, Mr. Hawes gave me some general information.

"The gardens," he said, "were laid out by Robert Marnock, who was responsible for several notable gardens at that period, and are acknowledged to be one of the finest examples of his work. But the society has made them what they are to-day. The groundwork alone has involved an expenditure of £25,000. So I think that it is entitled to the renewed lease which it has been granted. The magnificent iron entrance gates; the main walk, one hundred and eighty-seven yards long, and thirty feet wide, leading up to the large conservatory; the lawn, with its broad, grassy slopes on either side; the vistas, apparently several miles in length, with masses of colour from the flower beds between; the lake, with its cunningly-arranged outline, jutting out with a promontory, at one point, covered with planting, and many other features, tend, I think, to impress visitors with the vast amount of thought, ability, and money which must have been spent upon the place."

There still remained the Botanic Garden proper, near the upper end of the lake.

"Here," Mr. Hawes remarked, "herbaceous and other plants are arranged in groups and families in their own natural orders, of which about ninety exist. The natural order beds were designed with the object of providing an idea of the approximate size of the orders to students. The N. O. Compositeæ, to which belong the common Daisy and Dandelion, as well as the giant Sunflower, is one of the largest. Finally, the hardy decorative plant nursery merits a word of notice. It is on the site of the old Economic Gardens, which were considered a waste of space, as the plants grown were more or less duplicates of the natural orders in the Botanic Garden."

"I have not quite finished my questions yet. How large is your present staff?"

"We have twenty-five men, as well as about forty students of both sexes. The staff is rather comprehensive, and enables us to carry out most of our own works, as, for instance, greenhouse and conservatory building and repairs, painting and glazing, hot-water heating, brickwork, and drainage."

"You have a number of exhibitions?"

"Yes, both of a general and special nature. A new exhibition ground has just been prepared, at considerable cost, having an area of about thirty-five thousand square feet. This space is to have a smooth gravel surface extending over the entire area. The result will be the saving of the heavy expenditure necessary for boarding over, which is required on turf. With the special exhibition ground previously available, provided with canvas covers, we have now fifty thousand square feet at our command for exhibitions, exclusive of the large conservatory and the gardens proper."

"Can other societies take advantage of such a capital site?"

"The Council of this society have issued special invitations to kindred societies to hold their exhibitions here, and I am sure that they would give every facility in order to ensure success."

"I need hardly ask if you are fond of your work, with so many evidences before me, but I should be glad to have a few details of your career."

"The early part of my gardening life was passed in private establishments, where good work was carried out. Having obtained an insight into outdoor and kitchen gardening, I then went through the usual routine under glass. My first appointment as foreman was at Beechwood Park, Bedfordshire, my next at Henlow Grange, and, later, I took charge of Stockgrove Park

JASMINUM GRANDIFLORUM.

Gardens. At the urgent request of a previous employer, I then accepted the charge of the gardens at Chicksands Priory, and during my stay there considerable alterations were made in the groundwork, and a thorough renovation of the glass department was carried out. After moving through various places, in order to gain as wide an experience as possible, I obtained a position in these gardens, being appointed instructor of general horticulture in the society's practical gardening school on its formation. The school did so well that when the first year's results were announced the number of scholarships was doubled."

"Have you any leaning towards the scientific side?"

"I have always endeavoured to carry out the practical part, but, at the same time, I have been greatly interested in the scientific principles underlying the practical work; and, when and wherever possible, I have tried to avail myself of the knowledge I have gained, and to apply it. It is to this I chiefly attribute my success."

"You must have become head gardener at a very early age?"

"I took my second post as head gardener before I was twenty-one. I was appointed head gardener to the Royal Botanic Society on July 1st, 1902, in addition to my former duties, and I have since endeavoured to do my best to improve the condition of all departments in the gardens under my care."

"You must be congratulated upon what you have done in so short a period. Are you connected with any other horticultural societies?"

"I am a Fellow of the Royal, a member of the Executive Committee of the National Chrysanthemum Society, and I am greatly interested in the work of several other organisations to which I hope to belong at an early date."

ALFRED WILCOX.

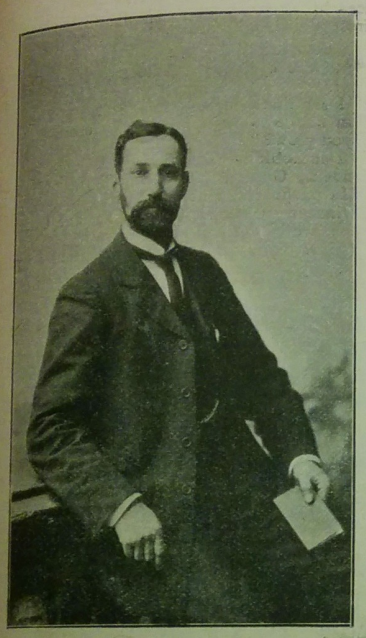
LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 70.—WINTER WORK AND WINTER FLOWERS.

DEAR KATE,—Now that all is snug for the winter, in the greenhouse, it is time to have the kitchen garden rough dug, wherever there is not a permanent crop, or a fruit tree. This work will probably be too hard for you, and will be more fit for the under-gardener, (you being at the head of affairs), but do not allow him to dig in the Raspberry plantation, or amongst the Strawberries, as I have heard of some enthusiastic but ignorant gardeners doing, quite unconscious, of course, that the whole space between the plants is one mass of fine, fibrous surface roots, on which the strength of the crop next year must depend. When I see dozens of suckers coming up between the Raspberries, or shoots of wild Plum appearing in front of a Greengage tree, I know that the man who digs that garden is ruining the plants, for every time these surface roots are cut or bruised they throw up a shoot which literally sucks the strength of the tree. Even Apple and Pear trees (which are too often injured in this way) should have a considerable space left around their stems undug, although it is well to loosen the surface of this (and also between the small fruits) with a Dutch hoe, to let in the beneficent effects of the frost and snow that are coming. Too many of us still cling to the old idea of autumn manuring, and persist in piling on a lot of foul stuff at this time to cling round the dormant roots and chill them; for the temperature of the soil has much to say to healthy root-action, and it is a well-known scientific fact that a dry soil is a warm soil, and a cold, dank one is sure to be wet. Summer (not winter) is the time for keeping the surface roots cool and moist by a mulch of manure; then, too, the fast-growing rootlets are crying out for rich food to swell the fruit; but now they are dormant, and should have rest. Yet, only a week ago, I noticed this advice, given in a contemporary—"Mulch Roses and Strawberries with manure, *to keep them warm*" (!). I am sorry for those Roses, and, as for the Strawberries, their enemies, the slugs, will be the gainers, for they will hide in multitudes under the straw, lying snugly safe from the frost, and coming out in force next June to eat the fruit. February is the earliest time to mulch any crop with advantage; March is better, and April the best of all, for the sunshine is then getting warmer, and root-action is beginning, so that the crop will then get the full value of the rich food provided. The frost and snow, if given a chance to get into the soil, will greatly improve it, purifying it, destroying many insects, and pulverising it as nothing else can do, so have every bit of ground turned up roughly now, unless full of roots.

There have been two village weddings lately, and as we always present the bride with a white bouquet, and often the bridegroom with a button-hole, and the bridesmaid with a spray, we have been very busy. Fortunately, we have plenty of that lovely Chrysanthemum, White Quintus, to cut, and also of the delicious greenhouse Jasmine (grandiflorum), with large white blooms, which we arranged in light sprays above the Chrysanthemums for the bride's

"a solution of muriatic acid and water" for cleaning the glass of greenhouses. I have been wondering whether any people have tried it, and, if so, how many plants they have destroyed, and whether they have burned their clothes and fingers badly. In fact, the suggestion opens up a wide field for speculation. In the first place, the strength of the solution was not stated, and if anyone used it strong he would obtain some



Mr. J. Hawkes.

surprising results, even though he were prudent enough to keep his fingers out of it, a difficult matter when applying it with "a piece of cotton-waste on the end of a stick." If weak, it would still be almost certain to do a great deal of damage unless the plants were first cleared out of the house. For, apart from the likelihood of leakage, the laps of the glass are the parts that most require cleaning, and if any liquid reached them properly some would be sure to drip inside. Quite the best implement for cleaning greenhouse glass is a powerful syringe. It should be used inside, so as to dislodge the green deposit between the laps; if any still remains, a flat brush is generally effective. It is this deposit which keeps the glass dirty throughout the year, some trickling down during rain; hence the importance of getting rid of it. Afterwards, all that is necessary is clean water, and plenty of it, applied to the outside. I must lay stress on the quantity, for this is often not understood. I have seen a man trying to clean the floor of a large Vinery with a single bucket of water. It would be just as easy to take a bath in a slop-basin. The inevitable result is to smear the dirt over the whole surface. To clean a greenhouse floor or a greenhouse roof properly, it is essential to keep on using clean water until it remains clean.

April 16th.—Some time ago I reported to the Royal Horticultural Society the result of one of my observations on the functions of the stipule, the little sheath-like leaf which grows at the base of the ordinary leaves of certain plants. Here is the record:—"I was struck with the 'nursing' properties of the stipules of Pelargonia, which, when grown cold in winter, lose their leaves. If, for the sake of tidiness, the withered stipules are also removed, the buds are very slow to break in spring; but if the stipules are left on, the buds break much more readily—a fact which I found to be due to their holding moisture, and thus softening the skin. Darwin has observed that stipules sometimes hold moisture." If the idea here is correct, it is obviously better not to remove the withered stipules until the buds have started.

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 133.—Mr. J. Hawkes, at the Gardens, Osterley Park, Isleworth.

There is no estate within ten miles of Hyde Park corner which can compare in size with that of Osterley. The park alone extends to six hundred acres, and once within the enclosing walls it is almost impossible to imagine its proximity to the bustle and noise of London. Used by the Earl of Jersey only as a summer residence, the chief feature of Osterley from the horticultural point of view is the pleasure grounds—the kitchen garden being merely large enough for the requirements of the family during the London season. The glasshouses are adequate, but not numerous. As to the pleasure grounds, Mr. Hawkes, the head gardener, who showed me over them on a fine afternoon in March, informed me that, including the Long Walk, they cover between thirty and forty acres. They are of great beauty and variety, as well as of great extent, and they are in remarkably good order, from the principal lawns, soft as velvet, to the smallest of paths, free from the suspicion of weeds.

I began making notes at the mansion, a stately edifice, whose red towers are in striking and effective contrast with the white angles, and my first question was respecting the age of a wonderful Wistaria, with a peculiar gnarled stem, which covers one side of the house.

"It was planted," replied Mr. Hawkes, "I should think, when the mansion was built, about a hundred and twenty years ago. In spite of its great age, it flowers freely every year, and some seasons it produces two crops. As you see, the other climbers on the house are Ampelopsis Veitchi, and on the west front are Magnolia grandiflora, with Camellia alba plena commencing to open its flowers."

On the east front of the mansion there is nothing save the carriage drive and a broad expanse of gravel, but on the west front there is a long stretch of lawn from the Orangery to the flower garden lake, so called in order to distinguish it from the other two lakes in the grounds. We went into the Orangery, and here I remarked upon the old tank, which dates back from 1769, and a specimen of Eucalyptus Whittingehamiensis, about ten feet high.

"That," said Mr. Hawkes, "came direct from Whittingehame this spring. It was given by Mr. Balfour to Lord Jersey. We propose shortly to take it out of the pot in which it now stands and plant it out. The same variety grows in the open at Whittingehame, and is quite hardy."

"You have other varieties of Eucalyptus?"

"Yes, we use them for mixing with the shrubs. They form a pretty contrast. E. globulus passed through the winter outside with little injury, and Coccifera (hardy). There are several varieties of Orange trees, of large size, some measuring ten feet in height and six feet through, in large tubs. The fruit, being very bitter, is not edible. But the trees are grown for the sake of the blossoms; they flower profusely every year. The contents of the Orangery include Chamærops, Palms, Myrtles, and large boxes of Geraniums, which are used for standing out near the walls of the mansion in the summer months."

We next devoted our attention to the fine collection of Conifers. There are several large specimen Cedars well furnished to the ground, one practically all limbs and no trunk, and each making a steady, progressive growth.

"Will you give me," I asked, "the names of some of your most notable specimens of Conifers?"

"The Cedars are C. atlantica, C. atlantica decidua, C. atlantica aurea, C. deodara, and the Cedar of Lebanon. Among the varieties of Abies is a lasiocarpa, eighty feet high, unequalled by anything, even at Kew. Others are Pinsapo, Albertiana, orientalis, grandis, pungens glauca, pungens argentea, concolor, Douglasii, Nordmanniana, nobilis, nigra, and Pattoniana."

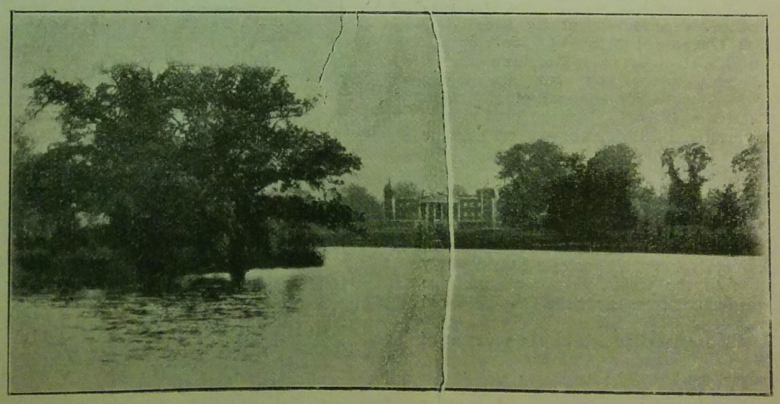
"The Cypress is also well represented."

"Yes, we have Cupressus Lawsoniana, and C. L. lutea, C. nootkatensis, C. n. Alumii, C. L. erecta viridis, C. sempervirens, C. Fraserii, and C. L. gracilis. Other specimen Conifers are Sciadopitys verticillata, Taxodium distichum, Retinospora plumosa, R. p. aurea, and R. pisifera aurea."

"Then, many more good trees," continued Mr. Hawkes, "such as Pyrus sorbus (Tree) Service, Purple Beech, Platanus orientalis, Platanus occidentalis variegata (which is new), and P. orientalis acerifolia."

"How about Oaks?"

"The Oaks include Quercus coccinea splen-



Osterley Park, and Lake.

dens (Knapp Hill variety), Q. pannonica, Q. Suber (cork), Q. Cerris Lucumbeana (seventy feet), and Q. macrophylla. I consider coccinea splendens one of the most brilliant scarlet colours in cultivation. There are also fine specimens of Tulip trees, a Larch (a hundred and ten feet high) and a large Yew on the lawn with spread of branches two hundred and three feet, on a clean stem, forming a standard."

"I observe that, leading from the west front towards the lake, you have some large columns of Crimson Ramblers."

"The Crimson Rambler has always been a very popular Rose here, and is quite a feature. Osterley was one of the first places in which it was introduced. The trees you mention are fourteen feet high, but we grow Crimson Ramblers also on low trellises, near the ground, on upright trellises, and on hedges and arches, etc."

"Roses, generally, are a feature, are they not?"

"We have a number of beds in various shapes, the varieties being chiefly Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Teas. Here are some of them:—Prince Arthur, Victor Hugo, Marie van Houtte, Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Camille de Rohan, Mrs. John Laing, Mrs. R. G. Sharman Crawford, Frau Karl Druschki, Margaret Dickson, La France, Maman Cochet, White Maman Cochet, The Bride, and Catherine Mermet. We also grow Carmine Pillar (this will make shoots twelve to fourteen feet in a single season), The Lion, Psyche, and the Japanese Rose, Rugosa Blanche de Conbert."

"Do you go in much for herbaceous borders?"

"We have three near the lake, planted with varieties for cutting. There are also many clumps of Rhododendrons, chiefly hybrids."

"Is formal bedding a feature?"

"We do not care about beds of geometrical design, but there are flower-beds of various shapes cut in the turf near the lake. Spring bedding is on a small scale, but summer bedding is considerable. The Geraniums also include standards of Jacoby (three to four feet), Queen of Whites, Mrs. Pollock, Vesuvius, and also the new variety, King Edward VII. We bed about two thousand Calceolarias, a number of Lilium longiflorum, Verbenas (Miss Willmott), about two thousand Lobelias (Emperor William and Sutton's Dark Blue). We are also trying the new Lobelia Tenuior, sent out early this season by Messrs. Veitch, which grows to ten inches or a foot in height. I believe it is very good. Another excellent plant for bedding is Delphinium Queen of the Blues; it only attains a height of about eighteen inches, and flowers profusely. This year, too, we are trying Acalypha musaica, a sub-tropical plant which is very effective in Hyde Park."

"What varieties of Lilies do you grow in the lake?"

"The principal Marliac kinds—Chromatella, N. odorata sulphurea rosea, albida, and Ladykeri rosea. Also large clumps of the common white Lily, Gunnera manicata, Pampas Grass, and Iris. Near the lake are several specimens of the deciduous Cypress, a species which usually thrives close to the water. Last autumn the young Liquidambar trees, near the lake, coloured splendidly."

"Do Bamboos also flourish in the vicinity of the lake?"

"Extremely well. The varieties which we grow in clumps include Phyllostachys nigra and aurea, and Arundinaria Simoni."

Returning in the direction of the mansion we came to a small Orangery a half-circular building, containing, notably, two nice specimens of Golden Cedars (in pots, five or six feet high), the Pink Pearl Rhododendron (in pots), Aloes, Chamærops, Araucaria excelsa, Yucca gloriosa variegata, Dracæna indivisa Veitchii, and Japanese Acers. These are mostly sunk in the turf on the lawn during the summer. In front of the small Orangery is a remarkable specimen of Rhododendron ponticum, sixteen feet high, and some eighty feet in circumference.

"What is the length of the Long Walk?" I inquired, as we traversed it.

"About a mile. The paths on either side are asphalte, and the centre path grass. We find that even in very wet weather the asphalte can easily be kept dry."

"Strawberries seem to be a feature of your kitchen garden?"

"Yes, we grow, extensively, Royal Sovereign, The Laxton, Mentmore, Garibaldi, Late Prolific, Waterloo, Latest of All, and Trafalgar. The choicest early vegetables only are grown, such as Peas, Cauliflowers, Potatoes, French Beans, and Carrots."

"You might give me the names of your varieties of Apples and Pears?"

"The Apples are Allington Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, King of Pippins, Ribston Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, American Mother, Tyler's Kernel, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Bismarck, Newtown Wonder, Lane's Prince Albert, Sandringham, Beauty of Kent, and Washington. The Pears include Beurré Diel, B. Hardy, B. Clairgeau, B. Superfin, Souvenir du Congres, Marguerite Marillat, Doyenné du Comice, Thompson's, Triomphe de Vienne, Pitmaston Duchess, Durondeau, Fondante de Automne, and Glou Morceau."

Gloxinias at Osterley Park.

The houses are in the kitchen garden, and we commenced with the stove, a comparatively new structure, built by Messenger, of Loughborough, thirty-three feet by eighteen.

"Crotons are, I gather, the chief feature here."

"Crotons and Dracænas. The former include Aigburth Gem, Aigburthiensis, Prince of Wales, Warrenii, superbus, interruptus aureas, Laengii, Baroness James de Rothschild, Mrs. Dolman, Chelsonii, and Thompsonii. The Dracænas are Norwoodiensis, Jamesii, nigro rubra, pendula, and Lindenii. There are also Palms, Phœnix rupicola, Geonoma gracilis, and Aralia gracillima, Anthurium Scherzerianum (in flower), Acalpha Sanderiana, and a good collection of Caladiums. On the roof we have Begonias President Carnot, and Allamanda Hendersonii."

"Begonias are also a feature of the greenhouse?"

"Yes, the side stages contain Begonias Gloire de Lorraine and Gloire de Sceaux in flower, Primula sinensis frimbriata, Cineraria stellata, Euphorbia jacquiniæflora. The last has been in flower for six months. It was taken from the stove into the greenhouse. We have also here Callas (the Little Gem), Spiræa japonica, and Dielytra spectabilis. The central stage has a collection of Zonal Pelargoniums, including Cannell's best varieties."

"You have not mentioned the still fine show of Cyclamens."

"There are quite a dozen distinct shades of colour. I have devoted a good deal of time to hybridising Cyclamens. I originally bought some seed from Sutton's, and by degrees worked up my different types. Of the other plants in this house, Primula Kewensis is comparatively new, and has, I think, a great future before it when it becomes better known. It flowers in trusses; one of these plants had six trusses of flowers. Not only is the shade of yellow pleasing to the eye, but the scent of the flower is sweet."

"I see that you have some spikes of Dendrobium nobile in 10-in. pots. What other Orchids do you grow?"

"Dendrobium thyrsiflorum, Cattleya gigas, Mendelii, Gaskelliania, Warnerii, and Mossiæ, Lælia purpurata, Oncidium pachyphyllum, and pulvinatum, Cypripedium insigne, and Odontoglossum crispum and triumphans."

"How many varieties of Malmaisons do you grow in your span-roofed Carnation house?"

"Fifteen, namely, Princess of Wales, Princess May, Baldwin, Florizel, Maggie Hodson, Madame Patti, Mrs. Trelawny, King Oscar, Churchwarden, Sir Charles Fremantle, Calypso, Nautilus, Old Blush, Lady Grimston, and Nell Gwynne. I consider that Florizel and Baldwin are exceptionally good, because they do not split the calyx, like many other Malmaisons."

"This house appears to be quite new."

"It was only built last year. The length is thirty feet, and the width twelve feet."

"I suppose you have also a large number of Border varieties?"

"The best twenty are Cecilia, Herbert Cutbush, Artemis, Charles Martel, Hidalgo, Mrs. Colby Sharpin, Gil Polo, Gold Locks, Countess Verulam, Midas, Seymour, Corcoran, Bendigo, Robin Measures, Ensign, Ivo Sebright, Lady Wolverton (new, 1903), Hogarth, Granville Gem, Mrs. J. Brooks, and J. W. Lawson."

"Is there any special feature in the other plant house—a lean-to structure?"

"The collection is a miscellaneous one, and includes standard and bush Fuchsias, standard and Zonal Geraniums. Among the latter is Kalanchoe flammea, one of Veitch's novelties, a brilliant scarlet, which lasts a long time. Also Begonia metallica, B. fuchsioides, Asparagus

Sprengeri and A. plumosus nanus, Ferns, etc."

"What Grapes do you grow in the Vinery?"

"Three varieties only—Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, and Foster's Seedling."

"You have a big number of Gloxinias there, also?"

"About two hundred in large pots, and about two hundred in small ones, obtained from seed and leaf-layers. They embrace all shades of colour except yellow, which cannot be got. I start the Gloxinias in two batches. The first flowers early in June, and the second about the last week in the same month. Plants two years old produce more flowers than those one year old. After Gloxinias have flowered a third year, I usually do away with them, except the variety is particularly fine. In that case I increase it by leaf-propagation, or by division of the bulbs."

"How many trees are there in your Peach house, which is, I notice, like the Vinery, a three-quarter-span house?"

"Three. The Dymond tree at the back is thirty feet long, and covers both the wall and part of the roof. Year after year we have gathered some Peaches off that tree, eleven inches in circumference. The other trees are Royal George and Dr. Hogg. Just now the Peach house also contains pot Roses, Deutzias, Maidenhair Ferns, and Fuchsias, etc."

"What varieties does the Peach case contain?"

"Hale's Early, Waterloo, Royal George, Dymond, Dr. Hogg, Grosse Mignonne, Crimson Galande; and of Nectarines, Early Rivers and Lord Napier. The case is a hundred and thirty feet long, and the fruit is now well on its first swelling. Taken altogether, I have had a good set, and in some instances I shall have to thin very severely."

"There remain the pits?"

"We grow Violets (Marie Louise), and the plants coming on into flower include Azalea mollis and Callas, a good batch of Mignonette, Lily of the Valley, Tulips, and Hyacinths. I have a few Chrysanthemums in the other frames, which are devoted to the usual plants for filling beds, including about two thousand Lobelias (Emperor William and Sutton's Dark Blue), Alyssum Little Gem, Stocks for bedding, Nemesias, Marguerites, Perilla, Antirrhinums (Tom Thumb), Verbenas, and Sweet Peas in pots."

"Have you done much exhibiting?"

"Not at Osterley. But before I came here I exhibited at Buckingham shows, and took a number of prizes for Grapes, collections of vegetables and fruit, Apples, Pears, Peaches, Tomatoes, and Chrysanthemums, plants, etc. During the three years I was living at Lillingstone Dayrell House, I took twenty-three first, nine seconds, and one third prize, which, considering my short stay there, and my first attempt at exhibiting, was not a bad one."

"Where did you start your gardening career?"

"In my native village, at Culworth Hall, where I obtained a good insight into all outside work, including kitchen garden and pleasure grounds. My next experience was at Edgcote Park, Northamptonshire, in the houses. There I stayed for upwards of three years. Next I went to Middleton Park, Oxfordshire, in charge of the fruit houses. This position I held for three years, and then became general foreman. At the end of another three years I left Middleton Park to take up my first place as head gardener to the Hon. Mrs. Douglas Pennant, at Lillingstone Dayrell House, Buckingham. At the expiration of that period I came to Osterley."

"How long have you been at Osterley?"

"Nearly eleven years. The gardening staff consists of twelve hands, with considerably more help during the busy season and the planting time. There is always plenty to do, especially in the summer, when we have large garden parties at Osterley, and when the family are not in residence we decorate the town house."

Alfred Wilcox.

Figs are often a profitable outdoor crop planted against warm walls, in firm but not too rich soil.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 90.—FLOWERING SHRUBS AND TREES.

Dear Kate,—The time of flowering trees is here, and how beautiful they are! I don't think the loveliness of Apple blossom can be excelled, with its delicate shell-pink buds and snowy blossoms, and I am particularly fond of the Cherry bloom. Both of these fruits, as well as Pears, should be grown in our gardens for their exquisite beauty, as well as for their fruit, and this is by no means to be despised. I like the old-world look which espalier Apples and Pears give to the garden; they make it so much more interesting than the gardens where flowers alone are grown, and they form a charming fence between the kitchen garden and the lawn. A standard Apple or Pear, too, covered with flower or fruit, is a beautiful ornament to the garden, and there is no reason why they should not stand at the side of the lawn, where it will be far more ornamental than trees which produce no blossom to speak of, such as Yews, and other dismal-looking things. I think it is such a pity that builders are allowed to fill the gardens of their erections with such dull plants as Box, Euonymus, Laurels, and all kinds of funereal trees of the Cypress kind, which they

Pyrus (Cydonia) Japonica.

buy by the hundred, just to fill up the places where Lilacs, Laburnums, pink Mays, Weigelas, and plenty of other lovely things, should grow. If you have a mass of non-flowering shrubs in your garden, I advise you to start a list now of the most beautiful of the flowering trees and shrubs, and turn out a lot of those now in the shrubbery in favour of a better selection, to be planted next October.

I have a grand specimen of the Japanese Honeyball tree, which is the joy of my heart; it grows in a well-sheltered corner, where the bitter winds of spring do not come, and the consequence is that, instead of the rather sad-looking plant it is when exposed to their blasts, it is about sixteen feet high, and as much across, with abundant dark-green foliage, and thousands of its golden balls in May, when all the bees in the neighbourhood seem to frequent it. The situation is well drained, sunny, and dry, with deep soil; and another lovely shrub for such a position is Cistus ladaniferus, which produces masses of its paper-white flowers, each petal of which is blotched with a deep crimson "eye," all through the summer months.

My plant of this Cistus stands on a dry southern slope, where few other shrubs would grow, but there it flourishes amazingly in the strong sunshine. The Spiræas, on the other hand, must have plenty of moisture; there is a wonderful variety in form, foliage, and colour amongst them, and most of them are worth growing. The tiny white flowers of Spiræa Thunbergi are now covering its long growths like snow; this is a charming little shrub of dwarf growth, and it is as ornamental in the autumn as in the spring, for its foliage turns bright crimson in October.

S. bumalda Anthony Waterer is pink in colour, the flowers being soft and fluffy-looking. This plant blooms in the late summer, and is then very handsome. Then the tall Spiræa Lindleyana, which grows to the height of ten feet, has such pretty Fern-like foliage, with creamy-white flowers in August. S. ariæfolia and S. arguta are both varieties with white flowers, which are wonderfully decorative in the garden; and there are many others, but these are some of the best to grow.

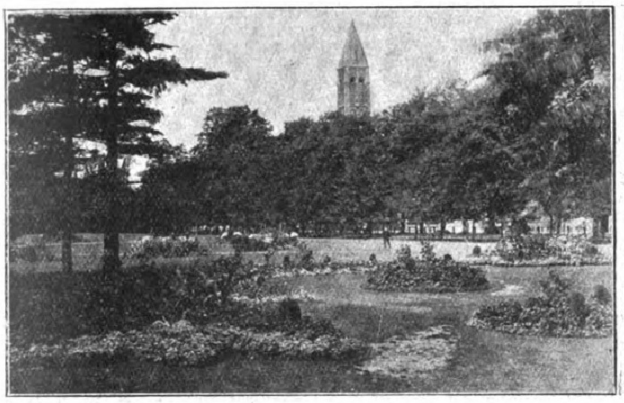
Of course, I am not now speaking of the herbaceous Spiræas; we have several lovely pink ones (S. palmata, S. lobata, etc.) growing in bogs (made with tubs), which suit these plants well, for they must be kept moist.

The Japanese double Cherries are now opening their buds, and the tree is a mass of rosy bloom, exquisitely lovely. Then the pink Almond, the Plums, such as Prunus triloba, with semi-double pink flowers, and the Peaches (of which Persica magnifica, with carmine flowers, is one of the best) should be given warm, sheltered positions, for they feel our cold east winds in spring, just as their buds are expanding.

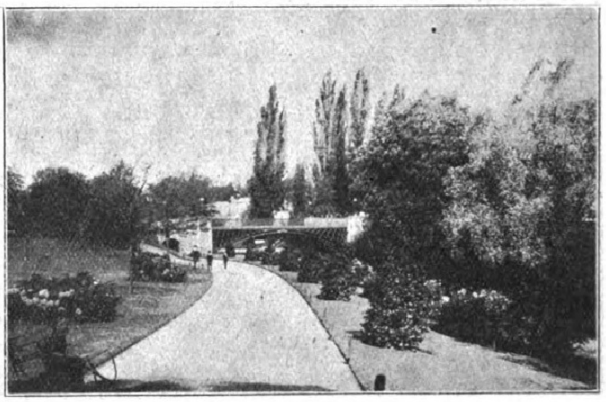
Rhododendrons, Kalmias, Azaleas of the Japanese kind (mollis), and the hardy A. pontica, with their hybrids, all like a position which is shaded from the noonday sun, and is moist, too; nothing can be more effective than good groups of these plants, which do best in a peaty soil, though they may be grown in ordinary loam. The Lilies which grow between these shrubs in my garden are now pushing up splendid strong stems. L. Henryi (an apricot Lily, from China) is specially happy here, and the Japanese Lilium auratum, and its varieties, flourish exceedingly in the garden, with the lovely Lilium speciosum, in crimson, pink, and white. They all came to me deprived of their lower roots, which are cut away remorselessly by the packers, and were consequently rather sad and melancholy during their first year in the garden; now they have evidently recovered from this barbarous practice, and are quite happy. We covered them up in November with conical piles of ashes, to keep them dry and frost-proof; great stout stems appeared through the ashes lately, and we then cleared them away with care, and substituted a rich top-dressing for them, to encourage the whorls of hungry, fibrous roots which are already appearing on some of the stems. The beds are carpeted with Violas, which blossom steadily throughout the summer, and at the back of them (standing against a background of greenery) great white and spotted Foxgloves are throwing up their spikes of bloom, so there is plenty of colour in these shades all through the summer.

On the house the carmine blossoms of Pyrus japonica (the Japanese Quince) are looking very bright; the delicate, pink-flowered variety, too, grows close by the other, and I never can be sure which I like the best of them.

The Barberries are now very full of bloom, especially B. Darwini, which looks as though it were on fire, so covered is it with orange-scarlet flowers. B. aquifolia (Mahonia), too, is a delightful plant, with crimson-splashed, shining foliage in winter, pale yellow blossoms in the spring, and purple berries in autumn, so that it has three distinct phases, so to speak, and is always a handsome shrub.



THE PUMP ROOM GARDENS, LEAMINGTON SPA.



ADELAIDE BRIDGE AND YORK WALK, LEAMINGTON SPA.

The Public Gardens of Leamington Spa.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. JOHN T. HAYES.

THE development of the popular town of Leamington is principally due to the discovery of its famous waters, and to the beauty and extent of its public gardens. For the last six years the gardens and parks have been under the superintendence of Mr. John T. Hayes, who recently showed me over the very considerable territory which has been committed to his charge, and in which he evidently not only takes keen interest, but feels legitimate pride. His headquarters are at Parade Lodge, Jephson Gardens, and here I found him quite prepared to give me the fullest information.

THE JEPHSON GARDENS.

"These," he said, "are the principal gardens, and they cover fifteen and a half acres. If you concur, we will take the features as we proceed."

"That will suit me admirably. But first, perhaps, you will kindly tell me how far the gardens date back, and any reminiscences of the benefactor, whose name they bear, would be appreciated."

"The gardens date back seventy-six years, and there are few public gardens in England which have been in existence for such a long period. Some of the trees must be much older than this, and were probably in the meadow land when it was converted to its present use. The memorial adjacent to the entrance, which is called the Jephson Monument, was erected as a mark of esteem and gratitude to Mr. Jephson, who, a century ago, discovered the waters of Leamington (at that time a little village), which are beneficial to sufferers from rheumatism. The rise of the place has been remarkable, and you will not be surprised that we do our best to keep green the memory of a man to whom it is so vastly indebted. With the view of protecting the memorial from bad weather, the design included the building in which it is enshrined.

"As to the purely horticultural features of the gardens, you will notice some very choice Conifers, deciduous trees, and shrubs, including fine examples of Cedar of Lebanon, a very fine specimen of Carpinus betulus incisa, several good specimens of Sequoia sempervivums, two striking specimens of the Tulip tree, many Quercus ilex, Copper Beeches, Ulmus montana pendula, Fraxinus excelsior pendula, Pavia flava and rubra, and Liquidambar styraciflua.

THE CALIFORNIA SEQUOIA.

"One of the most emphatic proofs of the temperate climate of Leamington is the fact that the Sequoia flourishes here. It is of Californian origin, and in the ordinary English climate rusts off. In the Jephson Gardens it retains its foliage. Mention should be made of a fine Horse Chestnut, which has six stems, each being a tree in itself. Strange to say, no photographer can show more than five."

"Hollies also appear to flourish exceedingly?"

"Yes, there are many fine specimens of Silver Queen and Hodginsii, and a number of smaller varieties. Several varieties of Arbutus should be mentioned; Azara microphylla, which finds the soil and situation congenial, Choisya ternata, and Osmanthus in variety. We have nine varieties of Cotoneaster, from tree form to horizontals, and many varieties of Berberis—one of stenophylla is an excellent specimen. This year Cotoneaster affinis is full of berries, and on some of the trees there have been a bushel of fruit.

"The varieties of Prunus do well, and likewise Laburnums, Loniceras in variety, shrubby Spiræas, Phillyreas in variety, Deutzias, and Guelder Roses. When all these are in flower in the spring, these gardens are, in my opinion, in their most attractive dress. The lovely foliage and flower of the shrubs is enhanced by their fragrance."

"How long is it since they were planted?"

"Between forty and fifty years ago, and I think the persons who planted them, showed a true appreciation of what was likely to be admired later on. We now approach another feature which does not by any means date back nearly half a century. I mean the Rosery, which, as you see, is set in parterre fashion. There are only fifteen varieties, all in self-colour, all dwarf, and all thriving. They were planted five years ago, and they improve each successive year."

THE TREATMENT OF ROSES.

"Do you have to put in special soil?"

"Yes; the soil has always to be made, and I use a retentive clay or marl, with rich bonemeal, lightened by leaf soil. I am a firm believer in hard pruning during the spring, and attribute the success of these Roses largely to that."

"I observe that three or four of the varieties are in flower, though we have reached the last month of the year."

"One is Madame Abel Chatenay, another Mrs. W. J. Grant, and the third Liberty. The varieties include Gruss an Teplitz—which can always be depended upon to flower—Richmond, Dean Hole, Madame Grolez, Caroline Testout, Killarney, Dorothy, Marquis of Salisbury, and Maman Cochet."

"Your herbaceous borders seem to be of great length."

"The one which prompts your comment is six hundred and eighteen yards long, and is really a great representative border, arranged in clumps. It would, of course, be impossible to go in detail into the question of varieties; but a point is made of growing the tallest at the back, notably Delphiniums, Thalictrums, and Solidagoes. There is no edging; the groups come to their own front. Every season we add to the varieties, doing away with the plants that produce the worst flowers, and planting the most promising of new varieties Always, we secure waves of colour right along the whole length of the border, and it is critically inspected during the flowering season by crowds of visitors.

"As to the bedding, the number of beds runs to nearly thirty. The size is varied, and they are practically in a set pattern. In summer,

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red and white Tuberous Begonias are largely used in combination with Salviá splendens and Geranium Paul Crampel, the whole of the scheme being relieved by a liberal display of Centaurea gymnocarpa. These furnish a brilliant show from the end of May until the beginning of October. Then in the autumn we bed with Tulips, Wallflowers, and Violas. The Tulips are Kaiserskroon, Dusart, Prince of Austria, Gold Prince, and Lutea, with many others. The Tulips are carpeted by Wallflowers, principally Monarch, Vulcan, Harbinger, and Belvoir Castle. The four Violas used are Kitty Hay, Maggie Mott, John Shires, and Mrs. Hayes. Other beds higher up the gardens are filled with Hyacinths, etc."

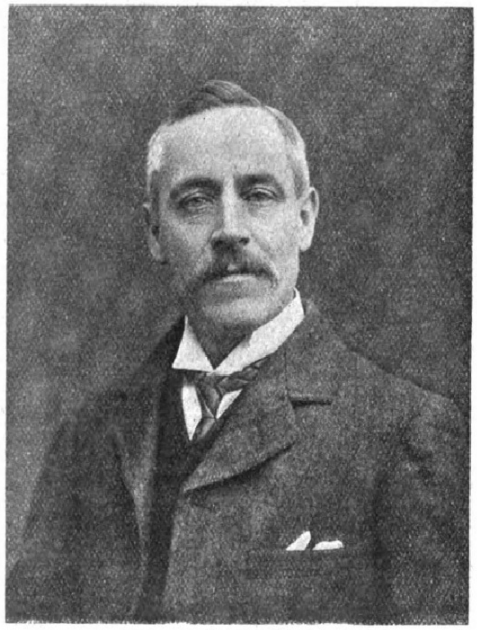
THE FAVOURITE GERANIUM.

"You must need the whole of your plant houses?"

"We more than need them. Every corner of each of the eight houses is, you will find, occupied, and in April we do not know what to do with the plants. Altogether, we bed out 180,000, of which the chief are Begonias and Geraniums. We depend very largely upon these, and so far I have not discovered anything to beat them. Paul Crampel is the favourite Geranium.

"The provision for the entertainment of the public includes a bandstand and pavilion, which seats 1,500 people under cover. While the concerts are going on, or the band is playing, there are usually many hundreds outside the auditorium. These entertainments are carried on for eighteen consecutive weeks in summer, and the best bands and artistes are engaged.

"A considerable number of visitors derive great pleasure from boating on the lake; the walks, well wooded by trees, with shelters at frequent intervals; while others go in enthusiastically for tennis and croquet. On the lawn in this garden alone there are fifteen courts, on which the Midland tournament, lasting a week, is played. The lawn is also occupied for one week by the Midland and Southern Counties Archery Tournament. The only payment required is one penny to enter, or threepence for a chair. During the season the garden is illuminated every Tuesday and Thursday."



MR. JOHN T. HAYES.

MILL GARDENS AND HOLLY WALK.

"At the back of the bandstand," continued Mr. Hayes, "runs the river Leam, which we are now crossing. This marks the boundary to Mill Gardens, which are six and a half acres in extent. The contents so much resemble those of the Jephson Gardens that I need not describe them. Further on there are two nurseries, where the young trees and shrubs are brought on. Next we come into the Holly Walk, which makes a pleasant promenade, twelve hundred yards long.

"Euston Place Garden, which is close to the town hall, is bedded with flowers twice a year, also on similar lines to those of the Jephson Gardens. The huge ancient Elms are often much admired, but to every gardener they are a terror, because their spreading roots prevent everything else from growing.

"Next in importance to the Jephson Gardens are the Pump Room Gardens, containing a kiosk bandstand, and what is more important to horticulturists, a circle of large herbaceous beds and a designed garden. Here the beds are set, and the centre of each is surmounted by a weeping Rose, different varieties being used in different centres. The varieties in the herbaceous beds are the same as those used in the borders of the Jephson Gardens.

"But in the York Promenade, to reach which we cross the York Bridge over the Leam, there are Rhododendrons and Azalea beds, well worthy of notice. These and some specimen Conifers, such as Retinosporas, Cupressus, mop-head Hlolies, and weeping Hollies, were only planted five years ago. The Rhododendrons are very choice varieties, about 40 in each bed. The soil was specially prepared, and consists of two-thirds loam and one-third peat, which has taken the place of a bed of clay. Similar soil is used for Azaleas. These, which are already full of buds, give a wealth of flower in the spring. The extent of the York Promenade Garden is four and a half acres.

"Crossing the Adelaide Bridge, we arrive at the River Walk, half a mile in length, with Chestnut trees on one side, and on the river bank, Cedars, Silver Birch, Ulmus montana, and Acers in variety. Here are more Rhododendron and Azalea beds of all shapes. These were only planted twelve months ago. They are edged with different varieties of Ericas, planted in prepared soil. The Rhododendrons are interspersed with Liliums in variety, and with Galtonia candicans, whose racemes of flower are eighteen to twenty inches long. The extent of this part of the domains is six acres.

"The Victoria Park, of twenty acres, is purely a recreation ground, used for cricket and football, tennis and bowling. There are thirteen tennis courts, two bowling greens, three prepared cricket pitches, and a practice ground. The games can be watched from a commodious shelter, and cyclists appreciate the asphalt track, which runs round for half a mile.

"Leaving the Victoria Park on the left, I should like to draw your attention to a very fine row of Acacias inermis. There are thirty-five trees, and they were planted by the late superintendent, Mr. Dell, who was in charge of the gardens for nearly twenty years. His treatment was certainly the best that could be given, for they are all in splendid health, and in June and July they make a grand show. People come from a long distance on purpose to see them."

"Can you tell me how they are treated now?"

"Just the same as in Mr. Dell's time. The treatment is, in fact, almost identical with that of Vines. Great care must be taken not to overfeed. If they are overfed the Acacias get brittle, and the wind breaks them. In December they are spur-pruned."

"THE CENTRE TREE OF ENGLAND."

"Have we now finished the inspection of your territory?"

"By no means, but the Eagle Recreation Ground, six and a half acres, is a mile away, and I am afraid we cannot get so far, nor can we very conveniently, especially in this bad weather, inspect the different trees in the avenues, of which the principal are Binswood, Beauchamp, and Clarendon. We must not leave the subject of trees, without referring to the celebrated Oak, called The Centre Tree of England."

"Do I understand that this indicates that the site on which it was planted is the most central point of England?"

"It is common knowledge that this is so. Of course, the whole of the street trees are under my control, and this also applies to the shrubs. Altogether I have charge of eighty acres of gardens and recreation ground."

"Where did you spend your early professional days, Mr. Hayes?"

"In Messrs. Veitch's nurseries, and my training there has been invaluable to me. Subsequently, I was foreman at Betteshanger Park for upwards of two years, and then for twelve years I was in charge of Lord Northampton's gardens at Castle Ashby. I came from Castle Ashby to Leamington."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Next week: The Gardens of Mrs. Rodgers, at Great Lindhurst, will be described.

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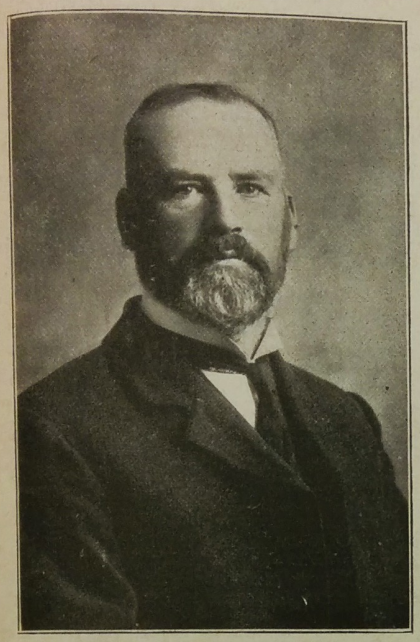
in a short time, for the growth will be almost entirely at the top, and the bottom will be bare. Stopping the young shoots is useless, for it merely thickens the top. It does not cause buds to break on the hard wood near the base, and this is what is wanted. There is, however, one way in which it can be done. If the stems are bent down to within about a foot from the ground, buds will soon start near the base,



MR. W. HAYNES.

especially if in dry weather the plants are frequently sprayed to soften the bark. After growth has proceeded for a short time, the ties may be removed. The method is not as good as cutting down after planting, but when this has been neglected it may be tried with advantage.

Preserving Cut Bloom.

June 14th.—It is a pity that so many of the beautiful flowers of summer last so short a time in water. With the idea of lengthening their lives, some people put in the water a few drops of Condy's fluid, or a few grains of salt or a small piece of charcoal, but that these or any other substances do answer this purpose is very doubtful. After all, when once the flowers are arranged, the best thing to do is not to disturb them—even for the purpose of changing the water. Every shake they get merely loosens the hold of the petals. Obviously, they should not be placed in strong sunlight, or in a draught, for precisely the same reason as rootless cuttings should not be. Naturally, too, they last longer if they are gathered early in the morning than they do when gathered during the heat of the day. When the stems are hard and woody, it may probably be an advantage to split them for an inch or so, in order to admit water more easily, and for the same reason, if they have been gathered some time, the dried ends should be cut off. Except for these simple precautions, we cannot do much to lengthen the life of any flower when cut.

June 15th.—The general idea of a market garden that it consists of rectangular plots of different plants in an uninteresting situation, though sometimes true, is far from being so always. What could be more beautiful than the surroundings of Messrs. Mawson Brothers' nurseries at Bowness? The view shown in the photograph is simply perfect.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of Lord Ebury, at Moor Park, Rickmansworth.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. W. HAYNES.

MOOR PARK, the seat of Lord Ebury, is one of the most celebrated demesnes in Hertfordshire, and its historical associations date back to the time when Offa, King of Mercia, desiring to atone for the murder of Ethelbert, King of East Anglia, conferred the Manor of the Moor upon the monastery of St. Albans. It was Archbishop Nevil, Lord Chancellor of England, who in 1460 obtained a license from Henry VI. to enclose six hundred acres in the parishes of Rickmansworth and Watford; and here, on the north-eastern portion, he built a stately mansion. Since then many more or less illustrious personages have reigned at Moor Park, including Cardinal Wolsey at the height of his greatness. After his fall it was for some years a Royal residence, and then a succession of peers and wealthy personages owned the estate, until in May, 1828, the mansion, with about fifteen hundred acres round it, came into the possession of the Grosvenor family.

The Cardinal's Oak.

Evidences of the antiquity of the park are still to be seen, and when, by the courtesy of Lord Ebury, I visited the gardens last month, Mr. Haynes, the head gardener, pointed out to me, near the upper entrance, the Cardinal's Oak, so called either because Wolsey planted it, or usually sat under its branches. There are also many other aged Oaks which bear witness to the fact that, during her residence at Moor Park, the Duchess of Monmouth beheaded all the fine trees as a mark of her resentment for the manner in which King James treated her husband.

"Oaks," said Mr. Haynes, as we made our way to the upper pleasure grounds, "have always been the leading feature of the park, but there is an avenue of Limes nearly a mile long, as well as many fine specimens of Beech and Elm, and a Tulip-tree from eighty to ninety feet high."

The Temple of the Winds.

"And," I rejoined, as we entered the lovely grounds, and approached the pond, "a very remarkable specimen of the Spruce Fir?"

"It is supposed to be the largest and oldest in Great Britain. The young trees outside forming the clump were only branches, and have rooted in the ground. There are a lot of bees in the tree. The Taxodium, near the Temple of the Winds, is also considered a very fine tree; and there are several notable Cedars."

"Who erected the Temple of the Winds?"

"Lord Anson, who had possession of the estate in the seventies. It was under Admiral Lord Anson that the gardens and grounds as they practically now are were laid out; and he also introduced here the famous Moor Park Apricot, which he brought from Eastern lands. The parent tree lived on till 1840, nearly a hundred years. Some of its descendants you will see shortly."

"There is a splendid view from this point?"

"Yes, in addition to the ornamental water, the prospect includes the mansion and flower garden, most of the park, with the deer, the valley of the Colne, and the rising ground beyond, and the Buckingham and Bedford hills in the distance."

"Have many alterations been made in the gardens since the ancestors of Lord Ebury came into possession?"

"The Marquis of Westminster, who died in 1845, enlarged the garden adjoining the mansion, and laid it out, as it is now, in Italian style. He also erected the terraced access to the upper pleasure grounds, and planted many of the valuable and ornamental trees."

"You have a good show of Rhododendrons and Camellias."

Camellias in the Open.

"The former seed here and come up like weeds. The Camellias always flower profusely in the spring; there are hundreds of blooms on now, and some of the plants are twelve feet high."

"Do you pay much attention to them?"

"No. All we do is to cut the shrubs round them well back, so that the Camellias do not get smothered up. Of course, they are in a very sequestered spot."

"Your bedding is on a large scale," I observed, as we approached the mansion; "and you must

THE UPPER PLEASURE GROUNDS AT MOOR PARK, RICKMANSWORTH.

use a vast number of Wallflowers to obtain such a blaze of gold."

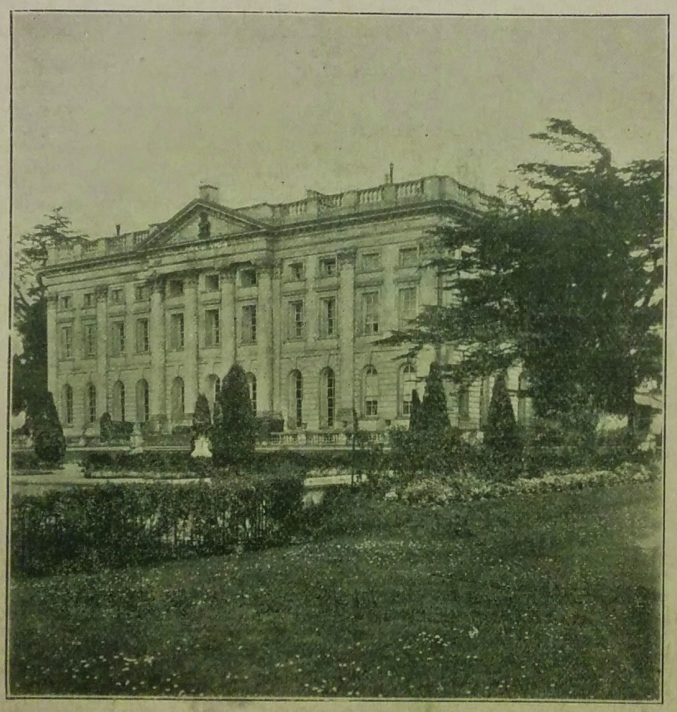
"The number of beds is a score, and we bed out fourteen thousand Wallflowers. They are chosen entirely for colour, golden, dark brown, and ruby, the Wallflowers being intermixed with Narcissi, Tulips, and Pansies."

"How do you fill the Italian garden in summer?"

"Mainly by Geraniums. I have used dot plants, but now we keep to masses of colour, the varieties used being Henry Jacoby, Harry Hieover, Mrs. Pollock, Flower of Spring, Harry Fenn, Lucius, and Eureka. Heliotropes we also have in quantities. The massing of colour contrasts very well with the number of Yews on the terrace."

"You have Wallflowers also in the pretty border near the croquet lawn?"

"And Myosotis in front. The croquet ground, with the Sweet Brier hedge right round, is new, and also the little rock garden in the north corner which we are approaching. Lady Ebury, who takes a personal interest in all the gardens, has a special liking for the rockery."



MOOR PARK FROM THE GARDEN.

The Rockery.

"When was the rockery made?"

"Three years ago. We put the stones on the bank, and planted a number of the best varieties of Alpines and rock plants."

"You might tell me which of these you find do the best."

"Colchicum speciosum album is a good thing, also C. autumnale. Other very useful varieties include Achillea rupestris and A. ptarmica plena, Adonis vernalis and A. amurensis, Æthionema cordifolium, Æ. grandiflorum, and Æ. saxatile, Alyssum argenteum and A. compactum; Androsace carnea, A. languinosa, A. villosa, A. Vitelliana, A. sarmentosa, and Chamœjasine (these latter are mostly tender, and want wintering in cold frames); Anemones in variety, Antennaria tomentosa; Aquilegia Stuartii, A. chrysantha, and A. cœrulea; Armeria Laucheana maritima, Asperula liliata nitida, Aster alpinus, Aubrietia græca and A. purpurea, Campanula, abietina, C. carpathica, C. garganica, C. glomerata, C. grandiflora, C. muralis, and C. rhomboidalis (these are all hardy, and grow anywhere); Cerastium tomentosum, Chionodoxa luciliæ, Clematis alpina, Crocus speciosus, Daphne cneorum, Dianthus cœsius, Dodecatheon Jeffryanum, Dryas octopetala, Edraianthus, Eremurus robustus, Erinus alpinus, Erythrinum dens-canis, Fritillaria meleagris, Gentiana acaulis, G. lutea and G. verna; Iris reticulata, I. histrio, and I. alata; Lilium croceum, L. canadensis, L. tigrinum, and L. giganteum and others.

"We have also in the rock garden," continued Mr. Haynes, "Lithospermum canescens rosmarinifolium, Lychnis (single and double), Myosotis rupestris, Omphalodes verna, Oxytropis campestris, Pinguicula alpina, Plumbago larpentæ, Primula cortusoides and P. japonica, Pyrola rotundifolia, Ramondia pyrenaica, Saponaria ocymoides, Saxifrages (various, both mossy and encrusted), Silene Schafta and Soldanella alpina, Sternbergia lutea, Trillium grandiflorum and others, Tropæolum speciosum, and Veronica alpina."

"What is the length of the terrace?" I inquired, when we had finished our inspection of the rockery.

"About two hundred yards. There are twenty vases, all of which are filled with scarlet Geraniums. Here, as elsewhere, I always keep colour in view. The Swedish Junipers at the back are clipped once a year, but we never touch the pair of Yuccas which have been here for forty years, and live and grow as they like. The herbaceous border, which begins at the end of this terrace, and extends almost to the mansion, is about one hundred yards long. It has, as you see, standard Roses behind, and is backed by the shrubbery, which, by the way, contains a large number of the white variety of the Bluebell."

The Herbaceous Border.

"Have you many varieties in your herbaceous border?"

"They consist chiefly of Aster amellus, A. cordifolius, A. ericoides, A. Novæ-Belgæ, A. vimineus, and others; Bupthalmum; Campanula persica; Chrysanthemum leucanthemum; Cimicifuga japonica; Coreopsis; Delphiniums of sorts; Dictamnus fraxinella; Doronicums; Echinops ruthenica; Eremurus himalaicus; Eryngium alpinum; Gypsophila paniculata, and G. prostrata; Helenium autumnale; Hemerocallis aurantiaca; Inula; Ostrowskia magnifica; Belladonna Lilies; Pentstemons; Incarvillea Delavayi; early Chrysanthemums; Pyrethrums; Harpalium rigidum, and Irises."

"Which varieties of Iris do you find thrive most?"

"The varieties we use are reticulata, histrio, gigantea, alata, Kæmpferi, germanica, and stylosa. We also use quantities of Spanish and English Iris, which last are specially useful for cutting. In the pond with the fountain in the centre are several of the Marliacea Lilies. While we are near the mansion, I may say that on the eight knobs at the end of the beds we use in summer scarlet Begonias for four, and white Geraniums for the other four. Under the ballroom window are a number of standard Roses, the bedding being at present the same kind of Wallflowers as in the Italian garden. On the wall are Bignonias, Lonicera, Wistarias, Crimson Rambler Rose, and Magnolia grandiflora, which does splendidly."

Vines and Peaches.

We then walked across to the kitchen gardens, which are on a very large scale, and enclosed by walls ten feet high. Starting here with the Vineries, Mr. Haynes said:

"These Vines have only been planted for two years. Of Strawberries, which you see on the stages, we force about eighteen hundred in pots. Another Vinery is devoted entirely to Muscats, and we grow Black Hamburghs in an early house."

"And your Peach houses?"

"Dymond was only put in this year, and is already fruiting. The Nectarine is Violette Hative. Peaches in the next house are Early Alfred (the earliest of all), Dr. Hogg, Early Rivers, and Grosse Mignonne. In the third house we grow Grosse Mignonne, Noblesse, and Mrs. Crawford, also Pineapple Nectarine. The other fruit house is devoted to Figs (Brown Turkey). The second crop is usually better than the first. Figs have a knack of dropping in the first crop."

"I notice you have a Rose house?"

"Yes, and from February to the end of April we obtain a great wealth of flower from Niphetos and William Allen Richardson. Since then we have had pot Roses. The best Rose for potting is La France, of which we grow sixty. I bought these at a sale twelve years ago, and they have bloomed every year since."

"Do you grow many Chrysanthemums?"

"About a thousand, chiefly Japanese and Incurved, but we also have a fair quantity of early-flowering varieties. We pot a number of Geraniums (pink singles), which in the summer we put out in pots under the ballroom, where the Wallflowers now are. In the Fern and Orchid house are some good plants of Coelogyne cristata, Cypripediums, and Lælias. The wall is covered with Ficus repens, and Ferns, which latter spring up from self-sown seed."

Hippeastrums and Achimenes.

"When do your Hippeastrums begin to bloom?"

"At Christmas, and they last for about three months. The large kind blooms twice a year. As soon as they have done flowering, we plunge them in good soil, grow them on through the summer inside, and in the autumn put them under the stage to rest."

"The plants now in bloom look remarkably well. When will your Achimenes be in flower?"

"In two or three weeks. The treatment is very simple. They are just put into an ordinary warm house. Gardenias and Pancratiums do

very well, and Allamandas flower all the summer. We bed out about three thousand Heliotropes."

"You have a magnificent Fuchsia in your flowering house."

"It is about ten feet high, and was planted from a cutting five or six years ago. There is another almost as good in the next house. The contents of these houses include herbaceous Calceolarias, Schizanthus, Azalea indica, and Countess of Hadington, Rhododendron Edgeworthii (white flowers of great size), a batch of Gentiana acaulis, and a fine plant of Eremurus himalaicus. The last is one of the most rapid-growing plants in existence. We have some small ones, but only this of the larger kind."

"What about Carnations?"

"Most of our Border Carnations have been grown from seed. The varieties are Lancashire Lass, Raby Castle, Mrs. Campbell, Lady Chesham, Lord Roberts, and some others."

Raised Beds.

Going outside, I observed that the border in front of the Vineries was very effectively arranged with a combination of Arabis, Myosotis, Pansies, Polyanthus, the Parrot Tulips, and Wallflowers. Raised beds of striking combinations are a great feature in the kitchen gardens.

"One of these combinations," said Mr. Haynes, "consists of dwarf Phlox (pink), with Pæonies planted in the centre. The Phlox lasts a month in flower, and is succeeded by blue Veronicas."

"Another appears to be confined to Pansies, of which there must be thousands in flower."

"It is a French variety, and we sow every year. We have a great many in the beds of the cottage garden at Rickmansworth. The latter consists of about two acres, and is used for garden parties, flower shows, and mothers' meetings. Other raised beds here consist of Aubrietia græca and Lithospermum, with Wallflowers in the centre, and Honeysuckle and Clematis round; Wallflowers and Narcissi; and, to make the kitchen gardens decorative, Roses are grown on arches, while batches of yellow Alyssum may be seen at various points like streaks of gold."

"You certainly have no straight lines."

"No, we take great care to avoid them. A large border is devoted entirely to Sweet Peas. We use the same piece of ground every year, but, of course, sow new seed. Two varieties, Stella Moore, and Miss Willmott—the only one that has three or four blooms on a stalk—have been here three years, and do well. Now for the fruit trees outside."

"And first of all I should like to see the Moor Park Apricots."

"We have thirty trees on this wall, from whence we get an immense mass of fruit."

"Do they always yield large crops?"

"They always bear well, but this year the crop was so exceptionally great that I have had to thin them. The trees are covered with netting as soon as they begin to bloom, and I keep it on until they fruit. Rain, especially cold rain, does more harm than frost. We are certainly the largest growers of the Moor Park variety, which, as you know, is now famous in all parts of the world. Underneath the Apricot walls Peas are grown. They always do particularly well here—it is a nice warm corner."

"Do you grow many varieties?"

"Only William the First. I do not like shifting that and tall Peas about. As to my system, I sow one row as another shows, and thus keep up the succession. In a favourable season we can gather Peas during September. The remainder of the space under the Apricot walls is assigned to Potatoes, of which the variety is Harbinger. I also grow, in the field, Sharpe's Victor."

"What is your custom with Strawberries?"

"They are grown one year in the pots, and two years outside. Then I dig the plants up. In the Peach case, which is eighty yards long, and has Strawberries on the stage, we grow Crimson Galande, Early Silver, Stirling Castle and Bellegarde Peaches, and Pineapple Nectarine. These trees have been planted between five and six years, and always bear well. The Cherries on the walls, which have to be netted, are May Duke, Duke of York, and Bigarreau. Morellas are also grown."

Apples and Pears.

"As to other fruit," said Mr. Haynes, "Apples and Pears are grown on almost every principle. Some of the best Apples are: Annie Elizabeth, Bramley's Seedling, Cellini Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Cox's Pomona, Gascoigne's Scarlet, Golden Spire, Lady Sudeley, Lane's Prince Albert, Lord Grosvenor and Lord Suffield."

"Which are the best Pears?"

"They include Beurré d'Amanlis, Beurré Bosc, Beurré Clairgeau, Clapp's Favourite, Beurré Superfin, Doyenné du Comice, Fondante d'Autumne, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise, Pitmaston Duchess, and Souvenir du Congres."

In a large border, herbs of various kinds are grown, and we concluded our walk with a look at a slip outside the lofty walls, which Mr. Haynes finds exceedingly useful. His own record is embraced in the fact that he has practically been all his life at Moor Park, like his father and grandfather before him. He has a delightful hobby. It is wild flowers, and he possesses a botanical collection of between four and five hundred specimens, obtained chiefly in the neighbourhood. ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 254.—EDGING PLANTS.

DEAR KATE,—I "don't hold" (as my old nurse used to say) with carpet-bedding, and I prefer a good Brussels carpet to one made of tortured plants, with all their blossoms snipped off, and most of their natural foliage, too. Besides which, I think it is a waste of time to cultivate thousands of Iresines and such-like half-hardy things, just to fill up a stiff pattern, and one might as well take to wool-work at once, and do it in cross-stitch. But, all the same, I do think that most borders and beds look the better for a neat edging of some sort, and the choice of good flowers for this purpose is most important. What is generally wanted is a low plant of neat growth, and if the flowers are in a tint distinct from that of the rest of those in the border, the effect will be all the better.

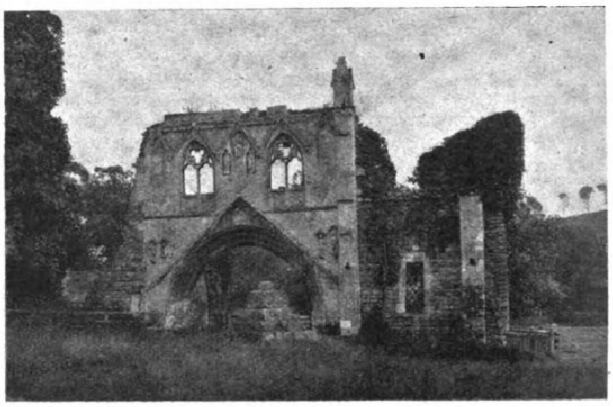
Turquoise-blue flowers make a charming edging, and my flower-beds all break out in this colour in the spring, with the Myosotis (Forget-me-not), which edges every one of them at that time. The best Myosotis for the purpose is the variety called Perfection; you can get it in blue, pink, and white, but I like the blue the best. Then, Myosotis Victoria has the neatest little tufts of turquoise flowers; and Royal Blue produces darker blossoms. We sow the seeds of these Forget-me-nots in the kitchen garden, in May or June, prick out the seedlings into a nursery bed in July and August, and put them in position as edging plants in October or November. In this way we have shoals of plants, and they are not only useful for edging the borders, but also for filling the front of the window-boxes in the early spring; and for potting up, or placing in a China bowl, just as they are opening their buds, for they are lovely in every way.

THE TREE LUPIN IS NOW AT ITS BEST IN THE GARDEN.

As soon as the flowers are over (at this time of year), the plants are pulled up, and their places are taken by the pale blue variety of Lobelia called Azure Blue; or else by Cobalt Blue Lobelia. Both of these are far prettier in my estimation than the dark blue Lobelia which is more often seen. But I have forgotten to say that, if you want to have seedlings of your Forget-me-nots without sowing them, you should

J.T. Hayton

THE HALL, KIRKHAM ABBEY.



THE RUINS OF KIRKHAM ABBEY.

The Gardens at Kirkham Abbey, Yorkshire.

BY the courtesy of the Dowager Countess of Liverpool, I early in October visited the gardens of one of the most historic seats in the county of Yorkshire. Kirkham Abbey is situated in the Derwent Valley, about half-way up the hill on the north-east side of the river, and overlooks a park of about forty acres in extent, studded with specimen and timber trees, some of which are of great age. The river forms the boundary on the farther side of the Park, and the approach to the house is by the road leading from Kirkham Abbey station to the market town of Malton, and a number of Yorkshire Wold villages.

The mansion, where I was met by Mr. J. T. Hayton, who is in charge of the gardens, faces south-west, and in front of the main entrance are several varieties of Cupressus, and members of the Pine and Cedar family. I had previously noticed on the lower side of the drive several large and well-coloured Copper Beeches, and was not surprised to learn that the soil and position is particularly favourable to certain varieties of trees. Interspersed with these are numerous flowering shrubs. Covering a chimney of imposing height and extensive spread, is a well-furnished specimen of Magnolia conspicua, which, I was informed, is a mass of bloom every year from Essex onwards. On the right or higher side of the drive is a sunk fence wall, which serves the purpose of holding up the soil of the flower garden, and is covered with Roses, Wistarias, Clematis montana, Berberis Darwinii, and Chimonanthus fragrans.

"What is the extent of the gardens?" I asked, as we walked up the slope.

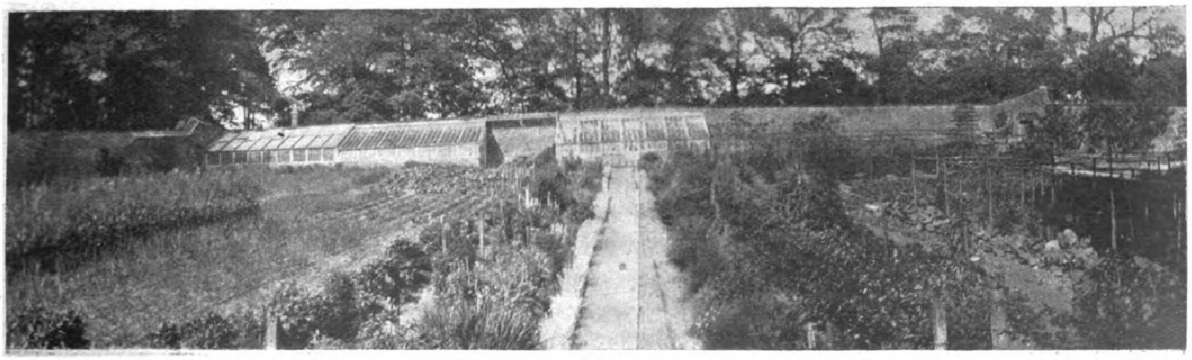
"The shrubberies, lawns, pleasure grounds, Rose gardens, kitchen gardens, and orchards, cover fourteen acres."

Proceeding to inspect the gardens, we came first to a triangular enclosure with a high sunk fence wall on one side, a Holly hedge on the other, and Yews and Rhododendrons at the end. The sunk garden leads into the Rose garden. The Roses, as you will observe, are grown in beds, on poles, and trained on a wall behind a border of Stocks. The varieties are selected according to the suitability for cutting, and are all Hybrid Perpetuals. The Rose beds are edged with different varieties of Violas, and two have wire arches over them, shaped to resemble a basket. Moutan Pæonies are planted at intervals, and make a mass of bloom from the end of April until the Roses come into flower.

THE TERRACE DESIGN.

"What is the aspect of the terrace and flower garden?"

"South-west. The tubs on the terrace are now filled with Hydrangeas, Fuchsias, Ivy-leaf Geraniums, and Agapanthus. When they are in flower we have a number of Carnations in Seakale pots of Britannia and Rose Doré. The design in the flower garden consists of eighteen beds cut out in grass. All the beds, except those containing tuberous Begonias, are filled with one variety. On either side of the Begonias, which make a show of scarlet in the centre, is an eighteen inch ring of white. Also in the centre, round the base of a vase filled with scarlet Tropæolums, are four beds, two of which contain yellow Calceolarias, and the other two blue Ageratums. Next these, on each side and stretching the whole width of the panel of grass, are two large beds entirely occupied by about four hundred plants of Geranium Paul Crampel, which last till November. The end beds, which are shaped to resemble Prince of Wales' plumes, were planted this year with Del-



KIRKHAM ABBEY—THE KITCHEN GARDEN AT MIDSUMMER.

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phinium Blue Butterfly, the wing bed on each side with Geraniums Flower of Spring and Madame Ruddersdorf respectively; while at each corner is a small circle of white Alyssums.

"The gravel walk which separates the steep slope, fully twelve feet deep from the flower beds, has beyond it a parterre of grass, bounded by variegated shrubs. The narrow border in front is devoted to dwarf hard-wooded plants, comprising mainly Ericas in variety, Fuchsias, Hypericum perforatum, Rosemary, Lavender, and Daphne mezereum."

"The soil seems to be well adapted for all the plants you select."

"Yes; I believe that we have ascertained by experience the plants which it suits. The soil itself is made up from the foundations of the house. Compared with the ruins of Kirkham Abbey, which date back to 1100, the house is quite modern; it was built eighty years ago, and the terrace garden was laid out by Mr. Edward Taylor."

"When did you come to Kirkham, Mr. Hayton?" I enquired, as we made our way to the walled-in part of the kitchen garden.

"I have been head gardener twelve years last March. I came here in 1902. All my experience has been gained in Yorkshire. For eleven years I was in the gardens at Castle Howard, where I served my time, and was subsequently foreman."

THE HERBACEOUS BORDER.

"What is the extent of the kitchen garden?"

"The walled-in part is about three-fourths of an acre, but the whole of the kitchen garden ground covers two acres. At the lower end the herbaceous border forms the setting on either side of the gravel path in the centre. Francoa ramosa is quite hardy, stands over twenty degrees of frost, and flowers freely for a long period.

"At the back of the herbaceous border is a trellis of wire, and separated by a three feet alley are tall perennial Asters in variety, Delphiniums, Chrysanthemum maximum, Heleniums, Dahlias, and Hollyhocks. These occupy two-thirds of the length of the border, and the remaining length consists of Japanese Wineberry on one side, and the Loganberry on the other side. Both do extremely well. I am always mindful of the value of a striking combination of colours, and in each of the flower beds some scheme of colour has been more or less followed out. Thus, the border running parallel with the glasshouses and separated from them by a gravel walk, is planted with Souvenir de Charles Turner as edging, a double form of Paul Crampel, and a row of white Antirrhinums. A two-foot alley divides this border from a row of Sweet Peas, half its length being filled with these in different colours, each colour extending about two yards; the other half is shared by Gladiolus brenchleyensis and America, the scarlet and pink showing each other up well. In a border, mainly occupied by salad plants, is a selection of about fifteen varieties of hardy flowering Chrysanthemums."

STRAWBERRY QUARTERS.

"I see that Strawberries and bush fruit are a great feature."

"We go in rather largely for Strawberries, which are planted in four equal divisions, and stand for three years. One quarter is trenched each year, and as a change a crop of vegetables is taken off before Strawberries are planted again. Raspberries and all bush fruit, grown for dessert, are on permanent trellis work, about seven feet high, and are covered with nets. Kirkham is fortunate in being free so far from the Black Currant big bud scourge.

"The walls are turned to account for fruit trees. Gooseberries and Red and White Currants are grown on cordons.

"Apricots are represented by Moor Park and Large Early, and both do well in dry seasons, but in wet seasons Large Early is decidedly to be preferred. Peaches are grown both inside and out, and Nectarines were, at one time, also fruited on the walls. But in consequence of their liability to leaf blister in spring, we did away with them. The best cropping Peach is Alexander, Noblesse, and the best cropping Nectarine, Humboldt. All Grapes are grown in the lean-to Vinery."

FEATURES OF THE STOVE.

"I should like to know shortly the features of your plant stove."

"Eucharis amazonica can be relied on for two crops of bloom in the year. A comparative rest is given after flowering, and when growth begins again the plants are fed until the flowers begin to open. Repotting is only done when the pots become root-bound, and then early in February, the compost used being loam, leaf-mould, wood ashes, charcoal, and in the bottom two inches of soil, a little quarter-inch bones. Calanthes Veitchii and vestita have strong bulbs and spikes. Gesneras, Euphorbia jacquinæflora and pulcherrima, Begonias Gloire de Sceaux, Gloire de Lorraine and Turnford Hall, promise a good display of bloom during the short, dull days to come. Asparagus Sprengerii and Achimenes are used for hanging baskets, Oxalis cernua taking the place of Achimenes in winter and spring. They continue in bloom from the end of January to May in a warm greenhouse. Palms, Ferns, Primulas of several varieties, Perpetual Carnations, Zonal and Fancy Pelargoniums, Cytisus, Eupatoriums in variety, Sparmannias, are a few of the cooler subjects in pots. In pot Chrysanthemums all except singles and such varieties as Source d'Or are disbudded, as blooms of a good size are favoured for house decoration.

"In summer all available frames are used for Tomato, Melon, and Cucumber culture. Of the last, none equal to Carters' Sunrise has yet been found here for cropping, quality, compact growth, and freedom from disease. In October, Violets, both single and double, are placed in unheated frames; and not a week passes from early October to April when a bunch of flowers cannot be gathered, unless the frost is too keen for the covering to be taken off the frames. The rest of the space just now is occupied by Strawberries for forcing, cuttings for next summer bedding, and reserves to find a place in the heated structures later on, together with bulbs under their covering of ashes developing roots preparatory to being forced into bloom.

SUCCESSIONAL CROPPING OF VEGETABLES.

"Now we come to a stretch of vegetable ground, twice as large as the walled-in kitchen garden. Like the rest of the gardens, it faces south-west, and being sheltered from north and east, some varieties are grown under most favourable conditions. Broccoli stands winter well without being laid down and the neck covered with soil, a practice which obtains in many gardens. Celery is planted in double rows, the only variety being Standard Bearer. Successional cropping is practised, the only sandy corner being reserved for Carrots, Beet, and French Beans, the leguminous crop occupying one season and the roots the alternate one, each being changed every year. Asparagus is grown in beds two feet wide. A bed is dug up for forcing every winter, and a new one sown in spring on ground where Asparagus has not been grown for several years.

"An orchard of standard fruit trees with grass underneath forms the boundary to the vegetable plot at one end, and another of bush trees on cultivated ground serves the same purpose at the opposite end. The bushes were originally planted in grass, but did not give satisfaction until the grass was removed. Many trees of Apples, Pears, and Plums, from ten to twelve years old, have been lifted and replanted with beneficial results, the chief requisite being plenty of water applied for twelve months. We find that if the stopping of summer shoots is done before the third week in August, they invariably make new growth later in the season.

A TREASURED CORNER.

"In close proximity to my own pleasant residence, you will notice a secluded corner about twelve yards square, with a fence about three feet high, and covered with climbing Roses. This garden was planned, laid out, and has since been cultivated by the younger members of the family. It is now left almost entirely to one young lady who is very fond of gardening. Inside the fence arches of Roses connected by horizontal poles form a miniature pergola. Then there are home-made rustic seats, and a summer-house adorned with climbing Roses, and a rockery at each side. A border of half standard Roses with Heliotropes as groundwork runs up one side, and there are beds of Stocks, Asters, Antirrhinums, Alonsoas, Nemesias in separate colours, and seedling Carnations, with a row of Sweet Peas to serve as a screen from the orchard."

"Is the space in the vicinity of the ruins turned to account for decorative purposes?"

"No, it is considered that the variety of colours necessary in flower beds would not be in harmony with the main feature, but the original Cloister Court has been converted into a couple of tennis-courts, and we are careful to trim the Ivy which covers the walls, and adds to the beauty of the fine Norman arches."

ALFRED WILCOX.

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deal with the conditions. A series of experiments performed by Francis Darwin and Dorothea F. M. Pertz, and described by them in "The Annals of Botany," have brought out some remarkable facts. It was found that when seedlings or growing shoots were subjected to the influence of a stimulus such as light acting alternately at regular intervals at opposite sides, they curve in those directions, first in one, and then in the other, and this movement continues after the stimulus has been withdrawn. Of one experiment, the authors say it is "remarkable, as showing that the plant may acquire a rhythm in a very short time; *e.g.*, after four periods of a quarter of an hour each." In other words, that is the time which is necessary to establish in this case the habit of rotation. Comparing their results with other phenomena, they say, "When the stimulus is given by the alternation of day and night, we get the diurnal periodicity of sleeping plants, which, as in our experiments, continues after the stimulus has ceased."

October 29th.—It is seldom that one sees the Michaelmas Daisy as a pot plant—why, I cannot think. For it is exceedingly effective when so grown. It may for this purpose be potted at any time, even after the flowers have expanded, if the roots are disturbed as little as possible, but it is better if this is done earlier.

H. C. Davidson.

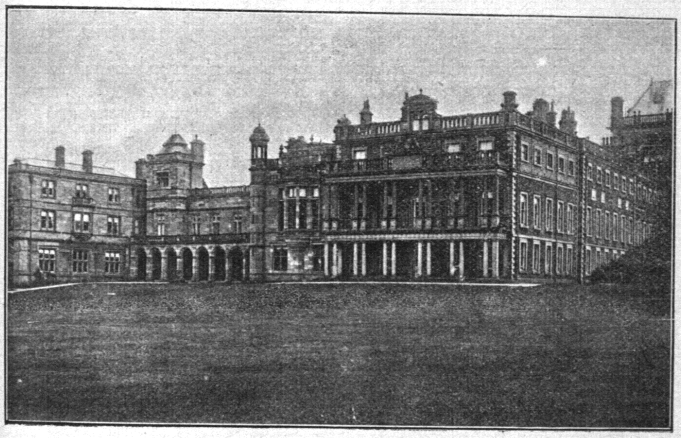
Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 161.—Mr. E. F. Hazelton, at the Gardens, Knowsley.

By the courtesy of the Earl of Derby, I had an opportunity, in the middle of September, of visiting the gardens at Knowsley, his famous historic seat in Lancashire. Some idea of the extent of the demesne may be gathered from the statement that Knowsley Hall stands in a park of two thousand acres, enclosed by a stone wall about eleven miles in length. There are ten entrance gates and lodges. Near the centre of the park is a small tower called the "stand," around which a racecourse once existed. But though Mr. Hazelton drove me, on my arrival at Huyton station, through a portion of the park, the gardens of which he has charge are so extensive and important that they demanded my undivided attention. The glasshouses being a great feature, we commenced with the inspection of some of the more notable of the contents.

"Important additions have been made this year to the glass," said Mr. Hazelton, as we walked from the office towards a very fine new house, "in the shape of five ranges and two corridors. We do a certain amount of building each year. Last year we added six ranges of pits, and the year before another block of houses."

"How many houses and pits are there altogether?"



Knowsley Hall—Colonade Front.

"There are twenty houses, two corridors, and twelve pits, each with a division, in this part of the gardens. The lean-to pits are for forcing vegetables, and the others for forcing plants. All the houses and pits were built by Mackenzie and Moncur, Limited."

We went first into a Melon house, twenty-four feet long, and Mr. Hazelton said,

"I cut about seventy-five good fruits in this house. The varieties grown are Gunton Scarlet (a scarlet seedling), Lord Derby (scarlet flesh), Lady Derby (green flesh), Earl's Favourite, Veitch's Late Perfection, and Royalty (white flesh). Lord and Lady Derby were raised here three or four years ago."

From the propagating house, where I noticed batches of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, we passed into one of the large orchard houses, with a number of fruit trees in pots. I asked for the names of a few of the best varieties of Apples.

"Cox's Orange Pippin cannot be beaten. Wealthy is a splendid dessert Apple, which acquires a more delicate flavour when it is grown under glass. American Mother, King of Tompkin's County, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Allington Pippin, and Seaton House are all very good. As to Pears, you see there is a nice crop of Marguerite Marillat, and the best varieties include Marie Louise, President d'Osmonville, Triomphe de Vienne, Charles Ernest (a fine Pear), and Durondeau."

"Have you had good crops of Tomatoes?"

"Yes, very. We grow six varieties, Frogmore Selected, Ham Green, Lister's Prolific, Sutton's Princess of Wales, and two others not on the market, namely, Vickers, which is one of the best, and Clive, raised by a local man."

As we proceeded through a house usually devoted to Chrysanthemums, in which a nice batch of Arum Lilies were conspicuous, Mr. Hazelton called my attention to the fact that there are two services of leaden pipes coming up the entire length of both blocks of the houses, the channel being open at the end of each house to allow the heat to rise at the end. This system prevents any heat from being wasted, and, in consequence of the violent winds, every possible artificial help is required at Knowsley.

"Is there anything special in the Palm house?"

"No, only the ordinary varieties, such as Kentias, Arecas, Cocos, Geonoma, Phœnix, and a few others, which are used for furnishing.

Mr. E. F. Hazelton.

There are two small pieces of Acantha-Phœnix. In the adjoining house there are named Zonal Pelargoniums for autumn and winter flowering. We have a large number of plants, but few varieties. They include Hermione, Raspail, Goliath, Nellie Bromhead. Rev. F. A. Atlow, and W. Holmes, but we do not attempt a collection."

"You have a batch of Chironia exifera."

"Yes, it is an old variety, almost lost to cultivation. We grow about fifty. The little pink flower is very pretty, and the foliage is an exceedingly nice show of green. I strongly recommend this plant, which is free-flowering, as well as graceful. It is quite easy to cultivate."

"How many Cyclamens do you grow?" I inquired as we entered another house.

"About three hundred. In this house, also, Celosias are grown. The variety is not on the market, but was given to me by a friend. Four or five years ago, when I was in the South of England, I sent some Celosias five to six feet high, and four or five feet through, to the Drill Hall, and got a medal for them. The characteristics of the variety are its immense growth and its floriferousness. Here, too, we have a hundred plants of Salvia Pitcherii, the pretty blue variety, from which, in November, we get spikes of flower nine to twelve inches long; and a batch of Heliotrope Madame de Bussy, a capital variety for outside use. We have had trusses nine inches across. It is, I think, the best dark variety. Before we pass into one of the Carnation houses, the small pieces of Bouvardia and Plumbago rosea may be mentioned."

"There must be a large number of Tree Carnations, which, I see, are just coming on?"

"We grow about thirteen hundred. The principal varieties are Duchess of Devonshire, Prosperity, Lady de Ramsay, Mrs. Lawson, Lord Rosebery, Winter Cheer, W. Robinson, Governor Woolcott, Triumphans, The Queen, Lord

Kitchener, Mr. Leopold Rothschild, Hon. Alexander Fellowes, and E. A. Dana. In fact, the varieties are as few as I can make them. I like to go upon the principal of keeping them down."

"You have a few more plants in the Malmaison house?"

"Yes. Of Malmaisons we grow about two thousand. The majority are Princess of Wales and Nell Gwynne, which Lady Derby greatly favours. We are now working up a stock of Duchess of Westminster. Sir C. Fremantle is one of the best winter-flowering Malmaisons."

"Have you been much troubled by rust?"

"So far the Malmaisons have been quite free from it, and it only developed in the Tree Carnations a few weeks ago. It is almost limited to Winter Cheer. I think that the chemicals in the air of this district prevent some of the pests from living."

In another house were the latest batch of Melons, including some fine specimens of Royalty and Late Perfection; and in the cool Orchid house nearly a thousand plants, including, chiefly, Odontoglossum crispum, O. Pescatorei, Oncidium tigrinum, and Epidendrum. "In the top corridor," continued Mr. Hazelton, "we have Roses in spring, flowering plants in summer, and Chrysanthemums in winter. Among the Roses that do well are Niphetos, W. A. Richardson, Gloire de Dijon, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Madame Berard, and Celine Forestier. The table plants in the next house, which are chiefly the older varieties, include Dracæna Lindenii, D. rubra, D. terminalis, D. Sanderiana, and D. Godseffiana."

"Which do you consider the best variety in the Cucumber house?"

"All the Year Round is not easily beaten. We only grow that and Veitch's Sensation, which is, perhaps, equally good."

Entering a third Carnation house, containing two-year-old plants, I asked how many blooms are cut during the season.

"This year we cut between eleven and twelve thousand. In the height of the season we get a thousand flowers a week. Four houses and a pit are devoted to Carnations."

"Your Calanthes are making a fine growth in the next house."

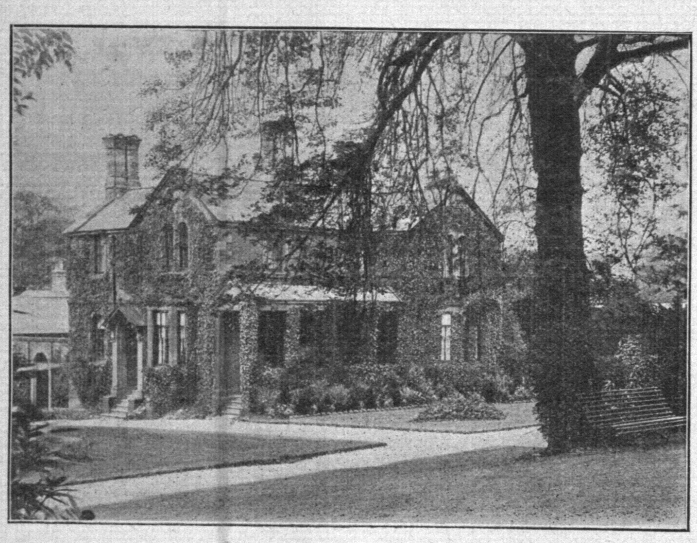
"We call this the Dendrobium house, but just now the Calanthes, Clerodendron Fallax (raised this season in pits) and the Eucharis are the feature. We are working up a stock of the last."

"I conclude that your Amaryllis is a great feature?"

"Yes, we devote an entire house to it. Prince Albert Edward is the autumn-flowering variety, and we have a continual supply of it and others from September until July, the spikes of Albert Edward being about three feet high. It is largely used for the vases in the Hall. There are two hundred large plants, and a number of smaller ones. On the roof of this house we have a few pieces of Lælia anceps, and round the sides are Cœlogyne cristata and C. alba. There are two more houses full of Orchids, chiefly Lælia and Cattleyas, the bulk of them having been bought at Backhouse's sale in the autumn. I suppose that there are between eight and nine hundred."

"Have you any special varieties in the Croton house?"

"Princess of Wales, Wiesmannii, Heathii elegans, nobilis, and others. In this house, also, are Acalyphas and Phyllanthus nivosus varie-



THE GARDENER'S HOUSE AT KNOWSLEY.

gatum, with Stephanotis and Bougainvillea on the roof. In the Gardenia house are about a hundred and twenty plants of one variety."

Outside we stopped for a time at the cold frames, noting by the way an exceptionally good batch of the African Lily, Harrisi, and Mr. Hazelton said, "We use these for anything coming on, according to the season. Here are Freesias and Cinerarias; also another batch of about thirteen hundred Amaryllis, chiefly seedlings, Campanulas, and East Lothian Stock. One frame will be devoted during the winter to salad, and another to flowering bulbs. The Spanish and English Iris do not flourish outside, but planted in a cold frame they thrive. The same is true of Gladiolus."

"What is your quantity of Chrysanthemums?"

"About two thousand, including seven hundred large-flowering. The latter include Australian Gold, Bronze Early, Charles Dacre, Duchess of Sutherland, Edwin Molyneux, Lily Mountford, Mrs. Mileham, Mrs. Mease, Mrs. Barkly, Miss Nellie Pockett, N. C. S. Jubilee, Simplicity, and Mrs. H. Weeks. The best of the bush varieties are Ryecroft Scarlet, Viviand Morel, Source d'Or, and Tatiana. For the early-flowering, I prefer Francois Vuillermet, Lady Selborne, M. Marius, Nellie Brown, Ryecroft Glory, Phœbus, Soleil d'Octobre, and Crimson Marie Masse. Of the late-flowering we grow Framfield Pink, Niveus, W. H. Lincoln, and Verte Poitevine. The singles include Miss Lily Edwards, Miss Mary Anderson, Elsie Neville, and Charming Pet. Then we have also the spidery or thread-like varieties of Chrysanthemums, including Mrs. W. Filkins, Silk Twist, White Thread, Yellow Thread, and Sam Casswell. In all we have about a hundred and sixty varieties, but we do not go in for the expensive new ones. Lady Derby is particularly fond of the large-flowering varieties."

"Are there any other things in the frames you would like to mention?"

"We keep Parsley under glass in the winter, and also Carrots; otherwise we should not get any. last year we had new Potatoes at Christmas."

"I should like to ask you about the Poinsettias, the Coleus, and many other plants which I notice here, but I think that it is time we proceeded with the attractive border at the entrance, and the Vineries."

"As you see, Dahlias in variety are conspicuous in the border, and there is a fine batch of Pentstemons. The other plants include Tagetes, Phlox, Stocks, and Dianthus. Along the border is a bed of Gladiolus Childsii, which has a groundwork of Asters, Mignonette and Stocks; there are four beds of Roses in variety, and a few Carnations. Sedum spectabile, of which the bees are very fond, forms a useful side border. The Sweet Peas, of which we have a dozen varieties, including some of the best, have flowered very nicely."

"How many Vineries and Peach houses are there?" I asked, as we entered a Vinery containing Muscat of Alexandria.

"Fifteen. Three are Muscat houses, the third being full of young Vines, planted thinly. In a fourth Gros Colmar grafted on Foster's Seedling is grown. Figs are grown in this house until we have a Fig house, and we are dependent upon pot plants for fruit. There are about two dozen, and the varieties include Brown Turkey, Poulette, Royal Vineyard, and St. John. As we have to go rapidly through these houses, I may point out that two Vineries are mixed; that one is devoted to Madresfield Court; that the early Peach house, which is to be the Fig house, has the back wall planted with Smilax; that the other Peach house contains all the best varieties of early and late Peaches and Nectarines; that the Hamburgh Vinery has a fine batch of Dendrobiums on the roof; and that Alicantes are a favourite Grape."

"I think you might, please, name the varieties of Peaches and Nectarines which are grown in the late Peach house?"

"Goshawk, Sea Eagle, Dymond, Lord Napier, Pineapple, Barrington, Violet Hative, Spencer, Elruge, Prince of Wales, Crimson Galande, Late Devonian, and Gros Mignonne."

As we strolled along the kitchen garden proper, which is divided into parts, the walls being covered with Apples and Pears grown as cordons and espaliers, I asked Mr. Hazelton if he could tell me the number of Apple trees on the walls."

"There are six hundred and sixty-seven," he rejoined, "in a hundred varieties on the walls, and in the borders. The number of Pear trees is about three hundred and fifty, and there are sixty-five varieties. I found all these when I came here. Cox's Orange Pippin is doing exceptionally well, but the Apple crops are all good. The Pears on the walls are carrying a fine crop, particularly Pitmaston Duchess, Easter Beurré, Charles Ernest, Marie Louise, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Doyenné du Comice, and Conference."

"I admire the broad walk along the centre with the herbaceous border on each side. Will you name a few of the varieties?"

"Bupthalmum speciosissimum, Gypsophila paniculata, Pentstemons (seedlings), Lobelia cardinalis and L. c. Firefly, Montbretias in variety, Anemone japonica, Monarda didyma, Spiræa Antony Waterer, Asters in variety, Hollyhocks, Helianthus rigidus, Sunflowers, Phlox in variety, and many others."

An archway leading into the other kitchen garden, with Pears of several varieties, attracted my attention, and then we spent a little time among the vegetables. The extent and variety of these so impressed me that instead of asking for the names of any favourites, I inquired if Mr. Hazelton could give me some round figures.

"Yes," he said, "I can. We grow about 6,000 heads of Celery, 5,000 Leeks, 3,000 Cabbages, 3,000 Coleworts, 2,000 Brussels Sprouts, 2,400 Cauliflowers, 3,500 Broccoli, 2,000 heads of Seakale, 1,000 Chou de Burghleigh, 500 Couve tronchuda, 5,000 Lettuce, 4,000 Endive, 500 Chicory, 300 Salsafy, and 300 Scorzoneura. Onions and Peas are also grown in large quantities."

"And Strawberries?" I observed, as we approached a number grown under the high garden wall.

"There are about 6,000 plants here, all Royal Sovereign, for forcing. Of Violets, which are also grown here, but under difficulties, owing to the fumes from St. Helens and Wigan affecting them, the varieties are Wellsiana, Princess of Wales, La France, King of the Violets, and Admiral Avellan."

With a fleeting glance at an orchard planted at the bottom with Brussels Sprouts, Celery, and Seakale, and a piece of land opposite with a breadth of Asparagus plants doing well on ground raised above the ordinary level, we made our way to the large lake. As we approached a number of splendid clumps of Rhododendrons, close to the boathouse lodge, I asked the extent of the lawns and pleasure grounds.

"Eighty-eight acres," replied Mr. Hazelton. "There are also fourteen acres of kitchen garden ground, six acres of lakes and ornamental water, and two miles of carriage drives and roads, so that you cannot attempt to explore Knowsley in a few hours."

"No, I must be content with a glimpse of the principal features which I have not yet seen."

"The Rhododendrons are the 'weed of the place.' Ponticums, of course. They had been allowed such license that last autumn I had three men engaged for six months in cutting them down and shortening them back. Moreover, I expect we shall have to repeat the work this autumn."

"What is the length of the large lake?"

"About a mile. It is large enough to supply all the water required by natural gravitation. Bream and roach are abundant; and other fish are caught."

"Among your innumerable specimens of trees and shrubs, particularly fine near the picturesque Bridge Lodge, which do you consider the best?"

"The Scarlet Oak does remarkably well. Evergreen and Turkey Oaks also flourish, and we have some striking specimens of the Fern-leaf Beech. Planes, Sycamores, Limes, and Chestnuts are healthy. In fact, for Lancashire, the trees are good. Flowering shrubs do fairly well."

"I see that there is a tree close to the lawn in front of the mansion which was planted by the Prince of Wales."

"Yes, the date is March 13th, 1902, and the tree is a Cupressus, which promises to become a good specimen. The old sundial is considered very handsome. Our only bit of bedding is in the terrace flower garden, where, too, is a bed of choice Conifers."

"I should be glad to have the scheme of bedding."

"There are eight beds of Geranium Henry Jacoby, with a border of Centaurea candidissima; eight of golden Gem Calceolarias, bordered with blue Lobelias; four of bronze Geraniums, bordered with Cineraria maritima; four of Alyssum, with dot plants of Heliotrope, and a border of blue Lobelia; six of Begonias and Alyssum, Little Gem, with dot plants of Acacias; four of bronze Geraniums, MacMahon; four of Geranium Flower of Spring; four of Eucalyptus, Castor-oil plant, Maize, Eulalia, the Tobacco plant, and Calceolaria amplexicaulis mixed, with a border of Ageratums; and four beds of Ivy-leaf Geranium Madame Crousse, with Calceolarias and Iresine. In the lawn garden is a bed of Bamboos bordered with Golden Privet, but we propose to alter that another year."

"Then there is the bed under the tropical house?"

"There we have Eucalyptus, Freesias, Golden Elder, Golden Calceolarias, and other varieties, with a border of blue Lobelias. In the tropical house are a number of big Palms, but quite the feature are the three baskets of Goniophlebium satanriculatum. At the other end are Bamboos, Dicksonia antarctica, two pieces of Cyathea dealbata, and a quantity of Azaleas."

"We must not omit to name the beds of Roses in the lawn garden?"

"They are all China Roses, and include L'Ideal, Laurette Messimy, Hermosa, Cramoisie superieure, and Madame Eugene Resal."

In the American gardens one feature of interest is a Holly planted by the King in 1901; and across a bridge over the small lake is Lady Derby's small garden. It is crescent-shaped, and contains a number of Rose arches, covered with Crimson Rambler, choice shrubs and conifers. The centre vase, about eight feet across, is filled with Maize, Geraniums, Lobelias, Phlox, and Ageratums, and in the corner is a charming summer-house. The gardener's pleasant house looks on to the American garden, and the beds immediately in front are most tastefully arranged.

We had just time to inspect the comfortable bothy built in 1898, with reading room, and a cycle house.

"How large is the gardening staff?" I asked, as we sat down for a few minutes prior to my departure.

"There are twenty in the bothy, and about ten more who live outside."

"Where did you serve your apprenticeship to gardening, Mr. Hazelton?"

"At Saltmarsh Nursery, Chelmsford, under Mr. Ranger, who is now manager of the Aigburth Nursery. As to my subsequent appointments, I was with Mr. Robert Warner, then of Scravells, Broomfield, Chelmsford, for some time; Orchids were grown there on a large scale. Then I went to Pyt House Gardens, Wiltshire, under Mr. Lockyer, and afterwards I was at Tring Park, under the late Mr. Hill. My next move was to The Dell, at Egham, where I was under Mr. Ballantine. I served as foreman at Arle Court, Cheltenham, and at Trentham, under Mr. Blair, for three years."

"Where did you first become head gardener?"

"At Highfield Hall, Leek. I was there four years; and I then became head gardener at Brocklesby Park, Lincolnshire. At the end of two years and a-half I went, in the same capacity, to Longford Castle, Wiltshire, and there I remained six and a-half years. I have been at Knowsley a little more than a year."

"Have you done any showing?"

"No. At Highfield and Longford showing was objected to, and here, as at Brocklesby, I have neither time nor inclination for it."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 118.—A COOL GREENHOUSE.

Dear Kate,—I have just had a large glass porch put up at my front door, which faces east, and needs some protection from the cold winds. The entrance of this porch (or cool greenhouse, for it is about fourteen feet square, with a half hexagonal front) is at the south side, so that in this way the east wind is kept out, and as the plants will get all the morning sunshine (as well as some from the south), they ought to do very well. There are so many things which don't like much fire heat, and my warm conservatory gets so full of plants, that I am delighted to have a good place for the Chrysanthemums, which just now are opening rapidly, and make the porch look very bright. Perhaps you would like to know what we shall grow in this cool house? I think it is a pity that those who have such a place (without hot-water pipes) do not always make a good selection of plants, and try to grow tender things in it, which only look miserable, whilst all the time there are plenty of fine hardy plants which would do well there. All the warmth they are to have is from a small hot-water stove, which will only be lighted on frosty nights (or in extremely damp weather), giving just enough warmth to keep frost out, so we shall not keep Geraniums there, for they like a dry, rather warm atmosphere in winter. Of course, it will be easy to keep it gay in summer, with tuberous Begonias, and all manner of flowers which can be kept dormant in winter, such as Gladioli, Cacti, Achimenes, pot Roses, and Amaryllises; but the winter months are the crux in a cool house, and I will tell you what we are doing to ensure having some blossoms in it at that time. Of course, Chrysanthemums will keep it gay for six weeks yet, and early in September we put in all sorts of Christmas-flowering bulbs, such as Roman Hyacinths, Van Thol Tulips, Paper-white and double Roman Narcissus, Scillas, etc., and, although some of these will be used for table decoration when flowers are scarce, we shall use others for the cool porch, where the flowers will last a long time in beauty. They will be followed by the second-early Tulips such as Cottage Maid (cream and rose), Proserpine (salmon-pink), and yellow, white, purple (Van der Neer) varieties; also with Hyacinths, Daffodils, Crocus in fine variety, and Chionodoxas, in blue and silver. All these bulbs will be very little forced, as they do better without much fire heat; and the beautiful double-pink Tulips (Salvator Rosa, etc.) will not bear any forcing, but will come in naturally after the rest.

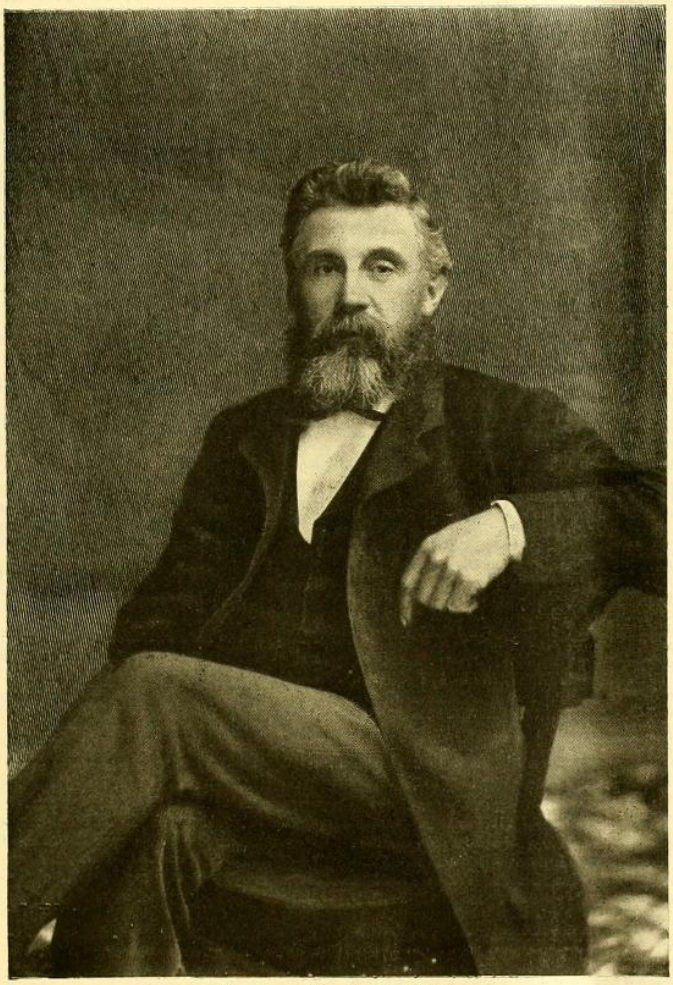
Clianthus Puniceus.

Besides these bulbs, we shall have handsome little plants of Wallflowers of the finest kinds in pots, Forget-me-nots (of which we are trying a new one, Myosotis Ten-week, which is said to bloom in that time from the day it is sown, and to blossom at Christmas), Canterbury Bells, in pots, and, later on, Campanulata pyramidalis. Mignonette, sown in August, in pots, and kept free from frost and close to the glass through the winter, will scent the porch in the early spring; and clumps of Violets will do the same in winter. A few early-flowering Rhododendrons will be very bright in February, such as R. Nobleanum coccineum (a dwarf, bright scar-

dington, Denisoni, multiflorum, Comet, Forsterianum, Princess Alice, and Lady Alice Fitzwilliam.

The smaller-flowered varieties were well represented in a warmer structure, including such well-known kinds as Queen Victoria, Princess Alexander, Taylori, and T. rubra, Jasminiflorum, Princess Teck, and Princess Royal, one of the best of the whole group, as it is seldom without flowers. Amongst the Indian Azaleas, a new one, called Professor Wolters, struck us as being exceptionally fine. It is rose-coloured, with a very warm blotch on the upper petals; the flowers are of good size, and the margins wavy. In one of the houses a number of pot-Vines is being grown, which is, we believe, a new departure at this nursery. We need hardly mention the Vandas as most gardeners are aware that they succeed admirably here. The Cattleyas also, and the Orchids generally were looking well. There was not much bloom to be seen, but the following were noticed amongst others:—The new Eulophiella Elisabethæ, Ada aurantiaca, Dendrobium cucullatum giganteum, Vanda suavis, Lælia cinnabarina, Cattleya citrina, Cymbidium Devonianum, Cypripedium exul, Dendrobium Wardianum, Odontoglossum crispum, O. cirrosum, &c. Vanda teres is just showing its flower spikes.

A house full of Cliveias in bloom make a good display, and include many fine varieties, notably one called Queen Victoria, which was noticed in our report last week of the Royal Botanic Society's show. An adjoining house is full of Hippeastrums in flower.



The Late Mr. W. G. Head.

Obituary.

W. G. Head.—It is with sincere regret we have to record the death, in the sixtieth year of his age, of Mr. W. G. Head, the able and respected Superintendent of the Gardens of the Crystal Palace, on Saturday last, after a lingering and extremely painful illness. Mr. Head was about eighteen years in this position, having succeeded Mr. George Thomson. To exhibitors and *habitués* of the Crystal Palace Mr. Head was well known, and much liked, ever obliging to others, never sparing of himself, or seeming to get tired of his somewhat harassing work; and the excellent manner in which the gardening of the Palace was maintained, was often the theme of well-merited praise.

Mr. Head's experience as a gardener was very varied. At an early age he first entered the then very famed gardens at Arundel Castle, in his native county, he having been born at Worthing. Here he met Mr. A. F. Barron of Chiswick, and began a friendship which lasted to the end of his life. Leaving Arundel he went to Shrubland Park, Ipswich, famous for its gardens at that period; and from thence to Drumlanrig under Mr. McIntosh. We next find him in South Wales for a short time, cultivating Pine-apples; and then as foreman in the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Chiswick, with his friend, Mr. Barron. From Chiswick he went to the Royal Gardens, Kew, where he stayed some time; and thence went to India, to take charge of the Gardens of the Calcutta Agri-Horticultural Society at Alipore. After a stay of six years in India he returned to England, and was shortly afterwards appointed Garden Superintendent at the Crystal Palace. He was buried at Chiswick on Wednesday last, the 7th inst. The portrait, of which we give a reproduction, was courteously furnished by Messrs. Negretti & Zambra.

Richard Pfau.—We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. R. Pfau, at his residence, San José, Costa Rica, on March 14 last. His death was caused by a throat trouble of long standing, which rendered his last days ones of great suffering. Mr. Pfau, who was of Swiss nationality, and well known in connection with Central American Orchids, has for some years been successfully carrying on an important establishment for their culture, and for fruits and other kinds of trees and plants, for sale in Central America. Last year he paid a visit to this country, and succeeded in bringing home a small lot of Epidendrum Endresii and of Miltonia Endresii, both very difficult species to import. His notes on the climatic peculiarities in which some of the rarest Costa Rica plants are found growing we have published in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* on several occasions.

Mrs. T. W. Bond.—The many friends of Mr. T. W. Bond, gardener to C. L. N. Ingram, Esq., Elstead House, Godalming, and one of the members of the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, will be pained to learn of the death of his wife and of the circumstances leading up to it. It appears that Mrs. Bond had been in a nervous and depressed condition for some few days, when her youngest son, a boy of about seven years, and who was playing in a meadow where a two-horse roller was at work, jumped on the roller for a ride, and, unfortunately, fell, and the roller passed over him. The ground was soft with the rains, and he escaped with a fractured skull, but is now thought likely to get over it. The shock, coming as it did at a time when she could least withstand it, caused the mother's death. In order to remove Mr. Bond for a time from the scene of his troubles, Mr. Ingram is sending him on a tour through France.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL.

Scientific Committee.

March 23.—*Present:* Rev. C. W. Dod (in the Chair); Mr. J. Douglas, Mr. Michael, Dr. Müller, Rev. W. Wilks, Dr. Bonavia, and Rev. G. Henslow (Hon. Sec.).

Bulbs with Arrested Roots.—With reference to the samples sent to the last meeting by Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Douglas was of opinion that the treatment had perhaps not been quite advisable, for he thought that they should have been put out-of-doors, and not in a shed, and covered with 6 inches of Cocoa-nut fibre. If, however, there was something deleterious in the compost sent for inspection, this could at once be ascertained by an analysis. Such, however, would be beyond the province of the Society.

Wireworms among Carnations.—Mr. Weguelin of Torquay asks for remedies against this trouble. The suggestions of Linseed cake, Carrot, scooped out Potatos, as for slugs, &c., were made, but it would appear that in the present case they are too numerous for such traps, as indeed the writer admits. Gas-lime was recommended as the only very efficient remedy, but it might injure the Carnations. The land having been well-dressed with lime or soot shows that these ingredients are quite insufficient, though gas lime would probably have been effective.

Carnation Leaves Diseased.—Mr. Fagents of Honey Pots, Westfield, Woking, sent some leaves with peculiar red streaks upon them. They were forwarded to Kew for further investigation.

Germination of Mushrooms.—Inquiries were made by Mr. Baker of Cobham Park as to the somewhat contradictory statements in books upon this subject, as in Mr. J. Wright's *Primer of Horticulture* it is stated that it has been observed, whereas in Dr. Scott's *Flowerless Plants* (p. 268), it appears to have never been seen. Mr. W. G. Smith, having been appealed to by the secretary for his opinion, writes as follows:—"I have many times seen the spores of the Mushroom and its allies germinating. With me they have often quickly germinated on glass, and more often on moist blotting-paper. The fungi must be allowed to shed their ripe spores on to the moist paper. After a day or two a damp microscopic slide must be placed upon the part of the damp paper where the spores have fallen, and it will often

The Garden, 1897

OBITUARY.

W. G. HEAD.

We regret to announce the death on Satur last, after a long period of acute suffering, of M W. G. Head, who for the past eighteen years h been superintendent of the Crystal Palace. T late Mr. Head was born at Worthing in 1837, father being then a small nurseryman there. was apprenticed to Mr. McEwen, who was g dener to the Duke of Norfolk at Arundel Cast and subsequently superintendent of the Ro Horticultural Society's Gardens, Chiswick. Fr Arundel Mr. Head went to Shrubland Pa from thence to Drumlanrig, where he was fo man. He also served in the gardens at Ca Dykes, then at Abernar, in South Wales, and w appointed plant foreman in the Royal Hortic tural Society's Gardens, Chiswick. From Ch wick he went to Kew, and from there was s to make and plant the gardens of the Agri-H ticultural Society of Calcutta at Alipore. He w in India about seven years, and soon after return to England, Mr. G. Thomson resigned position at the Crystal Palace, Mr. Head be appointed his successor in 1879. The late M Head was always ready to help in causes charity and cases of misfortune that came un his notice.

1897.

HAZELL James of Mariner's-lane Norwich carpenter died 11 February 1897 Probate **London** 5 March to Harbord Richard Hazell engineer and Albert Charles Hazell carpenter Effects £95 12*s.* 6*d.*

HAZELL James Fenn of 28 Temple-street Templeborough Rotherham Yorkshire died 25 April 1897 Probate **Wakefield** 17 June to Emily Hazell widow Effects £348 4*s.*

HAZELL Phœbe of Hampstead Norris Berkshire (wife of Jonathan Hazell) died 17 March 1897 Probate **Oxford** 3 April to James Fuller grocer Effects £133 10*s.*

HAZELL Sarah of Neal-street Covent-garden Middlesex widow died 9 December 1885 Administration **London** 6 November to John Francis Jones banker's-clerk Effects £204 10*s.* 5*d.*

HAZELL Thomas of 1 West-well Moat-croft-road Eastbourne gentleman died 2 June 1897 Probate **Lewes** 5 August to Henrietta Grace Hazell widow and Benjamin Bradford gentleman Effects £5229 13*s.* 3*d.*

HAZLE George of the Bourne Stroud Gloucestershire coal-merchant and farmer died 6 December 1884 at the lunatic-asylum Barnwood Gloucestershire Administration **London** 1 January to Beatrice Mildred Fisher Hazle spinster Effects £20 Former grants Gloucester June 1885 and London November 1891.

HAZLEDINE Thomas of 16 Langley-road Elmers-end Kent gentleman died 12 June 1897 Probate **London** 3 August to Alice Maud Mary Hazledine widow Alfred Victor Samuel Harwood clerk-in-government-employment Frederick Clapham warehouseman and William Henry Bailey stockbroker Effects £6224 16*s.* 6*d.*

HAZLEHURST Mary Ann of 64 Lloyd-street Altrincham Cheshire (wife of James Hazlehurst) died 17 August 1897 Administration **Chester** 14 October to the said James Hazlehurst manager-of-brickyard Effects £617 13*s.* 10*d.*

HAZLETON Simon of Caulfield-market-street Earlestown Lancashire grocer died 18 August 1897 Administration **Liverpool** 3 November to Isabella Hazleton widow Effects £3138 16*s.* 7*d.*

HAZLETT William of Rock-cottage Overton Cheshire miller died 1 July 1897 Probate **London** 24 July to Elizabeth Hazlett widow Effects £321 6*s.* 2*d.*

HAZLEWOOD John of High-street South Ockendon Essex died 12 July 1897 Probate **London** 26 July to James Gates retired restaurant-keeper Effects £96 1*s.* 11*d.*

HAZLEWOOD Thomas of Morecambe Lancashire boot and shoemaker died 12 November 1896 Probate **Lancaster** 29 April to Esther Hazlewood widow Effects £140 18*s.*

HEAD Edward of Highworth Wiltshire labourer died 20 December 1896 Probate **London** 19 July to Thomas Head mechanic and William Harrison Head gamekeeper Effects £75.

HEAD George the elder of Breckonhill Brampton Cumberland farmer died 11 January 1897 Administration **Carlisle** 1 March to George Head farmer Effects £267 15*s.*

HEAD George of Walhampton Boldre Hants master-mariner died 5 December 1894 Administration (with Will) **Winchester** 31 March to Thomas Head photographer Effects £45.

HEAD George of 22 Westow-hill Upper Norwood Surrey died 13 May 1897 at St. Mary's-hospital Paddington Middlesex Probate **London** 8 June to Alfred Chadwell job-master Effects £159 10*s.*

HEAD Harriet of 15 Park-street Tunbridge Wells widow died 20 June 1897 Probate **London** 16 July to Alfred Head printer's-clerk and Edwin Makepeace postmaster Effects £377 5*s.* 6*d.*

HEAD Henry of Foston-green Biddenden Kent died 31 August 1897 Probate **London** 18 October to Kezia Head widow Effects £151 18*s.* 2*d.*

HEAD Margaret Isabella of 32 Andover-road Winchester spinster died 24 May 1897 Administration **Winchester** 17 June to Mary Asher Head widow Effects £129 2*s.* 7*d.*

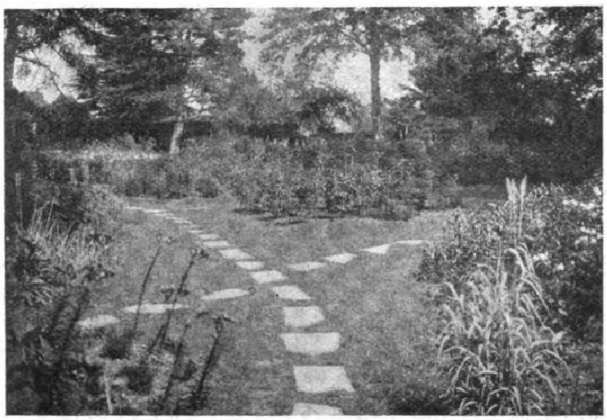
HEAD Mary of Walhampton Boldre Hants widow died 6 January 1897 Administration **Winchester** 2 March to Thomas Head photographer Effects £47.

HEAD William of Lyndhurst Hants corn-merchant died 16 October 1896 Probate **Winchester** 14 January to Thomas Edward Smith poor-law-accountant Effects £20350 18*s.* 8*d.*

HEAD William George Wingfield of 74 Maberley-road Norwood Surrey died 3 April 1897 Probate **London** 30 April to Charlotte Head widow Effects £306 15*s.*

HEAD William Ground of Eastrea in Whittlesey Isle of Ely labourer died 29 November 1896 Probate **London** 17 February to John Fevre saddler and William Elston farmer Effects £775 6*s.* 9*d.*

HEADFORD William of 28 Clarendon-road Dover gentleman died 16 January 1897 Probate **London** 3 February to Mary Headford widow Effects £20.



THE WILD GARDEN AT GREAT HALLINGBURY PLACE.

THE WATER GARDEN AT GREAT HALLINGBURY PLACE.

The Gardens at Great Hallingbury Place, Bishop's Stortford.

BETWEEN three and four years ago the country house known as Great Hallingbury Place passed into the hands of a new owner, Mr. W. Lockett Agnew. Mrs. Lockett Agnew is not only intensely interested in gardening, but has a considerable experimental knowledge of it, with original and attractive conceptions of arrangement, and under her auspices there have been many new and important developments. In present circumstances, the pleasure grounds of Great Hallingbury Place consist of a series of gardens each complete in itself. A unique feature is that the larger kitchen garden forms the centre of this series. But the kitchen garden also is on original lines, with its evidences of utility overshadowed by floral decorations of the most effective character.

Soon after my arrival on a pleasant January afternoon, Mr. Charles Heath, who has had charge of the gardens since the estate changed hands, suggested that it might be convenient for me to go the round of the circle, finishing with the kitchen garden and its branches or environs.

THE SUNK GARDEN.

First of all, accordingly, I made the acquaintance of the sunk garden, which has been designed with singular skill.

"This," said Mr. Heath, "is one of the new features. It is on the site of an old croquet or tennis lawn, with dry walls outside. The walks are paved with old red brick. There are Alpines on the dry walls. Three hundred varieties are represented, some of them in huge masses.

"The Lily pond is planted with choice varieties, representing four colours, yellow, pink, crimson, and white.

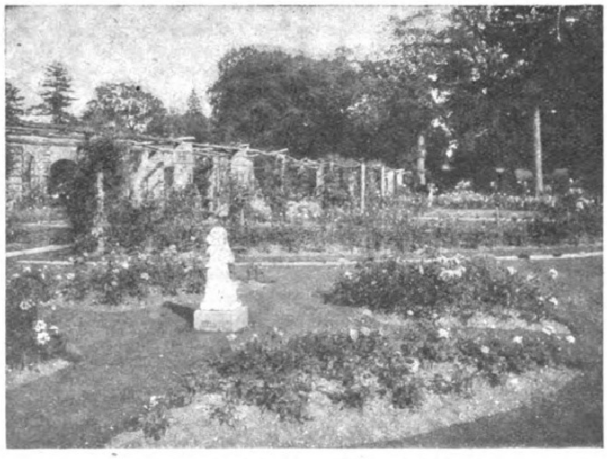
"Passing through the famous plantation of Cedars, estimated to be not far short of five centuries old, and fine specimens of Ilex, we come to the Tulip garden, which is laid out in beds cut out of the grass, with a canopy of Cedrus deodara. This, too, is a new feature, taken in from the park last year, so that we have only had one flowering esason. The twenty thousand Tulips planted in the beds comprise all the newest and best varieties."

"Has your first flowering season been a success?"

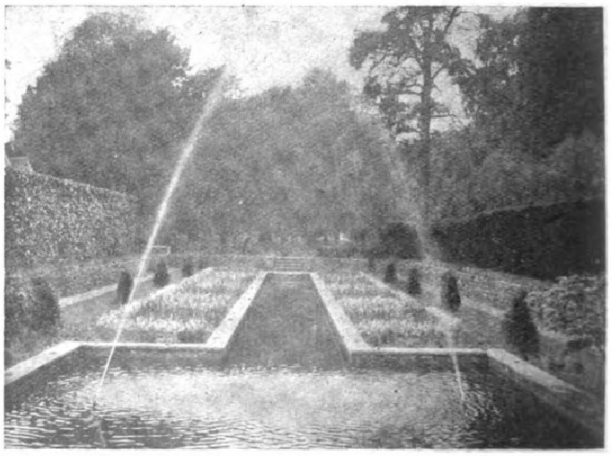
"Yes; a great success. This season the scheme of colour has been altered. Some of the beds contain three sorts, and others one. The garden is quite an acre in extent, and to render it more picturesque in appearance we introduced a number of old Apple trees which flower at the same time as the Tulips. As to soil, there are eighteen inches of loam over a chalk clay subsoil, and we had only to put in a little bonemeal. Many of the plants last year were two feet high.

THE ROSE GARDEN.

"Through Yew hedges we arrive at the Rose garden. You will notice that everything on the estate is of brick, which has the appearance of age, and also of warmth. This garden was made in 1911, the pergola, which runs the whole length of it, being also constructed of brick and tiles. The walks are paved with random paving of grey stone, sufficiently wide to render walking in wet weather practically dry. The pergola itself, which is two hundred and twenty feet long, is decorated with Clematis as well as Roses, and at the base there are masses of Lilium



THE ROSE GARDEN AT GREAT HALLINGBURY PLACE.



THE SUNK GARDEN AT GREAT HALLINGBURY PLACE.

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candidum. The Roses on the pergola are chiefly Lady Godiva, Lady Gay, Dorothy Perkins, American Pillar, Goldfinch, Electra, and White Perfection. The beds are all planted with one of a sort, the most notable varieties being Lady Ashdown, Madame A. Chatenay, Frau Karl Druschki, Caroline Testout, Hugh Dickson, Kœnigin Carola, Farben Kœnigin, and Liberty. In the long border under the wall all the colours are planted to blend. The edging of the whole of the Rose garden consists of mauve Viola cornuta. Mention must be made of the great bed in the centre, which we fill entirely with Nepeta Mussini, a mauve flower preceded by Spanish Iris.

"The water garden contains a summer-house, which you have probably seen before: it came from the exhibition at Chelsea last year. The garden itself was made in the autumn of 1911, on the site of an old pond with straight lines. The banks are clothed with plants which flower in masses at different periods.

A REPRESENTATIVE ROCKERY.

"Adjacent to the water garden is the rockery, which, as you will see, is on a large scale. It was taken in out of the park in 1911, and is constructed of Derbyshire stone, the design and execution being the work of Messrs. R. Wallace and Co., of Colchester. The number of varieties is very great, and flowering shrubs fairly divide the honours with Alpines. The former include Berberis Wilsonii, dulcis, dulcis nana, stenophylla, and japonica; Cotoneaster horizontalis, Cassinia fulvida, Kalmia latifolia, Pinus in variety, Spiræa Anthony Waterer and many other varieties, and Veronicas in variety.

"The Alpines in the rockery are too numerous to name, but the most representative are Alyssum montanum, Saxatile flore pleno, Androsace Chumbyi, Aubrietia Dr. Mules, deltoidea aurea Evans Favourite, Purple Robe; Campanulas G. F. Wilson, pusilla, p. alba, carpatica, and pulla; Dianthus Napoleon III., superbus, and deltoides; Erinus alpinus; Helianthemum Rose Queen, Lady Elizabetha, amabilis plena, and many other beautiful sorts; Heuchera Flambeau, Salmon Spray, sanguinea, and others; Hypericum fragilis, reptans, and repens; Lithospermum prostratum Heavenly Blue; Pentstemon glaber and g. roseus; Phlox G. F. Wilson, Seraph, and many others; Primula clusiana and marginata; Saxifrages Clibrani, hybrida grandiflora, Macnabiana, oppositifolia alba, o. splendens, pyramidalis, and many others; Thymus, and Viola gracilis.

"The charm of the rockery is greatly enhanced by the boulders which rise from masses of the Alpines and rock plants, and perhaps even more than this is the fact that the very existence of the rockery can hardly be suspected until the whole of it suddenly engages attention. There is no doubt that as time goes on it will increase in beauty."

THE IRIS AND HEATH GARDENS.

"Next to the rockery, and in close proximity to the croquet and tennis lawn, is the Iris garden. This we only made at the end of last year, and all I can tell you is that it is planted with upwards of seventy varieties, chosen for their striking colours. On the other side of the rockery is the Heath garden, the newest but one of all the departures. We only commenced to work at it in December. It contains nearly forty varieties of Ericas, with low growing shrubs, suitable for combination with the Heaths.

"Here is another addition; the spring garden. The site was originally perfectly flat, whereas, to-day you see a series of undulations. Fenced in, off the lawn, by the Yew hedge, it is planted so far as groundwork is concerned, with masses of bulbs, chiefly Crocuses, Snowdrops, Tulips, Polyanthus, and Grape Hyacinths. As to colours, we get as much blue and mauve as possible. The combinations in the drifts include blue Myosotis and pink Silene; Muscari Heavenly Blue, with yellow Tulips; pink Tulips and white Honesty, which is very pretty. Long stretches of Narcissus run through from one end to another. The groups of choice flowering shrubs include Almonds, Peaches, Brooms, and Berberis."

THREE HUNDRED FEET OF BORDERS.

"Returning to the long walk, the Anemone border under another wall is worthy of notice. We call it the Anemone japonica border, because the plants run through the centre; but there are Delphiniums, alternating with perennial Asters (Michaelmas Daisies) at the back, while in front pink and crimson Antirrhinums are interspersed with Spanish and English Iris. This combination gives a flowering season from June to November. The herbaceous borders, which vary in length, run to about three hundred feet in the long walk, and contain an enormous number of varieties chosen always for charm of colour, and to prolong the succession. A feature of these borders is that there are no straight lines, and no edging; everything trailing out naturally to the grass. There is absolutely no earth to be seen.

THE WILD GARDEN.

"But a short distance away from the spring garden is the wild garden, which until 1911 was covered with Laurels. It has, I think you will admit, been converted into a very fine, up-to-date garden, with undulating walks, grassy banks, and numerous representative varieties of shrubs and plants. These include among many others, Azaleas, with Heaths and Liliums; banks of Tellenberg Roses; Aconitum Wilsonii; Anchusa Opal; Arbutus unedo; Cerasus J. H. Veitch; Verbascum Caledonia and Miss Willmott; Wegelia rosea; Lupinus polyphyllus and arboreus; clumps of Rhododendrons; Lythrum Rosy Queen; banks of Pæonies of sorts; Liliums davuricum, lutea, candidum, giganteum, Hansoni, croceum, and tigrinum.

"Finally, there is the last innovation, the woodland garden, now in process of making. It runs through a small coppice to the church, and is planted mainly with Foxgloves, Gorse, and Brooms, with Polyanthus and different grasses. Everything planted is under the protection of Thorns, pink and white."

THE HIDDEN COLONY OF HOUSES.

"Before re-entering the kitchen garden you may wish to get a glimpse of the colony of houses which are practically hidden from view. That is to say, there is no glass in sight, even in the kitchen garden. But, of course, the houses are necessary and useful. With respect to plants, Coleus, Primula malacoides and sinensis, winter-flowering Begonias, Cyclamen, Cineraria, Tree and Malmaison Carnations, Zonal Pelargoniums, Erlangea tomentosa, Poinsettias, Freesias, and Cypripedium insigne form the principal."

"Is the Erlangea the mauve flower conspicuous at the present time, and can you tell me its treatment?"

"This is the first flowering season, and therefore my first experience of it. I took cuttings in the spring, struck them in heat, and grew on inside. The two cuttings have produced two dozen plants, with a quantity of blooms. They have no smell, but they are very pleasing in appearance, and a distinct addition to the number of winter-flowering plants. Of the remainder of the houses three are devoted to Peaches, two to Melons, and there are two vineries.

"In the kitchen garden, fruit and flowers compete for attention. All the borders are planted with annuals in clumps, embracing many scores of varieties. Wherever we can combine colours, we make a point of doing so, and one of the features is a blue border, composed exclusively of Delphiniums and Asters, Convolvulus minor, and blue Viola cornuta. Roses on arches run along the whole of the centre walk. Without going into any details about the fruit, I may say that Apples, including the Hallingbury Seedling, which was raised here, are grown on a large scale; also Pears, Plums, and the ordinary kinds of bush fruit. You will observe that though vegetables like Cabbages and Turnips are not suffered to grow in the kitchen garden, Peas, Beans, and even early Potatoes find a place here. But most of the vegetables are grown in the new garden which has lately been made out of the park, for the express purpose of vegetable cultivation."

MR. HEATH'S EXPERIENCES.

"You informed me that the rockery was designed by Messrs. R. Wallace and Co.; how about the rest of the designs, which have been carried out with such excellent results?"

"They were designed for Messrs. Wallace, and were carried out by our own staff under my instructions, with the exception of the rock garden, always, of course, with the approval of Mrs. Lockett Agnew."

"And your previous experience?"

"I started at Crown East Court, Worcestershire, and from Crown East I went to the nurseries of Messrs. Dickson, of Chester. Then I crossed over to Ireland, and was for two and a half years in county Cavan, at Castle Saunderson. I afterwards spent six months in England, and returned to Ireland to Dunardagh, Dublin, as foreman. My next appointment in England was as general foreman in the gardens of Lord Halifax, at Hickleton Hall, Yorkshire. There I remained for three years and a half, and then went, after I had married, as head gardener to West Retford House. At the end of seven years I moved into Hertfordshire, and took charge of the gardens at Aldwickbury. Mr. Alfred Loder was at that time the owner, and I remained with him for two years, and then with Mrs. Lockett Agnew, who succeeded him, for a couple of years, prior to her removal to Great Hallingbury Place." ALFRED WILCOX.

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During a spell of dry weather in April or May, a week before the date of hatching, the eggs should be sprinkled with tepid water every morning immediately before the hens return to their nest, after being off the allotted quarter of an hour for food and water. Early in the year twelve eggs are sufficient for a hen to cover properly; later, when the weather is warmer, fourteen is not too many. A common mistake is that of putting the eggs under the hen the moment she shows signs of broodiness. All hens do not take to the eggs at once—some will sit on them two days, when, through no apparent cause, they will leave the nest, and eggs so treated are generally useless. The correct method is to set the hen for three days on false eggs before committing good eggs to her charge. The hens should be taken off regularly each day for food. If this detail is attended to irregularly the hens, after a stated time, become restless, and often are found standing up off the eggs waiting to be released. In this way, if nothing worse happens, the outer eggs become unduly cold, making the hatching irregular, and may spoil the lot. As each hen is lifted from her nest she should be tethered to a stick thrust in the ground, a loop passing round one leg. Some such method as this must be practised where a number of hens are sitting together. Some person may say, What difference does it make which nest a hen returns to? All hens are not of the same body temperature, and as eggs require regularity of temperature it will be seen how important it is that each hen has her own nest continuously. Maize is the best food for sitting hens, as it provides the most warmth from food. Clean drinking water, too, is important.

Beans for Cattle.

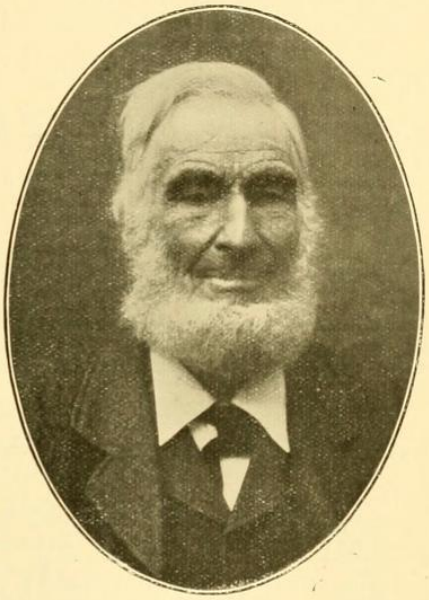
The common Horse Bean (Faba vulgaris), when split, is excellent for horses in hard work, fed with Oats and chaff. Bean meal is capital for fattening stock, as it is rich in nitrogenous as well as starchy foods. For cows in milk a little with the cake rations adds richness to the milk. For lambs fattening after they are three months old split Beans give a great fillip to other foods for putting on flesh. The best Beans are grown on heavy soil, say following a Wheat crop, and, if not wet, land should be sown in October, and the crop is then ready for harvesting sooner than the spring-sown crop, which is known as the Spring, or Lick Bean. The winter Bean is smaller than the spring variety. If the soil is light in character the winter variety should be sown. The yield per acre is uncertain; five quarters is good; adverse weather—drought especially—may reduce the amount to six sacks per acre. Good Beans should give 64 lb. per bushel. 2½ bushels per acre is required for seed. The land should be deeply ploughed in the autumn and well cultivated in the spring for the summer variety. There are many methods of sowing Beans. Broadcasting is easy, but prevents hoeing afterwards. Drilling the seed deeply 18 inches wide is the quicker method. Dibbling the Beans two in a hole is also a good plan. *E. Molyneux.*

Spring Wheats.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England, on the recommendation of the War Emergency Committee appointed in December last, has issued a leaflet prepared by the Botanist of the Society—Professor R. H. Biffen, F.R.S.—giving advice to farmers in connection with the sowing of spring Wheats. The society states that the question is one of great importance in view of the country's requirements in the matter of food supply, and hopes that advantage will be widely taken of the information which has been prepared to assist agriculturists in maintaining the maximum growth of Wheat. Copies of the leaflet can be had on application to the Secretary, Royal Agricultural Society of England, 16, Bedford Square, London, W.C

Obituary.

Charles Ross.—It is with regret that we announce the death of the veteran gardener, Mr. Chas. Ross, whose work in raising new fruits, principally Apples, has obtained for him wide fame. He died at Westgate-on-Sea on the 4th inst., aged 92 years. Mr. Ross was for many years gardener at Welford Park, Berkshire. He was born on the Dalmeny Estate, Midlothian, where his father was head gardener to the then Earl of Rosebery. He was employed in early youth at Messrs. Dickson and Sons' nursery, Edinburgh, and in several private gardens, notably that of Dalkeith. His first position as head gardener was at Fairlawn, Tonbridge, Kent, where he remained for six years. In 1860 he went to Welford Park, where he remained until 1908, when he retired. Deceased attained wide fame chiefly in connection with the raising of new Apples. It was about 1886 that his famous cross between Cox's Orange Pippin and Peasgood's Nonesuch was effected, and from that cross have been obtained several very fine varieties, including Charles Ross, a beautiful Apple, which worthily perpetuates the raiser's



THE LATE CHARLES ROSS, V.M.H.

name. Its original name was Thomas Andrew Knight, under which title it received an Award of Merit from the R.H.S. Some years after the name had been changed to Charles Ross it obtained a First-class Certificate. Immediately before the granting of the latter award, the variety received 1st prize for flavour in a class for dessert Apples at the R.H.S. Fruit Show. From the same cross came The Houblon, Rival, and Renown—three superb Apples. Other excellent Apples raised by Mr. Ross are Paroquet, famed for its beautiful colour; Hector Macdonald, a seedling from Lane's Prince Albert; Encore, from Warner's King and Old Northern Greening; Excelsior, from Peasgood's Nonesuch and Duke of Devonshire, a fine, roundish Apple, with a small curl at the stem; and many others not so well known. Altogether Mr. Ross obtained for his seedlings three First-class Certificates and ten Awards of Merit.

Alfred Hemsley.—We regret to record the death from cancer in the throat of Alfred Hemsley, which occurred at his residence, Wisteria Road, Lewisham, on the 30th ult. He was born on January 7, 1851, so that he had completed his 66th year. He commenced his gardening career in a general market garden nursery at Hassocks, Sussex, where his father was manager. He passed through the various departments, and became well grounded in practical knowledge and specially in the forcing of Grapes, Peaches, and Cucumbers. He entered the R.H.S. Gardens at Chiswick in 1878, and was soon promoted to the position of foreman plant grower, and his skill as a grower and his taste in displaying his plants, both in the conservatories and at the shows, was generally acknowledged. He left Chiswick in 1882, and after a short engagement at Carlisle, entered the service of Mr. H. B. May, Edmonton, with whom he remained until 1899. His success there as a Fern grower was well known in the trade. Mr. Hemsley wrote articles for the Horticultural Press for many years, and from 1903 he devoted himself entirely to the literary side of his profession. Besides contributing to English journals, including the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, he wrote for the *American Florist and Florists' Exchange*, and was author of the *Book of Fern Culture*, of John Lane's series of "Handbooks," and joint author with Mr. John Fraser of an edition of *Johnson's Gardeners' Dictionary*, which has been published only a few days. About 1910 his health failed, and he accomplished little work after that. He married in 1883, and leaves a widow, three daughters, and two sons, the younger of whom is a second lieutenant in the 1/13 London Regiment. Mr. Hemsley was an enthusiastic cultivator of Carnations, and his familiarity with the various branches of market gardening was exceptional.

Richard J. Donavan.—*The American Florist* announces the death of Mr. Richard J. Donavan, a florist of Chicago, which occurred on January 3 last. Mr. Donavan was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1848, and was employed for a time in London nurseries. He settled in the United States in 1871, at Philadelphia, and later moved to Chicago, where he was first employed in the Rosehill cemetery. In 1879 he started a commercial establishment on Ravenswood Avenue, where he built up a prosperous business.

H. Witte.—M. H. Witte, whose death is announced in the Dutch Press, was born in 1829. He became curator of the Botanical Garden at Rotterdam, and was transferred in 1854 to Leiden Botanical Gardens, where he remained till his retirement in 1898. He was succeeded at Leiden by his son, M. E. T. H. Witte, who is still in office there. Deceased, who died on January 9 ult., in his 88th year, was a corresponding member of several horticultural bodies, including the Royal Horticultural Society (London). He played a prominent part in the creation of many Dutch horticultural associations, and although he was deaf and nearly blind in his later years, he continued a contributor to the horticultural Press until a few days before his death.

Dr. N. H. J. Miller.—Dr. Miller, whose death took place on January 12 at Harpenden, had worked at Rothamsted for 30 years. One of his main investigations, described in the course of a sympathetic obituary notice by Dr. E. J. Russell, consisted in demonstrating, by analytical measurements of the amounts of ammonia in rain, the falseness of Liebig's assertion that plants derive their nitrogen from the ammonia brought down in rain. Dr. Miller also made important contributions to our knowledge of the quantity of nitrogen lost to the soil in drainage water, showing that land loses nitrogen in the form of nitrates at the rate of from 35-40 lb. per annum.

Frank Somerford.—We learn with regret that Mr. Frank Somerford died on the 26th ult. at Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital. Mr. Somerford was a native of Kent, and he started his gardening career in a nursery at Deal. Afterwards he was appointed foreman at Charlton House, Kent. Later, for twelve years, he held the post of gardener to the late Mr. Battie Wrightson, Cusworth Hall, Doncaster, and from 1897 to 1904 was gardener to the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot at Ingestre Hall, Stafford. In recent years he was engaged in business on his own account.

Monsieur E. T. Touret.—Monsieur Eugène Félix Touret, the well-known French landscape gardener, died at Paris on January 29 after a long illness. M. Touret's son Eugène, Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, who follows the same profession as his father, was for some time a student of the R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley.

ALFRED HEMSLEY.

We learn with regret of the death, from cancer in the throat, of Alfred Hemsley, which occurred at his residence, Lewisham, on the 30th ult., in his sixty-sixth year. Mr. Hemsley commenced his gardening career in a general market garden nursery at Hassocks, Sussex. In 1878 he entered the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Chiswick. Leaving Chiswick in 1882, and after a short engagement at Carlisle, he entered the service of Mr. H. B. May, Edmonton, with whom he remained until 1899. His success there as a Fern-grower was well known in the trade. Mr. Hemsley wrote articles for the horticultural Press for many years, and from 1903 he devoted himself entirely to the literary side of his profession. He was author of the "Book of Fern Culture" and joint author with Mr. John Fraser of an edition of "Johnson's Gardeners' Dictionary," which has been published only a few days.

The Garden, 1917

excellent plant for the outskirts of the shrubbery, and will thrive in ordinary garden soil which is not too wet.

Sound Advice.

February 6th.—One of the elementary principles in landscape gardening on a large scale is that the trees and shrubs should be so grouped as to suggest other beautiful views besides the one at which the spectator is looking. In small gardens this principle is often ignored, yet it should certainly be applied as far as possible. In "Pictorial Gardening," Mr. Millin says, "It may with some reason be contended that the smaller the garden, the more necessary it is cunningly to conceal its limits from any one point of view. This should always be borne in mind in deciding on the decorative features of a plot of ground—clusters of shrubs, trellis-work, archways, fountains, and so forth. It is astonishing what a little artistic skill and ingenuity may do to give variety and seeming extent to even a suburban back garden. However small the plot of ground, it should not all be shown at once; but, on the other hand, care must be taken not to partition off one piece from the other so completely as to cut one small garden into two or three smaller ones." This is undoubtedly sound advice.

Forcing Azaleas and Lilacs.

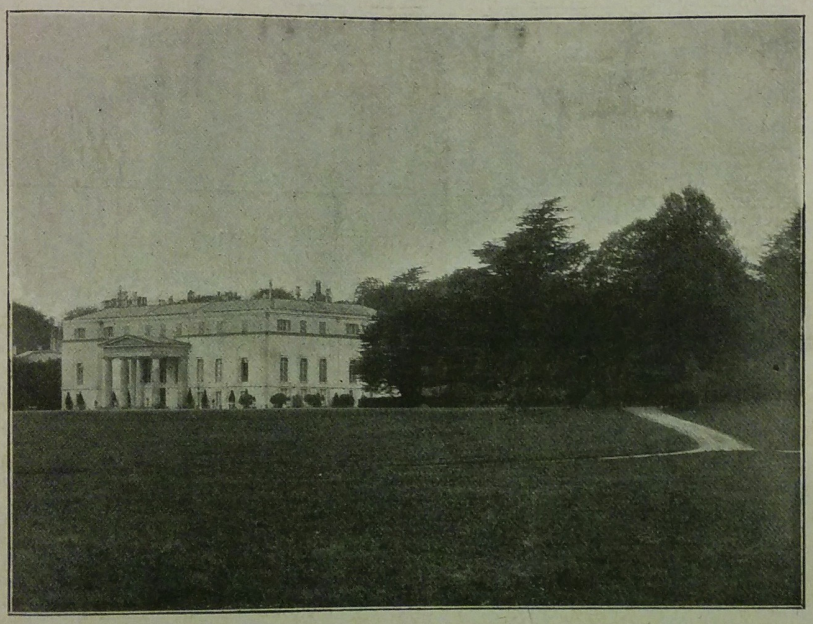
February 7th.—I see that somebody has devised a method of shortening the time necessary for forcing such shrubs as Azaleas and Lilacs. They are immersed for some minutes in hot water, and then they are afterwards placed, as usual, in a warm greenhouse, where they will flower with surprising celerity. The effect of the treatment may be shown in a remarkable way by immersing some branches of a plant, and not others. When this is done, the former will flower, while the latter still remain dormant, and in this manner the flowering period may be greatly extended. It is stated that even a single branch may be made to flower at different times by placing only a part of it in hot water. This, if true, is very remarkable. No doubt, the effect of the hot water is to soften the epidermis of the buds on the part immersed, and thus to enable them to burst more quickly.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of the Earl of Northbrook.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. EDWARD HENDERSON, AT STRATTON,

THE pleasure grounds at Stratton, the historic seat in Hampshire of the Earl of Northbrook, which I visited a few weeks ago, are thirty acres in extent, and embrace many features of great interest. On my arrival, Mr. Edward Henderson, the head gardener, proposed that we should walk across the portion of the park which separates them from the houses and kitchen garden adjoining his own pleasant residence. A drizzling rain did not hinder us from inspecting the charms of the gardens, which have been largely developed under the auspices of the present Countess of Northbrook. The formal bedding in front of the mansion consists of various sections, and I asked the scheme for spring-bedding.



STRATTON, MICHELDEVER, HANTS.

The Flower Beds.

"There are sixteen beds of early-flowering Tulips," replied Mr. Henderson, "with the Darwin Tulips growing among them. The variety of the former is Stanley (rose colour), and of the latter Queen of Roses. These are over a groundwork of Viola Ardwell Gem (pale yellow). The four beds in the centre are also early-flowering and late Tulips, over mauve Violas. Then there are the eight beds outside the sections, with Caroline Testout Roses, and two varieties of Tulip, Celeste (blue), and The Dream (heliotrope), also with mauve Violas as a groundwork. The stones round the sundial have flowers growing with them; a Yew hedge, after the old English style, encloses the sections, and round the outside beds are specimen Portugal Laurels."

"How are the sections filled in the summer?"

"The groundwork of the sixteen beds is formed of Geraniums Souvenir de Charles Turner, interspersed with standard Fuchsias, Eucalyptus, and Veronica Andersonii. The groundwork of the four centre beds is composed of Heliotropes Lord Roberts, with Lilium longifolium over. The outside beds contain Caroline Testout Roses all along, with a groundwork of Gypsophila elegans in summer."

"I notice that the stone wall at the side is planted."

"Yes, with rock and spring plants, most of which are also in the rock garden. Wichurian Roses hang over the wall, and above it are Dorothy Perkins in chains."

"And the four baskets?"

"In spring there are dot plants of yellow Polyanthus, intermixed with Aubrietias græca, and for very early flowering there are mixed Hyacinths and Narcissus. Then the late-flowering Tulips, Bouton d'Or are used, the idea being to get a range of colour from February until the end of May. In summer they are filled with sub-tropical plants, such as Grevilleas, Cannas, Melianthus, Solanums, Eucalyptus, and Japanese Maples, with a groundwork of Begonias semperflorens."

"You have a large number of vases and tubs to fill?"

"Upwards of eighty. We use Marguerites and Geraniums Souvenir de Charles Turner. Pink and white are the favourite colours at Stratton. In the two beds at the foot of the steps leading to the dining-room, there are standards of Prunus Pissardi, and Reine Olga de Wurtemburg Roses, with a groundwork of Begonias semperflorens, and a broad edging of Dactylis variegata, while over the whole are specimen plants of Acers, Eucalyptus, green Cannas, and Iresine Lindenii."

The Wild Garden.

"In the walk leading to the collection of fine old Cedars of Lebanon and atlantica glauca," continued Mr. Henderson, "we have a combination of blue and red in the tubs, Agapanthus umbellatus and Cannas being arranged alternately. In a bed near the fine avenue of Limes, three-quarters of a mile long, is a quantity of Spiræas argentea, over Anemone japonica—scarlet and white. But now, I think, we might proceed to the wild garden."

"Of which some remarkably good clumps of choice hardy Bamboos appear to be a feature."

"Yes, the collection represents many of the best varieties, and the soil suits Bamboos. Of Arundinaria japonica there is a specimen twenty feet through, and nitida and Simoni are amongst the other varieties of this section. Then there are Phyllostachys aurea, Henonis (one of the most beautiful), nigra, and viridiglaucescens; and Bambusa palmata, marmorea, and nobilis. Two years ago, nobilis, after making a clump twelve feet high, flowered. We saved the seed, and have now a dozen young plants. We also have some young plants of Simoni and Henonis."

"How large is the wild garden?"

"Altogether, including winding paths, about five acres. In addition to the Bamboos, there is a fine clump of the Japanese Umbrella-

plant, a clump of Gunnera manicata; a specimen plant of Eryngium pandanifolium (which throws out flower-spikes twelve feet high), Funkia ovata (with its variegated leaves), and Megasea orbicularis, with dark, massive foliage, and large heads of rose-coloured flowers. Then, there are groups of wild Ferns, and choice flowering shrubs, while in the spring the whole of the wild garden is more or less carpeted with Scillas and Narcissus, and later with Bluebells and Primroses."

Alpines for Colour.

"I notice that your very extensive rockery on the side of a bank has a fine background of Beeches, and that stones for walking on have been adroitly arranged. Are your varieties chosen for colour?"

"Yes, mainly. The principal are Aubrietias Dr. Mules, Pritchard's A1, Leichtlini, and Bridesmaid, the best of which, I consider, is Dr. Mules; Alyssum saxatile compacta and citrina, the latter being quite lemon in colour; Cytisus Præcox, kewensis, and Andreana, and the Gum Cistus; Daphnes cneorum, Blagayana, and mezereum alba; Dianthus of various sorts; Ericas carnea and arborea; Campanulas pusilla, garganica, muralis, etc.; Alpine Phloxes, annulata, subulata, Vivid, and Daisy Hill vars.; Saxifrages Burseriana, Rocheliana, sancta, oppositifolia, pyramidalis, MacNabiana, Sanctoscana, and longiflora; Gentiana verna; Dryas and Drabas; Sempervivums in variety, and Waldsteinias."

Overlooking the rockery is a charming summer-house, covered in October with Vitis coignetiæ, and facing this is the Venetian well-head, with stone flags and plants between, the latter including Myosotis, Aubrietias, and Arabis. Round the well-head are four beds, two of Rosemary, and two of Lavender; and at this stage we commenced inspecting the herbaceous borders and shrubberies, in which are choice collections of many varieties.

Striking Combinations.

"One large bed," said Mr. Henderson, "is filled in the spring with Brigid Anemones and Narcissus poeticus ornatus, which are succeeded in summer by herbaceous Pæonies and Eremurus robustus and himalaicus (rose and white). From one stool of robustus, we had five spikes, a single spike being sixteen and a half feet long. Another combination is a bed with Prunus Pissardi in the centre, surrounded with Golden Privet, outside being a broad band of Nepeta cœrulea. The next bed to this has Acer negundo variegata in the centre, surrounded by Berberis Thunbergi, also edged by Nepetas. A large oval bed has standards of Prunus Pissardi, Viburnum opulus, Brooms, and Golden Privet, clothed with a groundwork of Sutton's Royal Blue Myosotis."

"Then there are the seven beds along the walk, where the oval bed begins?"

"In the centre is a large standard of Prunus Pissardi; at each corner is an Irish Yew, and for a groundwork there are Royal Blue Myosotis and Polyanthus Narcissus. Along this walk is the winding pergola, with Roses on the arches, and on the latticework, Kerria japonica, Clematises Jackmanni and flammula, and Jasminum nudiflorum."

"What are the varieties of Roses on the pergola?"

A WALK IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

"Dorothy Perkins, Lady Gay, Crimson Rambler, The Dawson, Thalia, Wichuriana, Aglaia, rubra, and Mrs. F. W. Flight, which does especially well here. The straight pergola, with stone flagging beneath, which was made two years ago, and has, on either side, a border of Lavender hanging over the stone, is clothed with ornamental Vines and Honeysuckle, also Polygonum multiflora and Aristolochia, the pergola being about thirty yards long. Here, too, are a number of the herbaceous beds, which are arranged for colour. One, for instance, has orange, scarlet, and yellow shades grouped, the orange represented being Chelone barbata, Geums, and Heleniums; the scarlet by Pentstemons Hartwegi and Newbury Gem, Lychnis chalcedonica, and Sweet Williams; and the yellow by Solidago Shortii and Heleniums Bolanderi and pumilum. For purposes of colour, we also use Centranthus ruber, Tritomas, Achilleas, Eupatoriums, Œnothera, Violas (blue, pale yellow, white and grey), Delphiniums (hybrids), Eryngiums planum and Oliverianum, Thalictrum glauca and angustifolia, Hemerocallis (pale yellow), Rudbeckia Newmanii, Salvias Pitcheri and patens, Asters in variety, Stachys lanata, and Artemisia rosemarinifolia."

Flowering Shrubs and Roses.

"What varieties are represented in your avenue of flowering shrubs?"

"The most important are Choisya ternata, Spiræas argentea, confusa, Thunbergi, Douglassi, etc., Weigelas rosea and Eva Rathke, Viburnum opulus and plicatum, Berberis stenophylla and Darwinii, Amelanchier, Pyrus atrosanguinea and Schiedeineri, Buddleia variablilis, Veitchiana and globosa, and Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles. Here, as you see, we are making another little garden, consisting chiefly of Roses, in beds of one variety, with standards of Dorothy Perkins. Outside, Lavender and standard Roses are used. There are two beds of Hermosa, and one each of Liberty, Richmond, Belle Siebrecht, Caroline Testout, Madame Abel Chatenay, and Hugh Dickson."

"There is a delightful lack of formality in the whole of the pleasure grounds."

A YEAR-OLD PERGOLA AT STRATTON.

"That is really what we aim at, and hence such features as the Yew arches, while beyond these in the summer is an avenue of Dracæna indivisa, the plants being quite ten feet high. In the summer and autumn, the avenue of flowering shrubs is brightened conspicuously with a collection of Rhus, arranged in groups, while in front is a border of Lavender. These can be clearly seen from the drawing-room, beyond the stretch of lawn under the windows."

An Ornamental Kitchen Garden.

"But," I said, when we had recrossed the park and entered the kitchen gardens, "you have another fine flower garden here."

"We do our best to make these gardens ornamental as well as useful. The arrangement from one gate to another, in front of the range of houses, the whole being over four hundred feet long, is just a row of herbaceous plants, edged with Box and topiary work; a pergola down the centre, with Roses, Clematis, and Virginian Creepers; a branch pergola with Polygonum Baldschuanicum, and Crimson Rambler Roses, chiefly; while in continuation of the pergola in the centre is a long avenue of Lilacs and Laburnums. Then, on the right of this walk, along which is a fine old Magnolia, are the flower beds, and on the left the fruit, and such vegetables as are grown here. But the winter vegetables are all grown in the nursery on high ground."

"You appear to have lines of flower beds?"

"Yes, that is the system, the outer lines consisting of eight beds, and the whole being divided up by grass paths. At one end is a Lily pond, with Roses round, the varieties being chiefly Alberic Barbier, William Allen Richardson, and Aimee Vibert."

"I should like to have the names of some of the Apples and Pears which flourish on the long fruit pergola."

Fruit on the Pergolas.

"The Apples are principally Lady Henniker, Warner's King, Cox's Orange Pippin, Blenheim Orange, King of Pippins, Duchess of Oldenburg, Claygate Pearmain, Gascoigne's Scarlet, and Duchess's Favourite. Amongst the Pears are Pitmaston Duchess, Williams's Bon Chretien, Jargonelle, Beurre Diel, Clairgeau, Thompson's, Marie Louise, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Winter Nelis, and Catillac. The Pears on the walls include Doyenne du Comice, Triomphe de Vienne, Beurre Bosc, Beurre Bachelier, Souvenir du Congres, and General Todleben. Apples on standards are mainly Golden Noble, Wellington, Gravenstein, King of Pippins, Blenheim Orange, and Cox's Orange Pippins."

"Which Plums do you find thrive best on the walls?"

"Coe's Golden Drop, Greengage, Victoria, Jefferson, Kirke's, and Magnum Bonum."

"And Strawberries outside?"

"My experience is that Royal Sovereign, Kentish Fillbasket, and Givons' Late Prolific do better than many other varieties. I plant one-third of a bed every year, and of each yearly planting, I have half forced plants, and half runners. The runners are not allowed to fruit the first year. We double-dig the ground and well manure it previously, and the whole bed is always mulched in the late autumn. A thousand Royal Sovereign are grown for forcing."

"Then there is the fruit inside?"

"In the early Peach house we have fruit in the middle of June. We start it on January 1st, with Peaches, Royal George, Dymond and Violette Hative, and Dryden Nectarine. The second house, started on February 7th, is in fruit from about July 10th, and contains Goshawk, Gros Mignonne, and Princess of Wales."

"When was your Muscat house planted?"

"Two years ago. The varieties in the late Vinery are Black Alicante, Lady Downe's Seedling and Gros Maroc. We have three crops of Melons in the houses, and then some in frames. The latest varieties are Sutton's A1 and Hero of Lockinge; but we also grow Ringleader, Lord Derby, Countess, Golden Perfection, and Superlative."

How Zonals are Grown.

"Judging by your display of Zonal Pelargoniums, they are a favourite flower?"

"A house is devoted to them, and I suppose that there are over a hundred plants here. The varieties include several pink shades, such as Barbara Hope, Duchess of Roxburgh, Duchess of Connaught, and Marie Carmichael. Goodwood is an excellent white, and we also grow Mikado (cerise). We strike the Zonals in January, and put them in their flowering-pots early in June. When the plants are established, they are stood outside on ashes, and fed well. We house them the first week in September, and they supply masses of bloom right away until January, providing that they have a gentle heat, with temperature never less than fifty degrees, and a free circulaion of air. They are used for table decoration. At a recent shooting party there were upwards of a hundred spikes of flowers on the table."

Best Carnations.

"What is the plant on the roof of this house?"

"An old variety of Tropæolum, which flowers all the year round. It supplies the scarlet, and Plumbago capensis the blue. In the next house Malmaison Carnations are grown, pink and crimson shades predominating. The varieties are Princess of Wales, Duchess of Westminster, King Oscar, Mrs. Trelawney, the Old Blush, Prime Minister, and Maggie Hodson. We also grow a number of Border Carnations in pots, which flower after the Trees, namely Cecilia, Lady Hermione, Leander, The Pasha, Eden, Trojan, and King Arthur. But we had better go into the house where the Trees are grown."

"Which do you consider the best whites?"

"White Perfection, Lady Bountiful, My Maryland, and Mrs. S. J. Brooks. The best scarlets are Robert Craig, Crusader, Britannia, and General Kuroki; the best cerise, Nelson Fisher, Pink Patten, and Mrs. T. W. Lawson; the best salmon-pinks, Mrs. Burnett and Countess of Lytton; and the best pale pinks, Enchantress, Fair Maid and Floriana. We also grow Prosperity and Mikado. On the shelf are Freesias refracta alba. Next, we might take the Chrysanthemums."

Chrysanthemum Cultivation.

"Do you go in considerably for them?"

"We have about two hundred for decorative work, and the same number disbudded for large flowers. I find the following the best for decoration in their respective colours:—Pink, N. C. S. Jubilee, Renee, Fair Maid, and Framfield Beauty; white, Madame Philip Rivoire, Moneymaker, Mrs. J. Thompson, and Western King; yellow, Soleil d'Octobre, Algernon Davis, F. S. Vallis, King of Plumes, and Mrs. Beech; crimson and red, J. H. Silsbury, Kathleen Thompson, G. Penfold, and Cullingfordii."

"When do you strike your Chrysanthemums?"

"In December, on a slight hotbed of leaves, without any hot-water pipe heat. When rooted in the middle of January, the plants are gradually hardened by ventilation, and we then pot them off singly in 'sixties,' in a compost of two parts loam and one of leaf-soil, with a good smattering of road-grit. After potting, we stand them in frames as near as possible to the glass, and keep close for a day or two. After this, the ventilation is increased, care being taken not to admit cold winds; on favourable days we damp them over with the syringe before reducing air. From the middle of March they are ready for 6-in pots, when the compost should be similar to the one already named, only not sifted, and with some artificial manure or bonemeal added. When established in these pots, an abundance of air is given, and the plants are greatly benefited by the addition of clear soot-water, which should be used at each time of watering, and also to syringe with."

"You find that this keeps the plants in good colour?"

"Yes, and it also tends to keep fly and rust off. The Decorative varieties are topped directly they are rooted through after this shift. About the middle of April, we support all specimen plants with small stakes, in readiness for the final pots, in which they are placed in the middle of May. The compost for this potting consists of two-thirds good fibrous loam, one-third of leaf-soil, and enough road-grit, coarse sand or mortar-rubble, with charcoal, to make the whole porous, and a sufficiency of bonemeal. We pot firmly, leave enough room for top-dressing, and stand them pot to pot until rooted.

THE BEAUTIFUL SMOKE PLANT (RHUS COTINUS) AT STRATTON.

They are then placed out in single rows, to stranded wires, in order to secure them to the stakes. At this time, great attention is paid to watering, and we keep the water just tinged with soot."

"What about manure-water?"

"In the first week of July we give weak manure-water at intervals. I find that by watering with manure-water two days following I ensure all the plants getting it. In the middle of July, we topdress, and again in the middle of August, if there is space left at the final potting. If the plants have been timed rightly, the buds will begin to show from August 14th, when they are taken at discretion. The earliest are slightly retarded, and those a fortnight later are taken as quickly as possible. From this date we feed liberally, and give a change of manure as often as we can. As soon as any buds show colour, the plants are housed, and the entire collection is in by October 1st. The houses in which Chrysanthemums are placed are fumigated at the first opportunity; and have a nice warmth in the pipes, with a circulation of air, which takes away the dampness of the atmosphere."

Ipomeas for Table Decoration.

Proceeding to further houses, I observed a number of Orchids, Cypripedium insigne and Calanthe Veitchii; also a considerable batch of Primulas Ruby King, and Cyclamen (salmon-pink)."

"Do you use either for table decoration?" I asked.

"Sometimes we use the Primulas, and they light up beautifully. We also use Plumbago rosea, which is exceedingly effective. As you see, it is a tall-growing variety, very graceful in its growth. I propagated a good many in the summer. It wants a rather warm house. We strike in January, and pot on as required, feeding liberally as the pots get full of roots. We get them to flower in November, and they last on for three months."

"You have a house which seems to be a blaze of electric blue."

"I thought that you would appreciate the show of Ipomœa cœrulea, which we use for luncheon-table decoration, filling sometimes as many as eighteen vases in November and December. Ipomœa is, of course, an annual. We sow the seeds in the middle of July, singly in 'sixty' pots, pot on into 8-in. pots, and put the pots into the position where the plants are to flower about August, training them on strings. When the pots are full of roots, we feed the plants freely."

"I should like to have a few notes of your big breadths of vegetables."

"Being a large household, they are necessarily grown in quantity. The average number of sacks of Potatoes stored at lifting-time is a hundred and thirty. For early work, we use May Queen and Sharpe's Victor, and Up-to-Date, The Factor, King Edward, Duchess of Cornwall, and Sir John Llewelyn for the main crop. For Peas we get the ground ready and well manured before the new year. For early use, we sow inside on soil in wire netting, made in the shape of troughs; the bottoms are lined with moss, in order to carry the soil, and the netting on the side is supported by Hazel rods. These are four feet in length, and are easily lifted about; they enable us to plant the whole thing out without any disturbance or check. The varieties grown are May Queen, Early Giant, World Record, Gradus, Edwin Beckett, Duke of Albany, Centenary, Alderman, Quite Content, Gladstone, and Autocrat. Last year we picked Peas from June 14th to November 10th."

"What about Celery?"

"We have always, until lately, had trouble with millipedes, worms, and slugs, notwithstanding dressings of soot, lime, and salt; but last year, at the time of getting the trenches out, I used Kilogrub with most satisfactory results, having perfectly clean sticks. The varieties are White Gem, Aldenham Pink, and Major Clarke's Red. As to other vegetables, I find no Runner Beans equal to Scarlet Emperor and Hackwood Park Success. Seakale we force from two-year-old crowns, putting in batches of cuttings yearly.

Forcing Asparagus.

"All our Asparagus is forced from three-year-old seedlings, and we have now started on plants raised from seed in 1905. I sow in July and August, for spring use, Flower of Spring, Sutton's April, and Wheeler's Imperial Cabbages. In January, I sow and transplant Wythe's Early Gem, which I again sow outside in March, with Savoys for Michaelmas use. There are altogether eight acres of kitchen garden, including the houses."

Mr. Henderson's Career.

"How long have you been in charge of the gardens, Mr. Henderson?"

"Four years last October, I started at Sandell's, Reigate, and in succession went to Round Oak, Englefield Green; to Strathfieldsaye, as Chrysanthemum grower; Cornbury Park, Charlbury, as foreman; Crichel House, Dorsetshire, as foreman; and Heywood, Abbeyleix, Queen's County, as head gardener. Since I have been at Stratton, I have shown Chrysanthemums, Primulas, Carnations and Zonal Pelargoniums, and have been first for groups of Chrysanthemums on two occasions."

Alfred Wilcox.

A Sundial in the Flower Garden at Stratton.

Border Oxalis.

The species of Oxalis most commonly used as edging for bedding plants are Dieppi and Lasiandra. Tropæoloides, rosea and Bowei are occasionally used as border plants. A neater border plant than Dieppi would be hard to find. The rank, clover-like leaves are a fresh, clear green, shaded deeper, and there is a long profusion of its flowers as well. These blossoms resemble the old Wood Sorrel (Oxalis acetosella), being about half an inch in diameter, and of a very pale, pinkish tinge, or nearly white. If planted three inches apart, a row of Dieppi makes a thick rounded border of uniform height, eight to ten inches, according to soil. The bulbs increase ten to twenty-fold in a season. In the autumn they are usually dug up, kept in a frost-proof place until spring, and then replanted. Dieppi is also known as O. tetraphylla.

That is the good side of Dieppi. The bad side is that it increases like scandal, and unless it is winter-killed, it becomes an intolerable nuisance.

Lasiandra lacks the neat, compact habit of the former, but otherwise is better in every way. It grows about fifteen or sixteen inches high, is of a loose, slender habit, with peculiar, deep-cut leaves. The flowers are showy, of a deep, rose-red. This variety is not a pest, and it will not stand a temperature that falls below zero, so there is no danger of its spreading, anyway, from any bulbs, which might be overlooked.

Tropæoloides is another low, thick-growing border plant. Its name means that it resembles a Nasturtium in foliage. Its leaves are blotched with brown, and its flowers are yellow.

Rosea, or multiflora—it goes by both names—is usually classed with winter-blooming Oxalis, but comes nearer being an evergreen sort. It may be used as a summer edging plant. It does not produce as thick a mat of foliage as Dieppi, but makes a pretty low edge that is bright all the summer, with a cloud of pretty pink flowers. It is not hardy.

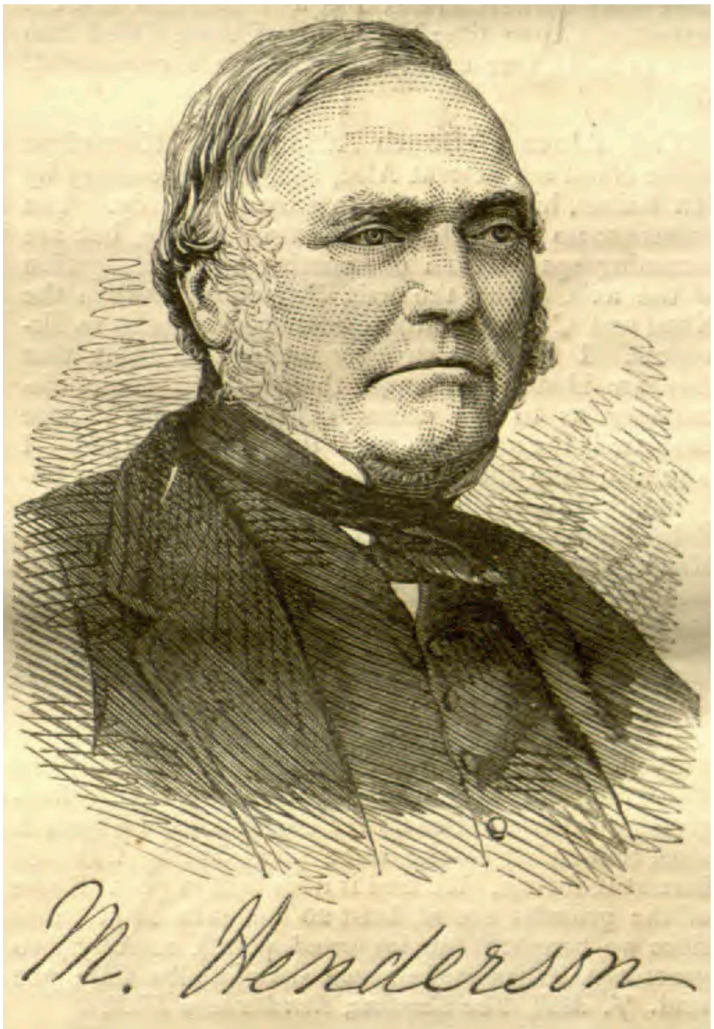
Bowei is sometimes used as a border plant, and where the winters are not severe, it proves hardy. There is a waxen look to its rounded leaflets, that makes a well-nourished plant of this, one of the most attractive of all the Oxalis in foliage. The richer the ground it grows in, the larger and waxier its foliage. Bowei bears flowers of extra large size, and of vivid, rose-crimson colour. All the foregoing bloom soon after planting.

Border Oxalis need no special attention. Plant three inches apart in spring, and lift the bulbs in autumn. They will grow in any soil, but are much ranker in rich ground.

Delamere.

When greenhouse plants become slightly frozen, the best thing to do is to sprinkle them well overhead with ice-cold water, and keep them shaded from any sun—almost dark, in fact, with a gradually rising temperature. The cold water will draw the frost out of the foliage, and, if not frozen too hard, no harm will be done.

Stenanthium robustum is the name of a newly-introduced plant from the mountains of Carolina. It produces plumes of pure white feathery blossoms, bearing some resemblance to a Spiræa, to a height of five or six feet, lasting a considerable time in beauty. It should be planted in strong soil and a damp situation. It is offered by Messrs. Ware and Co., of Hale Farm Nurseries, Feltham.



Montgomery Henderson

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1874 n.s. 3

Mr. M. Henderson, whose fame as a Grape grower is well-known, was born in March, 1808, in the village of Swanston, at the foot of the Pentland Hills, near Edinburgh. At the age of fourteen he was placed for three years in one of the market gardens of that city, where he was thoroughly initiated into the laborious part of the business. He then went for two years into Messrs. James Dickson & Sons' nursery at Inverleith, at the end of which time Mr. Dickson sent him to Lochend, the seat of Sir George Warrender, in East Lothian, where he remained for eighteen months under Mr. John Dods. On Mr. Dods leaving to take charge of Sir George's gardens at Cliveden, or Cliefden, as it was also called, in Buckinghamshire, he sent Henderson to his father's at Salton Hall, a then celebrated place in East Lothian, where he continued for twelve months; after which he went to be foreman at Melville Castle, near Lasswade, the seat of Lord Melville, but remained only ten months— his old master, Mr. J. Dods, having sent for him in August, 1830, to come to England to be his foreman at Cliefden. In the autumn of 1832 Mr. Dods sent him to be gardener to Captain Foster, at Warmwell House, near Dorchester; but finding this not to be a place to settle in, he left in December, 1834, and went to be foreman under Mr. Neil Wilson, at Gopsall Hall, Leicestershire, the seat of Earl Howe. This situation he left in March, 1838, and obtained employment in the nursery of Mr. Knight, of Chelsea. In June of the same year Mr. Knight sent him to his present situation as gardener to Sir George H. Beaumont, Bart, Cole Orton Hall, Leicestershire.

"I began to learn gardening," Mr. Henderson writes, "for the love of the business. I was often told I should never succeed in it, as I had no friends in that line to help me on, but I persevered, and found plenty of friends, and have never once been out of a situation. Had I so desired, I could have risen higher in the profession than I have done, for when at Gopsall the late Earl Howe offered me to go as gardener to Queen Adelaide at Bushey, but I did not then feel myself confident to occupy so prominent a position. Since I have been at Cole Orton I have been offered better places in point of position both in England and Scotland, but I have been made so comfortable both by the late and the present Baronet, who have always treated me more like a friend than a servant, that I have never thought of leaving them so long as I had strength to carry on my duties.

My success as a Grape grower is pretty well known, thanks to the Gardeners' Chronicle. When I came here, however, I found the Grapes very poor, and the Vines in a sad condition. I at once removed the top soil of the borders, and gave them a good dressing of turfy loam, on which I placed some strong manure, and then made a gentle hotbed over all. This drew the roots up to the surface, I endeavour to keep them there by using the same means and to this I ascribe the fact that my Grapes are so well coloured.

The winter of 1837-8 was a very severe one, and the thermometer here had fallen to 7° below zero. The Vines were planted outside the houses, and had bare stems 2 feet long above the border before they entered the house. My predecessor had got the Vines into leaf, but had not protected either the stems or the border, so one very cold night they were completely cut down. When I came in June, some of them had grown again from towards the base of the stems, but others were totally killed. I encouraged the live ones in every way I could to make growth and thus filled up the vacant spaces; and I succeeded so well that in two years they were carrying heavy crops, with bunches of from 4 lb. to 6 lb. weight. This first led me to adopt what has since been called the extension system.

I think it a great mistake to destroy old Vines. Renovate them, and they will pay you back with a full crop of fine Grapes much sooner than you can get such an one from young Vines.

One year I made a mistake with my early Vines. We had 9° of frost at the beginning of October, and in case it might continue I set men to put a slight covering of leaves and manure over the border — just enough to keep out frost, but the men put on more than I

intended, and the weather becoming very mild, a gentle heat was raised. When I wanted to begin forcing at the end of November, I gave instructions to turn the manure over and to add a little more to it, but the men soon informed me they durst not turn it, as it was a moss of roots. This being the case I told them not to disturb it, but to put more carefully on the top, and I concluded that the Vines would break very strongly from having so many fresh roots in advance. However, it turned out very differently. It took a month longer than usual to start the Vines, and when they did start they broke very weakly. The new roots had been formed from the sap stored up in the branches, and which should have gone to develope the leaves. Ever since then I have allowed the young leaves to make the fresh roots, and consider it damaging to a plant to make it grow roots when it has no leaves.

I have been also very successful in the cultivation of the pine-apple, having often thirty years ago, when large Pines were not so plentiful as they are now, had Queens of between 6 lb. and 7 lb. in weight.

These few experiences of mine may supply something for the instruction and encouragement of young gardeners, for which object they are here recorded."

marketed in a sensible manner, there will be no cause to cry out for Protection; in fact, the foreign imports may possibly do good by causing us to be on our metal, and thus grow finer fruit and more of it than otherwise would be the case. *S. T. Wright, Glewston Court Gardens, Ross.*

THE HARDINESS OF HERBACEOUS CALCEOLARIAS.—The herbaceous Calceolarias are generally regarded as being very tender, and till a short time ago I shared the general opinion; but to my surprise, some surplus plants that we had left over, stood out during the first part of the late severe weather under a small portable frame, in which they had been pricked out in fine rich soil laid on the hard ground, and they had no other covering whatever. As we required the frame to put over some Christmas Roses, it was taken off the Calceolarias, and they have since been subjected to all the snow and frost, and now that the snow has melted from them, I find that they still look fresh and uninjured. This proves that they are quite as hardy, or even more so, than is the ordinary shrubby or bedding kind; but most of us know that to grow them well, they require a temperature ranging between 40° and 50°, with the atmosphere moist and genial, under which conditions they thrive, and, if kept free from aphides—their great enemy—they make fine healthy plants. *J. S.*

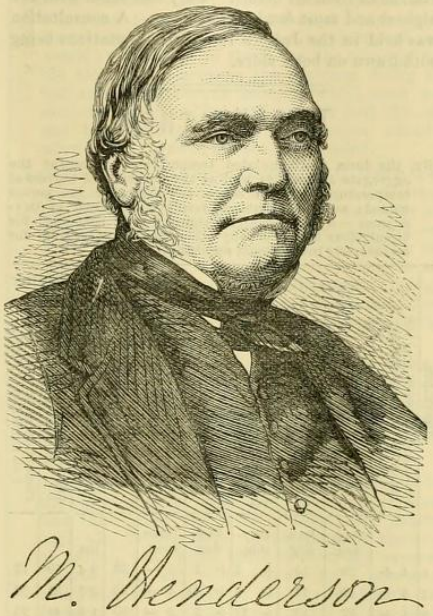
PRUNING DENDROBIUMS.—I read with much interest Mr. Burberry's remarks on Dendrobiums in the "Week's Work" of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* for February 6, p. 175. Doubtless he has had great experience in the management of this genus of Orchids; but does he mean to tell us that only those stems that have become unsightly through old age should be cut away? Having to-day packed a large box of flowers with the growths attached, I would here ask him what he calls "unsightly growths." With us all growths are considered unsightly on some species when they have done flowering. At the present time we have plants carrying upwards of a thousand racemes of flowers each, with not an old growth on them. In fact, no growths are more than two years old. I wonder what Mr. Burberry would say to a plant of D. nobile 7 feet across, with no growths on it except those made last year, some of which are between 3 and 4 feet long, and carrying from fifteen to twenty racemes each? I should like to hear what he has to say to this. *B. P.*

FUEL: ANTHRACITE COAL.—If every gardener follows the methods of dealing with the above, which have been described in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, no difficulty would be found in getting it to burn. It is in use at this garden, and we are sorry when we are obliged to fall back on coke, which we have at times to do. Our houses are heated with two of Weeks' tubular boilers, but it is only on very rare occasions that we have to use both; and all through the severe winter of 1890-91, the fires were seen to every night at 10 o'clock, and we found the temperature at the right point at 6 A.M. We labour under the disadvantage of having to burn the house-refuse. *S. S.*

EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS FLOWERING.—I should say that it is certainly a very rare occurrence for the above plant to flower at such an age, and, indeed, at all in this country, as "C. H. H." mentions in p. 180. Here, two years ago, fine specimens, 50 feet high and upwards, and nine years old, from seeds, flowered freely, and formed their peculiar seed-capsules, but the seeds they contained were imperfect, and not fully developed. Since then, unfortunately, the last winter (1890-91) has seriously crippled the plants, and I fear this will finish some, if not all of them. *John Roberts, Tan-y-bwlch, North Wales.*

NEW GRAPE, MARCHIONESS OF DOWNSHIRE.—I was recently favoured with some fruit of this new Grape, a seedling raised by Mr. Bradshaw, gardener to the Marchioness of Downshire. It is a cross between White Gros Colmar and Madresfield Court, the first-named being the seed-parent, and it is a promising kind, with Muscat flavour. The berries sent were as large as those of a well-grown Muscat of Alexandria, of a beautiful amber colour, and with rather a thick skin. I should think this Grape will find favour with those who require late-keeping kinds, as the bunch sent had been cut on September 7, and placed in water, having thus kept in good condition for more than five months. The Vine being in his earliest house, the raiser was obliged to cut the Grapes at that period mentioned, but they have certainly kept well. He also informs me he has now got it planted in a late house, so will be able to test its late-keeping properties better next season. I saw this Grape in fine condition at the late International Show at Edinburgh where it was much admired by noted growers, and thought to be a valuable late variety of good flavour. It has also been shown at Chiswick on one occasion, but not in time to get any of the committee to test its merits with other kinds. Next year, Mr. Bradshaw hopes to get it in quantity, and then send it at different dates to show its keeping qualities. When I saw it last year it promised to produce bunches equally as large as those of Muscat of Alexandria, and as free-bearing as one of its parents—the well-known Madresfield Court Muscat. *G. Wythes.*

IRISH POTATOS.—It is nearly fifty years since, when in my first situation with John Manifold, Esq., Bathkollidar, Dunoon, N.B., we had 5 hogs-



heads of seed Potatos from Ballymote, Ireland. The varieties were distinctly different in their appearance. Their names were—English Flats, Black Benifits, Cherry Reds, and the Apple Potato; and they were all first-class eating sorts, and, being my own cook at the time, I boiled them in their jackets, and up to the present day I think there is no better way of cooking Potatos. Although it is nearly half a century ago, these Irish varieties are quite fresh in my recollection, being real "Murphys." These required careful attention in cooking, and when ready, they laughed all over. The first-named was a red-skinned flattish variety, very mealy, and when well cooked, seemed always to part into a half from its dryness. The Black Benifits were a large round sort, the outside being the colour of a Black Hamburgh Grape, with a very pale inside, and quite as mealy as the others, although it required more watching in the boiling, or it at once melted into a pulp. The Cherry Red was a more evenly round Potato, and good eating, nearly resembling the smooth Scotch Reds of those days. The Apple Potato was a late one, and the outside was striped or flecked, with deep pink eyes, but I remember little about the quality of this variety, only it had to all appearance quite as strong a constitution as the others. They were all grown on newly-cleared land from the natural Oak copse, the ground being thoroughly drained and trenched, likewise well limed; the manure employed when planting the crop was Peruvian guano, mixed with wood ashes saved from the burning of the scrub. Some of your other correspondents will be glad to learn if any of the above varieties are still to the fore. I would willingly send almost any distance for "English Flats," if they can be got, as I have never tasted a better flavoured tuber. I may state, that just before the surprise of the Potato disease had developed into a murrain, I had left Bathkollidar. *J. Miller, Ruxley Lodge.* [Mr. Baylor Hartland in a note received from him recently, blames us for cooking the Quarries to test their qualities, and telling us that we ought to have planted them instead. He states that it is an early June Potato (in Ireland?), but keeps plump and excellent up to the present time of the year, and probably much longer. For good and long keeping, there were none better than Quarries, Black Mignon, and Red Apple. Ed.]

RHODODENDRON.—I have to-day (February 16) cut several trusses of Rhododendron growing in the flower garden on the banks of an artificial lake. Some of the other trusses have more fully expanded flowers than the one enclosed. [The flower sent by our correspondent was one of R. Nobleanum. Ed.] This is rather remarkable, seeing that we have had a total of 205° of frost since the commencement of the winter. On Sunday morning the thermometer stood at 27° Fahr., and this morning at 26°, with a strong north-easterly wind. *A. Bullen, Gardener, Wakehurst Place, Hayward's Heath.*

GARDENERS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS.—Referring to "Vagabond's" criticism of my remarks, p. 147, concerning the best men not being in the best places. I am willing to admit that "employers are not fools or too indulgent," especially where it is a question of profit and loss—that is, where produce is grown to pay garden expenses—as imperfections are more obvious in a gardener when he is placed under such conditions than when he grows for home consumption only. But who will be bold enough to deny that many gardeners retain their situations through the indulgence of their employers, and not through their capacity. Personally, I knew a man who remained in an excellent place many years until the death of his employer. He was known by the latter to be unqualified for the post he was filling, and yet he was not discharged. This gentleman and his family were imbued with a missionary spirit, and thoroughly appreciated the same spirit in others. It so happened that their gardener was full of it, even to overflowing. He was constant in his attendance at all religious assemblies. He lifted up his voice in the choir, having a melodious bass voice; he also displayed his vocal abilities at the village concerts, was strong in the advocacy of total abstinence, and discoursed most eloquently on many subjects, and thus found favour in the eyes of his employers, and it is not wonderful that they spoke of him as such an earnest superior man, &c., and winked the other eye at garden deficiencies. May I ask you if a gentleman is always a fair judge of the merits of his gardener, when the majority of them know nothing about gardening, and could not contradict any excuse a gardener might make concerning failures, which were probably due to his negligence or ignorance? Referring to your remarks on gentlemen leaving the selection of their gardeners to nurserymen, I maintain that they might do worse; but I did not intend to convey the meaning that they should so do to the exclusion of all other means, and certainly not to banish applications to gardeners in responsible positions, or to curators of botanic gardens. I have more faith in our nurserymen than to believe that they would give the preference to those who had been good customers only, unless these customers were good practical gardeners, and fitted to fill the vacant place. *W. E. G.*

Obituary.

MR. MONTGOMERY HENDERSON, formerly gardener at Cole Orton Hall, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicester, died, at Ashby, on Sunday, February 14. Mr. Henderson was a Scotchman, having been born at the village of Swanston, near Edinburgh, in 1808. At the age of fourteen years he began his gardening career in one of the market gardens of that city, where he was initiated into the laborious part of the business. Subsequently, he spent two years at Messrs. James Dickson & Sons' nursery at Inverleith; and then he went to Salton Hall, and afterwards to Melville Castle, where he remained but a

short time. In the autumn of 1832, he was sent, by a former master, Mr. Dod, who was then gardener at Cliefden, in Buckinghamshire, to be gardener to Captain Foster, at Warmwell House, Dorchester. Leaving that place in 1834, he served as foreman under Mr. Niel Wilson, at Gopsall Hall, Leicestershire. In 1838, having left Gopsall, he obtained employment in the nursery of Mr. Joseph Knight, of Chelsea, whence he was sent to be gardener to Sir George H. Beaumont, Cole Orton Hall. Mr. Henderson was famous as a Grape grower, and at p. 719 of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* for December 5, 1874, is to be found, besides an account of his life, of which the above is mainly an extract, a description of the methods he adopted with the Vines at Cole Orton. The deceased had lived retired at Ashby for the past ten years.

LAW NOTES.

LADY GARDENERS.

A case, which created great interest in Derbyshire amongst gardeners, occupied the attention of the County Court at Derby for upwards of four hours on Tuesday. It was an action brought by Miss Elizabeth Paterson Campbell against the Misses Grace and Elizabeth Harriman to recover £30 for breach of a contract to instruct the plaintiff in all matters appertaining to an industry carried on at The Grange Gardens, Sawley, called "The Ladies' Fruit and Salad Garden Association," and to provide employment and a home, with sufficient food and drink.

Mr. Noble, on behalf of the Plaintiff, said the action was founded on a verbal agreement made between the parties on the 17th of April, 1889. That agreement was in effect that the plaintiff should go to a piece of land owned by the defendants at Sawley for a period of twelve months, and that she should be instructed there in gardening, and in return should give her services, and also be supplied with board and lodging. There was a very voluminous correspondence. He proceeded to read extracts from letters which made it appear that the plaintiffs formerly resided at Harrow. They had written for the *Strand* and other magazines, with the object of drawing the attention of ladies to a scheme which they desired to float. That scheme was that the piece of land mentioned at Sawley should be changed from turf or grass land to garden land, and that the ladies joining in cultivating it should join in the receipts from the produce. Eventually, on February 25, the parties met, and three courses were suggested to carry out the scheme of the Misses Harriman, which were—(1) that the defendant should give six ladies a ninety-nine years' lease of the ground, and that these should contribute £100 each, and that the house and grounds should at once become their own and that it should at some future time be converted into a company; (2) that the Misses Harriman should take the entire risk, and maintain the ladies, teaching them gardening, for the payment of a fixed sum; and (3) that Miss Campbell might board for thirteen weeks at a guinea per week, giving such services as she felt inclined to do. Miss Campbell made an agreement on the second of the courses proposed, paying £20 for the course of instruction. Mr. Noble went through the correspondence, which was of an interesting, if somewhat amusing, nature. It chiefly related to instructions sent by Miss Harriman to her "dear lady gardeners" regarding the growing of Potatos, Radishes, Tomatos, &c., the time when they ought to be got ready for market, &c. One letter caused some merriment in Court, which was in reply to a letter to the Lady Gardeners at Sawley, from Miss Harriman, telling them that they must not expect men of spotless character to dig for Potatos. In consequence of some delay in some hampers of Potatos being sent to market, and a loss of £80 on a crop of Radishes, being pulled too late, the relations between the industrious Miss Harriman and the Lady Gardeners became strained, and Miss Harriman was not residing at Sawley, but wrote her instructions; she went about the country selling the produce. Miss Campbell wrote a letter owing to a wrong inference she had drawn from a letter of Miss Harriman that she was not going to work from 4 o'clock in the morning with men of questionable character, when 4 o'clock in the afternoon was meant.

The matter eventually reached a climax, and the defendant stopped the provisions being sent to the house, and showed the lady gardener out. Mr. Noble contended that the whole of the mischief and the misunderstanding had arisen through the absence of the defendants, which was contrary to the terms of agreement. They left all the responsibility on the lady gardeners and pupils. There was no personal supervision, and the dismissal was unjust. The Judge suggested that the case might be settled between the parties. It would be much better for both. Mr. Noble concurred, and Mr. Hextall also. He, however, would like it to be stated that there was not the slightest imputation of incompetency against the defendants. He moreover entirely absolved the Misses Harriman from all blame. They had acted with the highest and most *bonâ fide* motives. A consultation was held in the Judge's room, all imputations being withdrawn on both sides.

THE WEATHER.

[By the term "accumulated temperature" is meant the aggregate amount, as well as the duration, of degrees of temperature above or below 42° Fahr. for the period named; and this combined result is expressed in Day-degrees — a "Day-degree" signifying 1° continued for twenty-four hours, or any other number of degrees for an inversely proportional number of hours.]

Districts.	Temperature.		Accumulated.				Rainfall.			Bright Sun.	
	Above (+) or below (—) the Mean for the week ending February 13.	Above 42°, for the Week.	Below 42°, for the Week.	Above 42°, difference from Mean since Jan. 3, 1892.	Below 42°, difference from Mean since Jan. 3, 1892.	More (+) or less (—) than Mean for the Week.	No. of Rainy Days since Jan. 3, 1892.	Total Fall since Jan. 3, 1892	Percentage of possible Duration for the Week.	Percentage of possible Duration since Jan. 3, 1892.
		Day-deg.	Day-deg.	Day-deg.	Day-deg.	10ths Inch.		Ins.		
0	4 +	20	10	+ 3	+ 41	5 —	36	8·4	10	12
1	6 +	29	11	+ 9	+ 34	4 —	23	2·8	31	22
2	4 +	27	12	+ 14	+ 23	2 —	20	1·6	42	23
3	4 +	25	15	+ 4	+ 34	1 —	22	1·4	19	22
4	4 +	23	11	+ 9	+ 29	3 —	23	1·9	22	22
5	3 +	22	7	+ 3	+ 11	3 —	20	1·5	13	20
6	5 +	25	4	+ 2	+ 22	7 —	31	6·6	19	19
7	4 +	17	3	— 9	+ 14	2 —	27	4·3	24	19
8	3 +	25	5	— 13	+ 30	6 —	27	3·4	21	24
9	5 +	27	0	— 17	+ 18	2 —	31	4·2	9	16
10	3 +	32	0	— 19	+ 29	7 —	26	3·9	8	19
*	3 +	34	0	— 1	+ 1	6 —	31	3·0	6	15

The districts indicated by number in the first column are the following:—

Principal Wheat-producing Districts—0, Scotland, N.; 1, Scotland, E.; 2, England, N.E.; 3, England, E.; 4, Midland Counties; 5, England, S.

Principal Grazing, &c., Districts—6, Scotland, W.; 7, England, N.W.; 8, England, S.W.; 9, Ireland, N.; 10, Ireland, S.; * Channel Islands.

THE PAST WEEK.

The following summary record of the weather for the week ending February 13, is furnished from the Meteorological Office:—

"The *weather* was unsettled, with slight rain, during the earlier part of the period, but subsequently it became dry in nearly all parts of the kingdom. Much cloud, however, was experienced except in the north-east of Great Britain, and slight falls of rain continued in the extreme north-western districts.

"The *temperature* was considerably above the mean, the excess ranging from 3° in 'England, S. and S.W.,' 'Ireland, S.,' and the 'Channel Islands,' to 5° in 'Scotland, W.,' and 'Ireland, N.,' and to 6° in Scotland, E.' The highest of the maxima were recorded, as a rule, either on the 7th or 11th, and varied from 57° in 'Scotland, E.,' and the 'Midland Counties,' to 52° in 'Scotland, N.,' and 51° in the 'Channel Islands.' The lowest of the minima were registered either on the 12th or 13th, and ranged from 27° in 'England, E.,' and the 'Midland Counties,' and from between 29° and 33° in most other districts to 38° in 'Ireland, N.,' and 41° in the 'Channel Islands.' At the end of the week the temperature was decreasing very quickly.

"The *rainfall* was less than the mean in all districts, but the deficiency in 'Ireland, N.' was slight when compared with other districts.

"The *bright sunshine* exceeded the mean in 'England, N.E.,' but showed a deficit in nearly all other districts. The percentage of possible duration ranged from 42 in 'England, N.E.' and 31 in 'Scotland, E.' to 10 in 'Scotland, N.,' 8 or 9 over Ireland, and to only 6 in the 'Channel Islands.'"

MARKETS.

COVENT GARDEN, February 18.

Business remains steady. *James Webber, Wholesale Apple Market.*

Cut Flowers.—Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d s. d.
Acacia or Mimosa, French, per bunch	1 6- 2 0	Narcissus, paper-white, Fr., p. bun.	2 6- 4 0
Arums, per doz. bl....	4 0- 6 0	Orchids:—	
Azalea, p. doz. sprays	0 9- 1 0	Cattleya, 12 blms.	6 0-12 0
Camellias, white, doz.	2 0- 3 0	Odontoglossum crispum, 12 blms.	3 0- 6 0
— red, per. doz. ...	1 0- 1 6	Pelargoniums, scarlet, per 12 bun.	9 0-12 0
Carnations, 12 blms.	2 0- 3 0	— 12 sprays ...	1 0- 1 6
Chrysanthemums, 12 blooms ...	1 0 5 0	Poinsettia, 12 blooms	4 0- 9 0
— 12 bunches ...	5 0-24 0	Primula, sing., 12bun.	4 0- 6 0
Eucharis, per dozen	4 0- 6 0	Roman Hyacinths, 12 sprays	0 9- 1 0
Gardenia, per dozen	4 0- 9 0	Roses, Tea, per dozen	1 0- 3 0
Heliotrope, 12 sprays	0 6- 0 9	— coloured, dozen	2 0- 4 0
Lilac white (French) per bunch	5 0- 6 0	— yellow (Maréchals), per doz.	8 0-12 0
Lilium Harrisii, doz.	6 0-10 0	— red, per dozen...	1 6- 2 0
Lily of the Valley, per doz. sprays ...	0 9- 1 6	Tubero es, 12 blms.	1 0- 1 6
Maiden Hair Fern, 12 bunches ...	4 0- 9 0	Tulips, p doz. blms.	1 0- 2 0
Marguerites, per doz. bunches	3 0- 4 0	Violets, Parme, per bunch... ...	3 0- 4 0
Mignonette, per doz. bunches	1 6- 0 2	— Czar, per bunch	1 6- 2 0
		— English, 12 bun.	1 6- 2 0

Orchid-bloom in variety.

Plants in Pots.—Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Adiantums, per doz.	4 0-12 0	Ficus elastica, each	1 6- 7 6
Arum, per dozen ...	12 0-18 0	Hyacinths Dutch doz.	6 0- 9 0
Aspidistra, per doz.	18 0-63 0	Lily of the Valley, pot	2 0- 3 0
Azalea, per doz. ...	36 0-60 0	Marguerites, per doz.	6 0-12 6
Begonias, per doz. ...	4 0- 6 0	Primula sinensis, doz.	4 0- 6 0
Cyclamens, per doz.	12 0-18 0	Palms, various, each	2 0-21 0
Cyperus, per dozen	4 0-10 0	— specimens, each	10 6-84 0
Dracænas, each ...	1 0- 5 0	Pelargoniums, Scarlet, per doz. ...	6 0- 9 0
Epiphyllums, p. doz. pots...	9 0-18 0	Poinsettias, per doz.	12 0-18 0
Erica hyemalis, per dozen ...	12 0-18 0	Roman Hyacinth, p. doz. pots	9 0-12 0
Erica gracilis doz.	8 0-12 0	Solanums, per dozen	9 0-12 0
Ferns, various, doz.	4 0- 9 0	Tulips, per doz. pots	8 0- 9 0
Ferns, per 100 ...	8 0-15 0		

Fruit.—Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d s. d.
Apples, Canadian and Nova Scotian, per barrel	10 0-25 0	Kent Cobs, 100 lb.	40 0- ...
Apples, ½-sieve ...	1 0- 4 0	Lemons, per case ...	10 0-16 0
Grapes	1 9- 3 6	Pine-apples, St. Michael, each ...	2 0- 6 0

Vegetables.—Average Retail Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d s. d.
Artichokes Globe, each	0 4- 0 6	Lettuces, per doz. ...	1 6- 2 0
Beans, French, lb ...	1 6- 2 0	Mushrooms, punnet	2 0- ...
Beet, red, per dozen	2 0- 3 0	Mustard and Cress, punnet	0 4- ...
Carrots, per bunch...	0 4- 0 6	Parsley, per bunch...	0 3- 0 6
Cauliflowers, each ...	0 3- 0 6	Seakale, p. basket ...	2 0- 3 0
Celery, per bundle ...	1 0- 3 0	Shallots, per lb. ...	0 6- ...
Cucumbers, each ...	0 6- 0 9	Spinach, per bushel	3 6- ...
Endive, per dozen ...	2 0- 3 0	Tomatos, per lb. ...	0 6- 1 0
Herbs, per bunch ...	0 9- 1 0	Turnips, per bunch...	0 4- 0 6

Potatos.

Best floury samples, keeping colour, are still sought after, but only small lots are to hand. These realise 90*s.* to 100*s.* per ton. Ordinary samples sell from 80*s.* to 90*s.*, and Blacklands from 55*s.* to 60*s.*; Bruce, Abundance, and Main Crop, find favour with best buyers. *J. B. Thomas.*

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Spitalfields, *Feb.* 16.—Quotations:—Seakale, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per punnet; Savoys, 2*s.* to 4*s.*; Cauliflowers, 8*s.* to 12*s.* per tally; Greens, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*; Turnips, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.*; Carrots, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; Parsley, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per dozen bunches; Spinach, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per bushel; Turnip-tops, 2*s.* to 3*s.*; Sprouting Broccoli, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per sack; Parsnips, 4*d.* to 8*d.* per score; Endive, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*; Cabbage Lettuces, 3*d.* to 9*d.*; Leeks, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; Beetroots, 3*d.* to 4*d.* per dozen; Mustard and Cress, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per dozen baskets; English Onions, 6*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* per cwt.; Bordeaux do., 3*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*; Spanish do., 6*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* per case; Belgian

1892.

HENDERSON Henry Renny of the Grove Hythe Hants esquire died 13 July 1892 Probate London 28 September to Sarah Ann Henderson widow Effects £24074 6*s.* 6*d.* resworn April 1893 £29442 16*s.* 6*d.*

HENDERSON James of 26 Clifton Road Birkenhead Cheshire ship store dealer died 28 March 1886 at sea Administration London 23 April to James William Henderson clerk to ship store dealers Effects £6181 11*s.* Former grant September 1886.

HENDERSON James of 3 Ratcliffe Street Keswick Cumberland gentleman died 28 March 1892 at 124 Elgin Avenue Paddington Middlesex Probate Carlisle 30 August to John Henderson bookkeeper and the Reverend Joseph Henderson congregational minister Effects £61 12*s.*

HENDERSON James Edwards of 13 St. Mark's Street Sunderland master mariner died 16 September 1892 at Aberdeen North Britain Probate Durham 1 December to Eliza Henderson widow Effects £117 8*s.* 2*d.*

HENDERSON or **FULLERTON** Jane of 3 Lonsdale Terrace Edinburgh widow died 30 April 1892 Confirmation of George Fullerton the Reverend John Waugh Gibson minister of the parish of Dysart and William Duncan solicitor Sealed London 1 June.

HOSIE or **HENDERSON** Jean. *See* "**HOSIE**."

HENDERSON Jessie Louisa of Laibach Austria spinster died 7 April 1892 Administration London 2 August to Frank Alfred Henderson esquire Effects £838 1*s.* 8*d.*

HENDERSON John of 5 Rushton Street Hulme Manchester died 28 February 1891 Administration Manchester 21 March to John Smalley Henderson commercial traveller Effects £96.

HENDERSON John of Lisbellaw Fermanagh woollen manufacturer died 2 December 1891 Probate Armagh to Robert J. Richardson merchant and Isabella Henderson spinster Sealed London 24 May Effects £900.

HENDERSON John of Woodstock 46 Dalziel Drive Pollokshields Glasgow sometime soapmaker Glasgow died 4 August 1892 Confirmation of William Henderson Sealed London 13 October.

HENDERSON John of Greenfield Road Stoneycroft Liverpool commercial traveller died 7 October 1892 Probate Liverpool 1 November to Mary Ann Henderson widow Effects £156 10*s.* 9*d.*

HENDERSON Joseph of Shap Westmoreland yeoman died 12 January 1892 Probate Carlisle 22 January to Joseph Henderson railway clerk Effects £181 18*s.* 2*d.*

HENDERSON Margaret of Clifton Road Tranmere Cheshire widow died 26 December 1891 Probate Chester 28 July to John Morton commission merchant Effects £304 5*s.* 6*d.*

HENDERSON Margaret Elizabeth Frances Dixon of 4 Bishop's Road Paddington Middlesex widow died 29 October 1892 Administration London 5 December to Ronald Leslie Jameson Boyd Henderson sergeant 15th Hussars Effects £284 13*s.* 1*d.*

HENDERSON Maria of 3 Rose Cottages South Norwood Hill Surrey widow died 19 January 1892 at 2 Lingham Street Stockwell Surrey Administration (with Will) London 13 February to Jessie Elizabeth Blick (wife of John Blick) Effects £135.

HENDERSON Mary of Windsor Road Southport Lancashire spinster died 31 May 1892 Probate Liverpool 20 June to Joseph Hetherington wine and spirit merchant Effects £7918 18*s.* 4*d.*

HENDERSON Mary Elizabeth of Dyffryn Aled Llansannan Denbighshire spinster died 16 August 1891 Administration St. Asaph 20 January to Louisa Cruttenden Henderson widow Effects £577 8*s.* 4*d.*

HENDERSON Mary Jane of Edge Lane Liverpool (wife of Colin Henderson) died 30 November 1891 Probate Liverpool 5 January to George William Brocklehurst and Henry Brocklehurst merchants Effects £19242 1*s.* 11*d.*

HENDERSON Montgomery of Ashby de la Zouch Leicestershire gentleman died 14 February 1892 Probate Leicester 12 March to Joseph Wainwright schoolmaster Effects £4033 6*s.* 9*d.*

HENDERSON Nicholas of 19 Newman Street Oxford Street Middlesex teacher of dancing died 6 December 1891 Administration London 24 May to Elizabeth Robertine Henderson spinster Effects £445 18*s.* 9*d.*

HENDERSON Robert of 14 Distaff Lane London and of Ledcamerock Eltham Road Lee Kent merchant died 20 September 1892 at Ledcanerock Probate London 31 October to Christina Henderson widow and James Nixon Kirsop iron and steel merchant Effects £4969 19*s.* 3*d.* in the United Kingdom.

HENDERSON Robert Andrew of 91 Edgware Road Middlesex died 24 November 1891 Probate London 22 April to Sophie Henderson widow Effects £46 5*s.*

HENDERSON William of Stratford Lea Worthing Sussex esquire died 15 November 1891 Probate London 29 January to Lucy Henderson widow and Arthur Edwin Bernays inspector of schools Effects £10296 13*s.* 4*d.*

HENDERSON William Lindsay of Khangaum Berars India engineer died 17 October 1891 at Bombay India Administration (with Will) (Limited) London 28 March to William Henry Whitfield solicitor the attorney of Amy Illustria Murray (wife of Victor Murray) Effects £375 7*s.*

ferent vegetable. If properly grown it is quite free from stringiness, and is much superior in flavour to the ordinary white Turnip. This is the best time to sow the seed. If space can be found in the garden for a few rows it is certainly worth trying. H. C. DAVIDSON.

FILMY FERNS.

Filmy Ferns, though many people think they are difficult to grow successfully, are really of easy cultivation. They form a very beautiful and fascinating section of the Fern family, and their exquisite foliage, covered with minute drops of moisture, which sparkle on the tips of the fronds, lend to them a peculiar charm and grace.

COOL TREATMENT REQUISITE.

Contrary to a common impression, they require pertectly cool treatment, and many species will stand a dozen degrees of frost with impunity, provided the foliage is damp when frozen. They are found in many parts of the world, extending from Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippine Islands, Malay Archipelago, South America, and Great Britain. At home they are found growing in the neighbourhood of streams and waterfalls, clothing the stems of Tree Ferns, and clinging to dripping rocks, etc. Hence the necessity of providing abundance of atmospheric moisture.

The Filmy Ferns belong to three genera, namely, Todæas, Hymenophyllums, and Trichomanes. The first-named is of a "stay-at-home" character, simply rising from an upright stock, while the others have creeping rhizomes, which delight in trailing over sandstone blocks, old Tree Fern stems, or the soil.

Beautiful and desirable species are found in the British representatives, the Killarney Fern (Trichomanes radicans), the Tunbridge Filmy Fern (Hymenophyllum tunbridgense), and the one-sided Filmy Fern (H. unilaterale); also in H. demissum, hirsutum, rarum, Forsteriana, and cruentum; Trichomanes scandens, umbrosum, pulchellum, pumilæ, labiatum, and auriculatum; Todæa Wilkesiana, Fraseri, pellucida, and grandipinnula.

HOW TO GROW THEM.

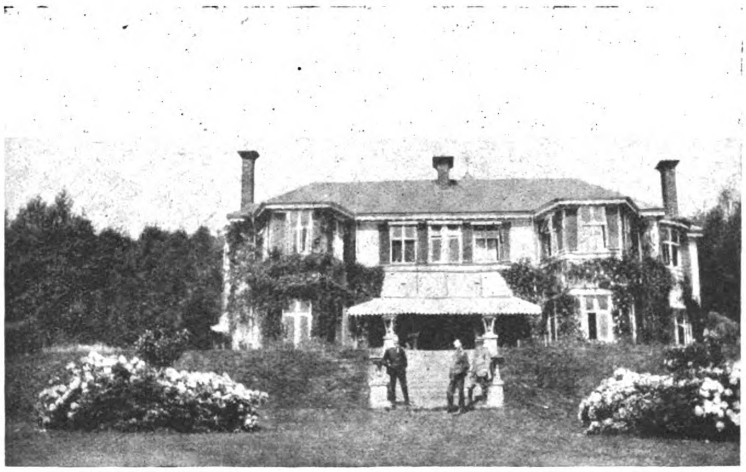
While they may be successfully grown in cold frames, the most satisfactory method is to arrange them in a closed glass case, which can either find a place in the ordinary greenhouse, or form an ornament to a room facing north. A few pieces of sandstone introduced among them gives a more natural appearance, and soil between the stones will serve to contain the roots; or the plants can be grown in pots. A good compost consists of the turfy portions only of peat and loam, with a liberal quantity of charcoal, sand, and crushed sandstone added. The open nature of this combination will effectually prevent it from becoming sour and uncongenial to plant life.

Little ventilation is needed, and the tilting of a light for half an hour every morning will suffice. The spaces between the plants, as also the sandstone, must be sprayed with water at least twice a day in summer, and once in winter, but the Ferns should not be watered overhead. Soft or rain-water should be used at all times.

SPECIES FOR A LARGE CASE.

In addition to the species mentioned, Trichomanes rigidum, angustum, radicans, and Colensoi; Hymenophyllum scabra, ciliatum, flexuosum, attenuatum, and Wilsoni; with Todæa superba in the centre, are very suitable for a large case. For a Fern stand, with a bell-glass fitted, Hymenophyllum pectinatum is wonderfully effective; while Todæa superba forms a splendid object if grown in a case sufficiently large to allow for unrestrained development. A. H. W.

AT the National Sweet Pea Society's show, on July 1st, there was keen competition for the Burpee Cup, the most important class open to both trade and private growers. It was won by a well-known firm, Messrs. E. W. King and Co., with a private grower, Mr. Howard S. Button, of Horsens, Northwood, Middlesex, a close second. A few days before this Mr. Button had gained a gold medal at the Croydon Horticultural Society's show for a non-competitive exhibit comprising over thirty varieties. He has as his head gardener Mr. George Herbert, whose name is familiar to all interested in Sweet Peas, for he has been for many years an active member of the N.S.P.S., serving on its committees; and has frequently figured as a successful exhibitor, besides being the raiser of numerous Sweet Peas which still hold their own as first-class varieties.



HORSENS, NORTHWOOD, FROM THE LAWN.

But Sweet Peas are not the sole attraction at Horsens, as Mr. Herbert showed me when I called on him towards the end of July. The estate is delightfully wooded, and the Rose garden alone would well repay a visit. At the entrance to the drive is a handsome little lodge, gay with Roses and other creepers, and with bright flowers in the beds in front. Following the drive, which winds through woods largely composed of Larches and sapling Oaks, under which bulbs, with Primroses and other early flowers, bloom in spring, we reached the chief entrance to the house, which faces north-west. On the walls are some remarkably fine Ampelopsis Veitchii, which in autumn display most glorious tints.

"What is the area of the woods?" I asked.

"There are about ten acres around the house, but on the opposite side of the road, by the entrance lodge, the Madbeath Woods, which also belong to the estate, cover upwards of a hundred acres."

THE TERRACE BEDDING.

Passing round to the south-east front of the house, we come upon a broad terrace, with a steep, sloping bank leading down to the lawn, which is two acres in extent. From this terrace the view is picturesque in the extreme. To right and left spread the woods, while looking straight across, the heights of Harrow are seen on the horizon. In the immediate foreground the Rose garden closes in the lawn; and in the middle distance a vast sheet of water—the reservoir of the Grand Junction Canal—presents the appearance of a lake, its banks fringed with trees.

Turning to look at the climbers on this part of the house, I noted a Blush Rambler making a wonderful show of colour; and beyond this was the soft green of the foliage of Wistaria sinensis, which still gave evidence of the mass of bloom it had carried in spring.

"Fuchsias are chiefly used for the summer bedding on the terrace," said Mr. Herbert; "and though they are a bit backward just now, they will be very fine in another month. Of the sixteen beds, twelve have Fuchsias, and the other four are filled with Salvia Pride of Zurich, edged with Lobelias. In the spring we had the beds filled with Tulip Prince of Austria, with a groundwork of Forget-me-nots, which looked very well indeed. The two vases at the head of the steps used to be filled with flowers, but the peacock seems to think they were intended especially for him to perch on, so they are now left empty."

Descending these steps to the lawn, my attention was called to a thriving plantation of young fruit trees a little way off to the left. There is a good show of Plums and Gages, and Apples promise to be a bumper crop, but Pears are few.

Along the side of the lawn broad clumps of Montbretias, their rich colours enhanced by the Golden Elders behind them, add brightness to the outlook in late summer.

A FINE ROSE PERGOLA.

The Rose garden, which, as I have indicated, is at the bottom of the lawn, has a pergola round the outside, covered with Roses, of which

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the principal sorts are Carmine Pillar, Albéric Barbier, Snowdrift, American Pillar, Lady Gay, Dorothy Perkins, and Crimson Rambler. In the beds are most of the latest varieties, massed to colour; and a pond with a fountain is another feature.

"I see you are putting wire netting round the beds. Is that on account of rabbits?" I asked.

"Yes," was the answer; "they do a lot of damage here, and nibble the young growths as they come. In this bed I planted a hundred of Rose Madame Edouard Herriot, and, as you see, there are not many alive owing to the animals. But Mr. Button likes to see them darting about, and does not want them to be destroyed. So I am going to net the beds to keep them out."

"Do you bud any Roses yourself?"

"I have just budded four hundred standards. Fortunately, we can get plenty of Briers on the estate."

Many paths run through the woods, and taking one of these we came to the tennis court, with an old thatched summer house on a slight mound at the end. This lawn is to be surrounded by Roses on poles and chains, the work being put in hand this autumn.

THE VIEW FROM THE TERRACE AT HORSENS, NORTHWOOD.

PROMISING SEEDLING SWEET PEAS.

And now we made our way to the Sweet Pea ground, where the first thing Mr. Herbert showed me was a long row of seedlings from a cross made last year.

"Altogether," he said, "there are eighteen sorts in this row, all from one cross. Several of them are very good, and I shall mark them, and save the seed to sow next year. Some will then probably give other breaks, a few of which may be even better than those here now. The best I shall fix; those that do not satisfy me I shall throw out. There are sufficient here to work on for the next four years."

"There are some lovely things amongst these," I remarked; "and most of them seem to have double standards."

"Yes; that is an indication of the vigour of the plants."

"Which do you look on as the most promising?"

"Here is one that is particularly good—a white ground flushed with deep rose-pink. It is a beautiful shape, nicely frilled, and has a rich scent."

"All these plants have the true old Sweet Pea fragrance."

"Yes; their fragrance is very pronounced. Another fine flower is this very pale blush, like an extra pale Elegance; and this orange-scarlet with rose wings is very choice. Then there is a cream ground flushed with rose, which will make a good companion to the one I first showed you. Another of the crosses is a very pretty white, especially well frilled, and highly fragrant. It will make a splendid variety for the garden, but is not large enough for exhibition."

THREE NEW VARIETIES.

"Have you any new varieties quite fixed?"

"In this shorter row are some from seed I had from a friend. They are not all good enough to send out, but Mrs. Hodges is a fine flower, a rich cream marbled with pale pink. It is said to be the result of a cross with a yellow Vetch. Another is Mrs. C. Cook, which is like a deep Agricola, a fine form, making a good bunch. These two are quite fixed, and there is plenty of seed."

"Although you work on a definite principle when making the cross, you cannot, therefore, be sure as to what the result will be?"

"No; the eighteen sorts in this one row prove that. I have here three different colours from the same pod—a bluish maroon, a deep purple, and an Alexander Malcolm, which was one of the parents."

"You recently showed three new varieties at Southampton, I believe?"

"Yes; and obtained two awards there. A first-class certificate was given to Ronnie Herbert, named after my young son; and an award of merit to Mrs. H. S. Button. The other variety is Howard S. Button."

Mr. Herbert then took me round to where these three novelties are growing from seed.

Ronnie Herbert is a pure scarlet self, even to the keel, of good size—larger, in fact, than most of this section. The colour may be best described as that of the field Poppy. It had not been shaded, but gave no indication of burning. Mrs. H. S. Button is a pink recalling the colour of the Oleander, with a white base, and the number of double standards spoke well for its vigour. Howard S. Button is a bright salmon-cerise, with a flush of orange in the standard, and a white eye. With each of these the flowers were nicely placed, with stout stems, and fours were very numerous. All are quite fixed.

This did not exhaust the new varieties, for we next examined a row of seedlings, a cross between Margaret Fife and Edward Cowdy, now growing for the second year. All were of splendid shape, and exquisitely frilled. A fine shade of pink on a white ground was especially attractive.

A COMING WHITE VARIETY.

"There is here, among the exhibition plants," said Mr. Herbert, "a new seedling which is going to beat all the whites at present in commerce. It is named St. Dunstan. The flower is large, and well frilled, with a very wide standard, and the white is pure down to the base. The growth, too, is most vigorous, with long, stout stems."

I was able to agree with Mr. Herbert that this is a variety of high merit, and I then asked him as to the nature of his soil.

"It is on the heavy side, and I trenched it deeply and well manured it last winter. I also burned the top spit and dug it in. It was a rough piece of ground, which was only taken in last year."

"Of course, you grow most of the leading varieties?"

"Yes; everything is given a trial. Some in these rows are excellent in every way. Here is Ian Hamilton, one of the best in the rosy-cerise section—best for size, best for colour, and best for growth. In its favour, too, it can be said that it is not affected by sun; in fact, sun improves the colour. For a scarlet-cerise Alexander Malcolm is good, but it is a fine-weather Pea, and loses colour when wet."

"You have a good lot of Maud Holmes."

"Maud Holmes is still a good sunproof crimson, although the finest is, in my opinion, Charity. It is quite as sunproof, but a brighter and more effective colour."

"How do you find Mrs. J. W. Bishop?"

"It is a nice colour, salmon-rose, but is not vigorous in growth. Constance Hinton is so far the best exhibition white."

A GOOD CREAM-PINK.

"What are the best cream-pinks?"

"Mrs. Arnold Hitchcock is one I like—it makes a fine bunch. Peace is another, and there is a good batch of it; but I think La France is going to beat it. It has more cream, and is a particularly well-shaped flower. The blooms are placed close together, and the top bud has a good neck, so that it can be grown better without getting coarse. Elegance is a beautiful flower, of a delicate blush colour."

"How about the blues and mauves?"

"King Mauve has been very good, and wants some beating. I have a splendid stock of R. F. Felton, the true variety. There are many bad stocks of this about, with dull coloured flowers, but this is a clear, bright lilac, and it never rogues. Jack Cornwell is a new dark blue, which comes a good colour outdoors, and gives plenty of fours; but in size it is not up to exhibition standard."

Going round, I noticed Jean Ireland in splendid form, with many stems carrying five flowers. There was a nice row of Mrs. Hugh Wormald, a very distinct bicolor, introducing a new note in decorative Sweet Peas. The blooms are small, but would make a good show under artificial light. In a row of seedlings from this were a couple of pretty flowers, of which more may be heard.

Asked as to other varieties as we passed them, Mr. Herbert remarked:

"Edith Cavell may be described as a cream-ground Hercules. It makes a good exhibition flower when well grown. British Victory is a brilliant salmon-red, almost the same colour as Fiery Cross, and can take the place of that variety. Cis Wright, mauve-pink on white, is another fine-weather flower. Attraction is pretty, but the top flower is always weak, and you cannot finish it well; the same objection applies to Beryl. Warrior as a maroon is unbeatable."

"Where is the variety you introduced last year, Palestine?"

"I had an accident with that, and have only a very few plants this season."

"I take it all these plants are autumn-sown?"

"Yes; and they have been in bloom since the second week in May. I shall soon cease cutting, and let them go for seed."

WINTER-FLOWERING SWEET PEAS.

"Do you grow any winter-flowering Sweet Peas?"

"A few only. They are all right if you can give them a house to themselves—then they flower satisfactorily; but they will not stand

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heat, and you cannot grow them in a house of mixed plants."

Having finished with the Sweet Pea ground, we proceeded through the kitchen garden, where the usual run of greenstuffs are grown; and then to the greenhouses.

"We have not much glass," said Mr. Herbert, "but we contrive to get a good deal out of it. In winter we force Freesias, Daffodils, and other bulbs, and have a nice lot of Cinerarias, also plenty of Cyclamen. In a second house we have about a hundred and fifty Perpetual Carnations, in most of the leading varieties. The Chrysanthemums which you saw outside are brought indoors in autumn, and give us flowers up to January or February. There are one hundred and fifty plants, mostly the up-to-date large-flowered varieties."

"You grow a good quantity of Tomatoes?"

"Yes, we keep up a long succession. There are two varieties, Fillbasket (which I like for its cropping qualities) and Kondine Red."

"Do you force many Strawberries?" I asked, noticing a number of plants in pots outside, as we passed into the Peach house.

"We force about two hundred, and commence to gather at Easter. On one side of this house we grow Potatoes, starting in January, with Radishes and other salads between them. These are followed by Tomatoes. In boxes on the other side we have early Peas. After the Tomatoes are done the staging comes down, and we arrange the Chrysanthemums here."

"You are also interested in a nursery business, Mr. Herbert?"

"Yes; I am running that as a side-line, attending to it in the evening and my spare time. Mr. Button has very kindly given me permission to do so. Up to now I have chiefly gone in for seeds, and for vegetable plants and Sweet Pea plants, for which I find there is a good demand. I have five acres of ground not far away, with a little glass."

"Now will you tell me something about your own career?"

"I started gardening at Tatchbury Mount, Totton; then was for three years foreman in the fruit department under glass at the Earl of Londesborough's place at Kingston-upon-Thames; after that I went as foreman at Market Lavington Manor, Devizes. I next went as nursery foreman to Messrs. Toogood and Sons, Southampton. It was after I left them, and went as manager to Mr. Charles Breadmore, at Winchester, that I took up Sweet Peas in real earnest. Since then—that was in 1901—I have raised many varieties; have been on the committee of the N.S.P.S. nearly all the time; and have never missed a Sweet Pea show. When Mr. Breadmore's business closed down I went with Messrs. Hobbies, at Dereham; and from there to Messrs. Pipers, at Langley. I left them to come here."

A GOOD LIST.

"Can you give me the names of some of the varieties you raised?"

"When I was with Mr. Breadmore I raised Etta Dyke, Audrey Crier, Elsie Herbert, George Herbert, the first Lavender George Herbert, Mrs. C. W. Breadmore, Dazzler—the first flame colour—and King Alfred. Mrs. Hugh Wormald and Crimson Queen were raised while I was with Messrs. Hobbies. Since I have been here I have brought out Palestine, Mrs. H. S. Button, Ronnie Herbert, and Howard S. Button."

Among the trophies Mr. Herbert has won are many medals and cups. In 1910 no fewer than seven gold and seven silver gilt medals fell to him, with three or four cups; at the International Horticultural Exhibition he won the Sherwood Cup; he has also gained the Burpee Cup once, and several others; while about eleven years ago he had the distinction of receiving the first gold medal ever given by the Royal Horticultural Society for a collection of Sweet Peas. This year he gained a gold medal at the Southampton show, and the Croydon Cup in open competition at Croydon.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

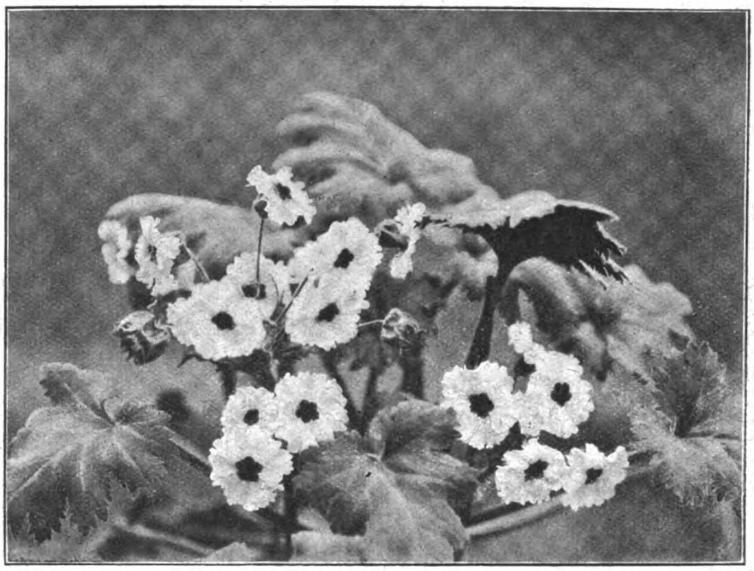
PRIMULAS AND CINERARIAS.

Primulas should be grown in frames until the middle of September, and Cinerarias until the end of that month. To obtain a strong, luxuriant growth, take off the glass lights in the evening after very bright, sunny days, and expose the plants to night dews, replacing the lights early in the morning. It is not advisable to expose the plants when strong winds are blowing, as the leaves would be broken off, or much bruised. The night dews freshen up the plants wonderfully, and thus promote a very healthy growth; even light showers will prove beneficial, but avoid exposing them to heavy rains.

Put the plants in their flowering pots before they become at all pot-bound, as this induces the premature formation of flower spikes, and subsequent repotting will not materially improve the size of the specimens.

For the final potting of Primulas, use a compost of fibrous loam two parts, leaf-mould one part, and sand and dried cow-dung, rubbed through a ½-in. mesh sieve, one part. To every bushel of compost add nearly a peck of old lime-rubble and finely-broken bricks, taken from an old wall, or building. These plants thrive amazingly in such a mixture, fibrous roots being very plentiful, and the colours of the flowers are rendered more brilliant.

For Cinerarias, the same kind of compost should be used, with half the quantity of lime rubble and pounded bricks. For Primulas 6-in. pots, and for Cinerarias 7-in. ones, are useful sizes for the final potting. When the whole of the soil is thoroughly permeated with roots, commence feeding; first give weak doses of clear soot-water three times a week, and then give, alternately, weak applications of manure-water. After the plants are put in houses or warm frames, artificial manures are beneficial. Do not overcrowd the plants. R. G. G.



A PRETTY WHITE PRIMULA.

SOME GARDEN PESTS.

19.—PEA AND BEAN WEEVILS (S. LINEATUS AND CRINITUS).

The weevils carry out their fell work unostentatiously, evidently content that the credit due to themselves shall fall upon the sparrows and slugs. Owing to their playful habit of dropping quietly from the plants when disturbed, they are seldom discovered, and the blame is placed in the wrong quarter. In the general case of garden pests the mature insects, as a rule, do no actual damage beyond the laying of eggs; but the Pea and Bean weevils feed busily to the very end of their evil lives, the larvæ destroying the roots, while the parents consume large portions of the leaves and tender shoots.

The two most common varieties are the striped weevil (Sitones lineatus) and the spotted weevil (S. crinitus). The former is a quarter of an inch in length, of a dark appearance, and with striped wing-cases. The latter varies between grey and red, and, as its name implies, is spotted. The small, white, legless grubs, with powerful jaws, which hatch from eggs laid close to the roots, upon or just below the soil, appear in May and June, and feed hungrily on the roots of Peas, Beans, clover, etc. When full grown the larva, now about a quarter of an inch long, buries itself some two inches below ground to undergo its final metamorphosis. The beetles hibernate during winter in hedges and ricks, waiting as patiently as may be for the first tender shoots of spring to appear. The late-hatched grubs of autumn feed actively through the winter on the roots of clover and lucerne, becoming beetles in the following spring.

Around the roots of the young plants the soil should be finely broken and firmly pressed or trodden, to prevent newly-emerged beetles from making their way out. Lime and soot dusted upon the plants whilst wet with dew, and after rain, will keep the beetles away.

20.—THE APPLE SUCKER (PSYLLA MALI).

In the insect world it would appear to be an infallible rule that the smaller the pest the greater the damage wrought. Especially is this so in the case of the Apple sucker. With fiendish industry the tiny, flat, dirty-yellow larvæ attack leaf-buds, leaves, and flower-buds, draining them of sap, and spelling early ruin to any chances of a good crop. About the third week of the grub's life rudimentary wings are developed; during the fourth week the final moult takes place, and the winged psylla, greenish-yellow in colour, and very minute, appears.

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The Gardens at Nutfield Court, Redhill.

INTERVIEW WITH

MR. T. W. HERBERT.

IT was in winter that, by the courteous permission of Mr. J. T. Charlesworth, I visited the gardens at Nutfield Court, one of the most interesting of seats among the beautiful Surrey hills. In the pleasure grounds, where I spent a considerable time with the head gardener, Mr. Herbert, the striking absence of formality is a feature. The charming house itself is in a picturesque situation, and great care is evidently taken to render its surroundings harmonious. Except the two large tennis-courts, the whole of the lawn —which runs at the back of the Court—to which we first turned our attention, consists of ornamental slopes, while a most delightful feature is a winding herbaceous border about a quarter of a mile in length.

"The advantage of a winding border," said Mr. Herbert, "is that it is not all seen at once. Here, you will notice, are parts shaded with Ferns, which help to throw up the beauty of the masses of blooms of bright colours in the flowering season."

"You have Roses as well as herbaceous plants in the border?"

"Yes, there are clumps of Roses at intervals. We have no fixed rule, the only object being to make everything look as attractive as possible to the eye, with the avoidance of conventionalities. All along the border there is a background of shrubs, especially Cupressus, and in front of some are Roses trained up poles; also Loniceras of the best varieties, eight to ten feet high. The plants are only arranged to colour in the sense that colours are not allowed to clash. The edging is grass, which we think is as effective, by way of contrast, as any flowers."

"How often do you renew the main contents of the border?"

"I find that after six or seven years, some of them lose their vigour. To supply their place, I raise a number of Delphiniums, Hollyhocks, and a few herbaceous Lupins as seedlings. I am enabled in this way to replenish the border whenever it is necessary to do so."

"You do not go in for beds on the lawn?"

"We have flowers instead in the front of the shrubbery, using many of the same varieties as we have in the herbaceous border One of the most attractive sights in June is the Viburnum plicatum, which yields a mass of flowers resembling a sheet of snow. In the small Rosery, surrounded by a hedge of Cupressus Lawsoniana, the varieties are all mixed, and are selected for the purpose of having plenty to cut from. They are chiefly Hybrid Perpetuals."

"Do they require much looking after?"

"We only give them a good dressing of rotten manure in the winter. The trees on the lawn include a fine Yew, of which the branches have been cut in order to have seats under it. Among flowering shrubs is a notable specimen of Choisya ternata."

Rhododendrons and Hypericums.

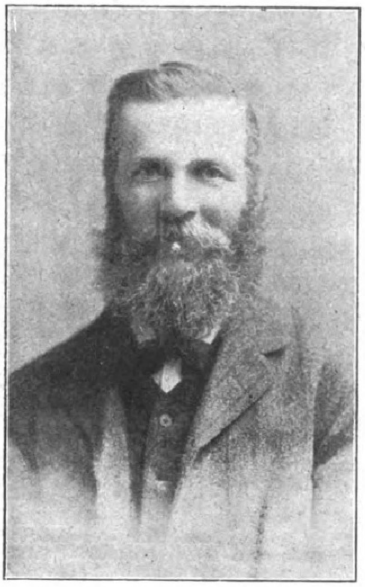
"And in front of the house you have masses of Rhododendrons?"

"Yes, and the aspect, which is east, suits them. They include some of the best varieties. We do nothing to them, except pick the buds off. The groundwork of Hypericums is pretty, and gives plenty of flower when the Rhododendrons have ceased to bloom. But at the end of their second year, it is essential to cut the Hypericums close to the ground, as they would kill the Rhododendrons."

"How are the beds close to the house filled?"

"In spring, with dark and yellow Wallflowers; and in summer we get three colours—Salvia patens for blue, Stocks and Ivy-leaf Geraniums for pink, and Stocks and Marguerites for white."

"What is the extent of the estate?" I enquired, as we proceeded across the road which divides the pleasure grounds from the kitchen garden and houses.



Mr. T. W. Herbert.

"About eleven acres of garden, and fifty-two acres of grass land. In the kitchen garden, you see, we grow a good many of our flowers."

How to Prepare a Pergola.

"I should like to know which of the climbing Roses do best on the pergola running right along the centre?"

"Crimson Rambler and Dorothy Perkins do well. But one of the best is Madame Alfred Carriere, which flowers early, and is one of the last to go. We use the blooms largely for decorating. I cut their stems from eighteen inches to two feet long, and they suit long vases admirably. Between the Roses on the pergola are several plants of Wistaria sinensis, which yield quantities of bloom."

"When was the pergola planted?"

"Only six or seven years ago. The ground was well trenched, well manured, and good plants were put in. In five years the pergola was absolutely covered; if it had not been carefully done, the process might have occupied ten years."

Sweet Peas for Colour.

"You have been very successful in showing Sweet Peas, I think?"

"I have exhibited them at the local show, and taken first prize twice. I grow Sweet Peas between the pergola and the entrance to the kitchen garden. They are sown in pots, and planted in clumps. I put five Peas in a pot, plant four feet apart, and put a few dwarf plants, such as Violets, between them. The favourite colours are the bright pinks and lavender, and we use the flowers largely for table decoration. Helen Lewis is one of the best, and Gladys Unwin, Miss Willmott, and Queen of Spain are three others.

"Violets, also," continued Mr. Herbert, "are grown in frames, Marie Louise and Princess of Wales. In other frames, which in summer are filled with Melons and Cucumbers, are Poinsettias, and Turnford Hall and Gloire de Lorraine Begonias."

The Treatment of Primulas.

"You have no conservatory, I observe?"

"No, all the flowers are grown for decorating the rooms and tables, or for making the gardens attractive. The house we are now entering combines a stove and Palm house."

"Do you use the Bougainvillea glabra, which grows so well on the roof, for table decoration?"

"A little, only. The flowers will last several days in water. We only cut the tree back, and at the end of June we get a mass of bloom. Cutting-back is essential. Niphetos Rose does well on the roof, and in the house itself a Banana Cavendishi is just fruiting. On the stages are some Arum Lilies, and a few Malmaison and Tree-flowering Carnations. The Primula stellata in pots, arranged in conjunction with Maidenhair Ferns, look very well on the table."

"What does your compost for the Primulas consist of?"

"I use a fair proportion of leaf-mould, loam, and old mortar rubble. The last keeps the soil open. We grow a good many Primula obconica, treating them much the same, but making the soil a little heavier."

"When do the Callas come into flower?"

"They begin in December, but we want them in quantity for Easter. I plant them out in the pots, and find that they are less trouble, and do better than by the usual system."

"You have a good number of white Chrysanthemums?"

"Yes, we need them—like the Lilies—for the church. One of the best is Madame Philip Rivoire, and the two other most useful whites for the winter are Western King and Mrs. J.

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Thompson. A. J. Balfour is a good late pink, and King of Plumes an excellent golden variety. For 1910 I am going in more for Singles. Two of the best of these are Mrs. Partridge (pink), and Mary Richardson (a rosy shade)."

Abutilons and Acacias.

"I notice that you have several varieties of Abutilons in one of the Vineries?"

"There are three—Golden Fleece, Scarlet King, and the white Boule de Neige. They are planted out in the border of the house in very poor soil. Yet they flower all the year round, and cover the wall. I cut them back in early spring, but they do not need any other attention. Acacias are also very useful for covering a bare wall. I mean especially A. dealbata, a variety imported from France. The pale yellow flower, with feathery and Fern-like foliage, makes it valuable for table decoration; it also lasts well. I also grow Acacia armata in pots. The flowers are yellow, too. We have ten tubs filled with Agapanthus umbellatus, which stand out from the beginning of May to November."

Inarching Muscats.

"Are the Grapes in this Vinery Black Hamburgh?"

"Yes, and they are also grown in the early Vinery. Here I inarch Muscats on Foster's Seedling, and they do much better than on their own roots. These Vines were planted a few months before I came twenty years ago, and, as you can judge, get along all right with outside borders only. But I raise the border eighteen inches, to keep the roots warmer. The Vines are top-dressed every year."

"You have more Muscats in the late Vinery?"

"And Princess of Wales. The Orange trees stand on the terrace in the summer. They look pretty in flower, and fruit well, but the fruit is not edible. I grafted a Citron on to one Orange tree, and it is now bearing fruit."

"You appear to have a quantity of hardy fruit on the walls?"

"The mention of outside fruit reminds me of an experiment I made, which resulted in failure. I planted cordon Pears on a fence, but the position was too hot and dry. I have since substituted Plums and Cherries, and these do well. The two best outside Peaches are Violette Hative and Dymond; and the two best Nectarines are Rivers' Orange and Stanwick Elruge."

How to Make Plums Prosper.

"What are the varieties of Plums you grow on the fence?"

"Both on the fence and on the walls, I grow, for dessert purposes, Early Transparent Gage, Denniston's Superb, the old Greengage, Guthrie's Late Greengage, Late Transparent, Coe's Golden Drop, and Kirke's. With regard to treatment, if the trees are growing too strongly, I lift the roots, and work in some lime rubble with the soil. If I possibly can, I mulch every tree which bears a good crop of fruit as soon as the fruit is set. This is one of the most important precautions to take if you want Plums to do well. On bushes I grow, in succession for kitchen purposes, Czar, Victoria, Prince Engelbert, Monarch, and Pond's Seedling."

The Best Strawberry System.

"How long do you keep your Strawberry plants?"

"Not more than two years. My method is to plant a piece of ground with early Potatoes, and when these are up, I plant Strawberries in August. As soon as the fruit is over the second season, I chop the Strawberry plants off, and plant late Broccoli without digging. Some people keep their Strawberries for three years, but I greatly prefer the annual system. I only grow Royal Sovereign and Givon's Late Prolific. This year I obtained the first prize at our local show for twelve dishes, and a dish of Givon's Late Prolific was the best."

"You are a believer in trenching?"

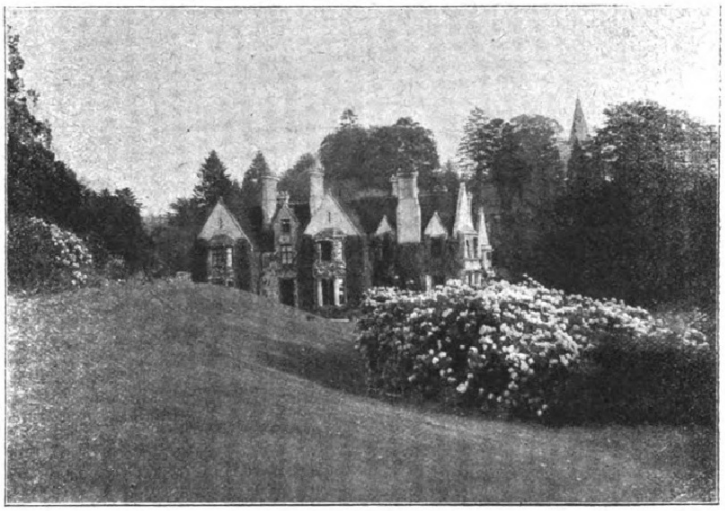
"The system I adopt is to take out a trench three feet wide and three deep, and fork up the bottom. I then put on manure, dig eighteen inches wide, and three feet deep, and turn into the trench, add more manure, and turn over the other eighteen inches. In this way the whole three feet gets thoroughly mixed. I find the plan best both for fruit and vegetables. By the adoption of this method, if you have plenty of manure, you can get three feet of rich soil. I do not have half the trouble I used to have with crops before I took to deep trenching."

"Are you successful with Raspberries?"

"They did not thrive in this soil till I trenched the ground three feet deep, and put on a good dressing of manure. Since I did that, six years ago, they have not felt the effect of the heat, which very often is most injurious to Raspberries. The point, you will observe, is that all they required to make them do well was the breaking-up of the subsoil. The only variety grown is Superlative."

The Use of Lime.

"I have seen, in your convenient fruit room, some very nice-looking Apples. Which are the cooking varieties that pay best in this soil?"



NUTFIELD COURT, FROM THE LAWN.

"Ecklinville Seedling, Stirling Castle, Warner's King, Lane's Prince Albert, Bramley's Seedling, Chelmsford Wonder, and Annie Elizabeth. Five very good dessert varieties are Beauty of Bath, Lady Sudeley, Irish Peach, Winter Pearmain and Gravenstein. The importance of liming fruit trees can hardly be exaggerated. Three years ago I got a quantity of it, slacked it, and made it so that it would go through a fine wire sieve, putting it on to the trees with a Windsor garden engine. I used a large quantity, and not only killed all insects, and cleaned the bark of the trees, but the lime itself greatly benefited their roots. But a great many of our fruit trees are in the old fruit garden."

Apples on Bush Trees.

"What is the soil here?"

"It is heavy sand, and unless the subsoil is deeply trenched and well worked, it is hot and dry. The aspect is north. Pears are not a great feature, but there are trees on espaliers in this garden that do well. For example, an October Pear, Comte de Lamy, has taken seven or eight first prizes, and Williams's Bon Chretien and Triomphe de Vienne both flourish I grow a good many Apple trees from maidens. Here is a tree of Chelmsford Wonder which bears remarkably well. I like the bush trees, because you can get so many single cordons, and can keep the middle open."

"Any hints about growing bush trees would be acceptable."

"An excellent plan is to try a few maidens every year, and train them as open bushes; that is, in fact, the principle we adopt, and it is the cheapest as well as the best. The trees can be lifted early, and they make a nice lot of fibrous roots before the ground gets cold. If they are lifted in October, there is no danger of the growth being checked. Now we come to a very interesting tree—the Transcendant Crab, from which we get a large crop every other year."

A Prolific Crab Tree.

"What is its age?"

"About ten or eleven years. The bloom is extremely beautiful, and the fruit, though not large, makes very good jam. The Transcendant Crab does best as a half standard. I prune it the first week in August, and then the fruit colours well."

"How much fruit do you gather from your trees in a good year?"

"A hundred and thirty bushels, whereas in a bad year we pick less than sixty. We get a large crop every year from the John Downie Crab. Lane's Prince Albert, now full of bloom, ought to be grown much more as a half-standard than it is, and four trees of Ecklinville Seedling, which were planted here seventeen years ago, flourish on the same principle. We do not care about too many varieties. If I were growing for market purposes, I should give my undivided attention to a dozen of the best. Here is a variety, Duchess of Gloucester, which thrives in bush form. All the erect-growing varieties are unsuitable for standards, and should be worked on the bush system, if only in order to avoid needlessly exposing them to the wind."

The Importance of Extending.

"What have you to say about cutting-back?"

"For nineteen years four trees of Warner's King had not borne a bushel of fruit. They were cut back every year, like a common Laurel, but, by allowing the branches to extend, I soon got plenty of fruit, and, now, for sixteen years, they have borne regularly. The importance of extending the trees is shown by the fact that since these were extended, I have gathered between three and four hundred bushels. The year before last I picked thirteen bushels from one of the four trees."

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"I see you have a plantation of Black Currants?"

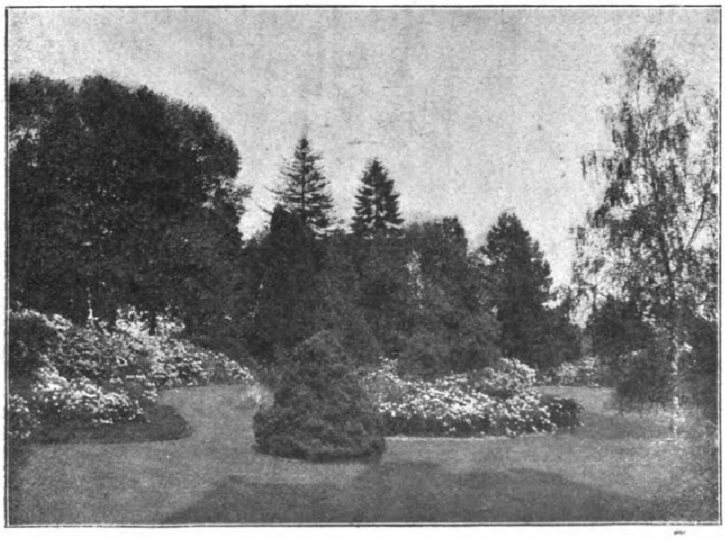
"They are all Boskoop Giants, and since I abolished the other varieties, I have been able to keep free from mite; but the trees have to be carefully picked over."

"Do you grow very large breadths of vegetables?"

"I have to supply a great quantity all through the year, including Potatoes. This year I had a splendid crop of Sharpe's Express and British Queens. Before I plant them, I just spear them, with the result that I gain a fortnight in digging. As I have a crop to follow immediately after, this is a consideration. Up-to-Dates are grown for the main crop."

"What about Peas?"

"Last season the crops, both in quality and quantity, were exceptionally good. Every day, for fifty days, we picked without a single miss; and the season, which began the third week in June, lasted up till November. With regard to varieties, I do not grow dwarfs, but depend upon William I., Gradus, Criterion, Lord Rosebery, and, for late work, Autocrat and Mr. Gladstone. At the last great vegetable show at Chiswick, I took second prize for Peas with Autocrat."



The Upper Lawn and Winding Bed at Nutfield Court.

"What is your system with regard to Celery?"

"I prefer to let it make a pretty good growth before I earth it up. If a contrary course is pursued, there is a risk of checking the growth. The varieties are Veitch's Superb White and Pink, and Major Clarke. I grow Seakale from cuttings, and I take it up every year, because too much labour is involved in forcing it on crowns. I am going in largely for Turnip-rooted Beet. Sown in April, it is fit to use the third week in July, just the time when ordinary Beetroot is so scarce. It is very nice cooked, and quite a vegetable to grow."

Mr. Herbert's Career.

"You mentioned that you have been here twenty years, Mr. Herbert. Where did you start your gardening career?"

"At Hartswood, Reigate, when I was ten years old. Then I was trained for a year at Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks. My first appointment as head gardener was at Bletchingley Castle, where I remained eleven years. Practically all my life has been spent in this neighbourhood. I have shown a good deal locally, and have read papers on the cultivation of hardy fruit and vegetables. This year I was first for three dishes of dessert Plums, and first for three of cooking Plums, and in 1907 I won the Banksian medal of the Royal Horticultural Society for Apples and Pears."

Alfred Wilcox.

Next week's interview, with the well-known amateur gardener, Mr. H. A. Darlington, of Potter's Bar, will have a special interest for lovers of Daffodils and Roses.

Perpetual-flowering Carnations.

II.—SELECTION OF CUTTINGS

I FEEL that I cannot too strongly impress upon the amateur the great importance of this operation. No matter what treatment your plants may receive in after life, unless you have the correct cuttings to start with, your labour will be in vain. Not that your plants might fail to make plenty of growth, but it would probably be of weak character, with spindly flower-stems and poor flowers. The correct cutting is found on the flowering stem as near the centre as possible, and should be removed by carefully giving it a downward or sideward pull, when it should come away from the flowering stem with a heel, and should be from two to three inches in length.

Trim it by using a sharp knife to remove any loose bark at the base. Some growers cut the leaves half way back, but I have found that cuttings treated thus are longer in rooting. Again, it is most important that the cuttings should be taken from perfectly healthy plants. If your plants are affected by disease, do not take cuttings from them, thinking that you have seen the last of your trouble. Although your old plants may find their way into the furnace, the very offspring that you are retaining will haunt you so long as you possess it. It is this injudicious selection of cuttings that enables plants to be sold at a low price by men who are the worst enemies of the divine flower. Should the reader be purchasing new plants, he should obtain them from a firm who are specialists, and have a reputation for Carnations that they wish to retain.

There are many ways and means of rooting the cuttings, but, after repeated experiments, I have come to the firm conclusion that the best medium for the operation is pure sand. From December until April is the best period of the year for this work, and any greenhouse where a temperature of forty-five to fifty-five degrees can be maintained will answer the purpose well. Those who have only a small quantity of cuttings to strike should take a "forty-eight" pot, half fill it with crocks, cover these with a thin layer of fibre, and then fill up with sand, taking particular care that the sand is perfectly free from decayed vegetable matter. Firm the sand well down in the pots with a wooden rammer, and give a thorough good watering to settle it in position—otherwise your cuttings will not stand upright when you water them in.

Having got the required number of pots ready, now is the time to take your cuttings from the parent plant, and not before. This is the secret in rooting Perpetual-flowering Carnations, for, if the base of your cuttings are once allowed to get dry, they rarely if ever form roots. I have found a penholder a good instrument to make five holes around the side of each pot. Take great care, as each cutting is inserted, that you have the base resting firmly on the sand; gently but firmly close the sand on the cuttings, give your pots a good watering overhead, to settle the sand well around the cuttings, and finally allow them to drain for a few minutes before placing them in the propagating case.

The Propagator.

Many amateurs of the present day are content to use the ordinary box-pattern propagating-case, which to my idea is too dark, and is often the cause of so many cuttings damping-off through being brought so near the glass. In the propagation of Perpetual-flowering Carnations light plays a very important part, so therefore a case that gives you light from one part only is imperfect. I am therefore a strong advocate of the span-roof propagating-case, which allows your pots to be sunk to their rims in cocoanut fibre, and gives you light around the whole of your cuttings. Have your case standing over your pipes, so as to maintain a temperature of fifty degrees. If your cuttings receive the good watering-in which I have advocated, little or no water will be required during the three to five weeks that they are forming roots. Should, however, your pots show signs of dryness, water at once, but in such a way that you do not wet the foliage of your cuttings. To the inexperienced person this may appear a trifling matter, but I have proved that it is this continual spraying overhead, while your cuttings are in the propagator, that is the cause of so much disease and failure with the plants in later stages. If growers would only stop this overhead watering, we should hear less of rust, spot, and other diseases, and obtain finer plants and flowers than we do at the present time.

Shade the cuttings from strong sun, and turn and wipe the glass dry at least once a day. As soon as the cuttings show signs of rooting, admit air by degrees, until you can dispense with the glass entirely, taking care to avoid draughts.

Richard Brant.

Hard-wooded plants, such as Azaleas, should not be allowed to get very dry at the roots, or it will be a difficult matter to again saturate the ball of earth, and the new growths will be checked.

Every care should be taken in the watering of such subjects as Cyclamen, Cinerarias, Calceolarias, and Primulas, which ought now to be making a fine display on the greenhouse stages. Too much moisture at the roots will cause them to show signs of distress when the sun shines upon them, and a too dry soil will be favourable to the spread of green-fly. It is a good plan to raise some of the plants on inverted, empty pots, and thus cause a circulation of air around them, which will keep their surroundings sweet.

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GARDEN LIFE,
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A PRACTICAL JOURNAL FOR AMATEUR GARDENERS

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FEBRUARY 8TH, 1919.

Leaves from a Gardener's Notebook.

JANUARY 27th.—When a Wistaria is grown as a standard, it does not produce long branches, as it does when trained against a wall, the reason being that, owing to the greater strain thrown on the stems, the functional activities there are increased, with the result of increasing the resistance, so they must be reduced elsewhere. It is only when a climber is supported that it will climb vigorously. The various devices employed by plants for supporting themselves and enabling them to climb are full of interest. Among the most primitive are the thorns or prickles of the Rose and the Briar. Other plants manage without even thorns, their side shoots extending outwards in pairs like arms, which rest on the objects around them. Generally, however, the methods adopted are more elaborate. Sometimes the leaf-stalks twist round anything they can cling to; sometimes tendrils are evolved from three or four branches; sometimes the whole stem coils round a support, generally in the same direction as the sun, but in a few instances in the opposite direction. In the course of generations the tendrils themselves may become modified. In the common Virginia Creeper, they tend to form sucker-like pads at their extremities when in contact with a damp wall; while in Ampelopsis Veitchii this habit is still further developed, and the pads are formed before contact, so this species takes hold of a wall and clings to it without any assistance. The influence of pressure or strain and moisture is also seen in the Ivy, for it is at points where it is in close contact with a damp surface that it produces the aerial roots by which it clings. When a shoot becomes detached it will in time form fresh roots and hold on again, if firmly and closely attached to the wall; but in most cases it is best taken off, so as to allow new growth to take its place.

WEATHER LORE.

January 28th.—According to the old saws, if the coming season is to be favourable for the gardener and the farmer, this month should be fine and frosty, and the next should be wet. "A wet January, a wet spring," we are told in one; and in another, "If the grass grows in Janiveer, It grows the worse for it all the year." Those which concern the next month are equally emphatic. "All the months of the year curse a fair Februeer," "If February brings no rain, 'Tis neither good for grass nor grain," and "A February spring is not worth a pin," are among the number. If grammar and rhyme are sometimes faulty, there is never the slightest doubt in the statements. How far they have been corroborated by modern statistics I do not know, but they must have been based on the experience of many generations. They are, therefore, probably correct on the whole, but the weather is a very uncertain factor, and one would have accepted them with less reserve if they had allowed that there might be exceptions.

PLANT "SPORTS."

January 29th.—What is the origin of the word "sport" as applied to plants? It seems as mysterious as the phenomenon itself. A race of plants may have been cultivated for a great many years without exhibiting the slightest tendency to depart from the type; and then, all of a sudden, a single branch of a single individual may produce flowers or foliage different from the rest. In Wells' book on Chrysanthemums it is said that "There is room for as much speculation as to the cause of sports as there is to that of a child born with two thumbs on one hand. A Chrysanthemum which sports is nothing more or less than a freak of Nature—an eccentricity over which we have no control." Still, Mr. Wells practically admits that it is controlled by certain laws. For, in connection with Chrysanthemums, he says: "It is a curious fact that sports travel in the same direction—from white to yellow, from yellow to bronze, from pink to white, yellow, bronze, etc." Again, is not sporting chiefly confined to plants with woody stems? I cannot be sure, but I think so. In one form of sporting—variegation of the foliage—and possibly in others, the phenomenon seems to be connected with nutrition. When an Aspidistra has long been grown in the same exhausted soil it sometimes becomes striped or variegated, and if it is afterwards transferred to rich soil the variegation may disappear in the leaves produced subsequently. Change of form is still more difficult to account for than change of colour. I have a Zonal Pelargonium (Geranium) which has sported, one of its shoots bearing flowers which are beautifully fringed, quite unlike any I have ever seen on any other plant or species. It is generally supposed that the crested and tasselled forms of Ferns have originated in places where there has been excessive amount of moisture. This fringed sport may, therefore, have been caused by some variation in the water supply, perhaps too little rather than too much, the one shoot for some reason or other not getting its fair share.

THE WASTAGE OF NITRATES.

January 30th.—Gardening is conducted on much more scientific lines than it used to be, but it still has a long way to go in that direction. How many gardeners, I wonder, could say how much plant food their soil contains, how much a particular crop will take out, and how much, therefore, must be replaced? Nearly all follow some fixed rule, applying so much nitrate, so much phosphate, and so much potash, quite irrespective of the contents of the ground and the requirements of the crop to be grown in it. If a banking account were treated in the same way there would be a fine muddle. The muddle may not become apparent in the garden, and as Nature is adding a liberal interest all the time, overdrafts are not as common as might be expected. But that such unbusiness-like management is most uneconomical cannot be doubted. Fortunately, two out of the three principal ingredients in plant food—phosphates and potash—remain in the soil. So while there must be a shortage in the crop if they are deficient, no harm is done by using them in excess, for they are not wasted. With the third ingredient, nitrate, it is different. It drains away rapidly as soon as it is dissolved, and should therefore be applied only when it can be used at once, and in such quantities that the crop can absorb the greater part of it. The wastage of nitrate is enormous. It has been estimated that the annual loss of nitrogen in Great Britain through drainage alone amounts to three hundred and twenty million pounds. If much of this loss is unavoidable, there is a very large quantity due to ignorance or carelessness.

NUTFIELD COURT, NEAR REDHILL, SURREY.

THE BUSH HONEYSUCKLES.

January 31st.—Among the best of flowering shrubs for any garden, large or small, are the Bush Honeysuckles (Diervillas, formerly called Weigelias). If the soil is dry and poor they are not so satisfactory, but if it is moist and

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rich they grow rapidly, and, even when quite small, flower profusely in spring or early summer; while in autumn they often flower again, though not to the same extent. Besides the species, there are many beautiful varieties and hybrids, white, yellow, pink, and crimson. They are quite hardy, and are easily propagated by cuttings in the open ground. The bushes require thinning occasionally, and this may be done at the present time. The young shoots should not be shortened. H. C. DAVIDSON.

THE MEXICAN ORANGE.

Choisya ternata, the Mexican Orange, as it is popularly called, is a capital shrub for small as well as large gardens. Though well-known, it is not so much grown as to be found in the average villa or cottage garden. It is, however, moderate in price, and in fact is as cheap as many of the more plentiful shrubs.

C. ternata has handsome evergreen leaves, and produces a large number of beautiful white, sweet-scented flowers, which appear over a considerable period, and are much appreciated by all. It is hardy, even far beyond the Tweed, and is not difficult to grow in loamy soil. Looking and doing well almost anywhere, it may be noted that it will even thrive and flower freely under the partial shade of trees. The writer knows of a large place where there are many plants of the Mexican Orange in the thinner parts of the woods, where they flourish and bloom splendidly.

The Chiosya requires little attention beyond cutting back to keep in shape. It begins to bloom when only a foot or so high, but will reach a height of from six to eight feet, or even more, when grown under trees. It can be recommended as a good and beautiful hardy shrub.—S. ARNOTT.

A NEW RACE OF POPPIES.

Two or three years ago Mr. T. H. Dipnall, of Overbury Hall, Layham, Suffolk, found a remarkable variety of the wild Poppy growing on the Overbury Hall estate in a cornfield, which was infested with this beautiful but unwelcome weed. The habit, foliage, and growth of the sport were indistinguishable from the ordinary wild form, but the flower, instead of being scarlet with, or without, the usual black blotch at the base of petals, was of a purplish or claret colour throughout, shot with a bronzy sheen, which became more conspicuous as the flowers aged, owing to the body colour of the petals fading somewhat. The essential organs (stamens and stigma) were the same colour as in the ordinary wild form, and not yellow, as in the Shirley Poppies.

Mr. Dipnall collected the seed from this sport before the corn was harvested, and sowed it the following spring, when, owing to cross fertilization, all the resultant plants were scarlet. Seed from these, however, next season (1918) produced a proportion of plants of the dark-coloured type, strong evidence that the break is, like the Shirley Poppies, a Mendelian recessive, and will breed true colours when once it is fixed. All scarlet-flowering plants were rogued out of the bed, and a considerable quantity of seed of the sport was saved. If, when sown this spring, this comes approximately true, a sufficient stock will be obtained, with normal weather conditions, to allow of its being distributed in 1919-20. If, however, the variety is not fixed enough this year to be sent out next autumn, it will be grown on until a fixed stock is obtained. The colour is such an unusual one among flowers that the new Poppy will be a distinct acquisition as a hardy perennial.

We shall esteem it a favour if readers will kindly introduce GARDEN LIFE to their friends.

FAMOUS BRITISH GARDENS.

NUTFIELD COURT, SURREY.

Interview with Mr. T. W. Herbert

THE beautiful district of Redhill, on the Surrey Downs, attracts many visitors, but few are aware that at Nutfield, two miles away, are found the valuable deposits of fullers' earth from which the great cloth-making industries of the North draw their supplies. Yet so it is; and I was reminded of the fact when I visited Mr. T. W. Herbert, the gardener at Nutfield Court, early in January. For on the death of the former owner, Mr. J. T. Charlesworth, in the autumn of 1917, the Fullers' Earth Union acquired a portion of the estate for the purpose of working the veins of blue and yellow earth that run beneath it. This portion included the gardener's lodge, so that Mr. W. H. Nockolds, who is now in possession, has had to find other accommodation for Mr. Herbert, and is about to put in hand the building of a new lodge.

MR. HERBERT, Junr.,
Foreman under his father at Nutfield Court.

The change of owners has brought with it many changes in the plans for the gardens, and these, owing to the difficulties in obtaining labour, are not fully developed. But Mr. Herbert was able to indicate their scope, and to outline the principal features. At the outset, however, I was shown round by Mr. Herbert's son, he himself having been called away for a short while.

A FAMILY OF SOLDIERS.

"Except my father and myself," he said, "we have no men now—only eight boys. We used to have six men and two boys. I have not been home long, for I joined the Army in 1914, and have been wounded and partially disabled. Three other of my brothers have also taken part in the fighting, and one, who was captured last March, has just been repatriated. Being so short-handed, we had to get rid of many of our greenhouse plants, but my father gave full attention to the fruit trees, both indoors and in the open, and last autumn, at the Royal Horticultural Society's fruit show, he was first in the class for Grape Prince of Wales, and for Apple Barnack Beauty. This house we are entering—we may as well do the houses first—is the stove. Here we bring the plants that have been used for indoor decoration. We have no conservatory."

"The Cereus on the wall is a great height!"

"Yes; we have had to cut it down a little. It has had as many as seventy or eighty blooms open in a single night. The Bougainvillea glabra on the roof is also a very fine plant, and gives a lot of flowers or bracts for cutting. The Geraniums near the roof are for winter flowering. We had at one time a lot of Arums, but cleared most of them out, keeping only the few you see, which are coming on nicely."

Leaving the stove, we proceeded to inspect the contents of the pit near by.

"We had a nice lot of Cucumbers here last summer. The plants you see now are mostly what we saved for stock. The Coleus are cuttings of the best varieties; the few Orchids are all that remain of a good batch. We are also working up a number of Poinsettias and Chinese Primulas."

BORDER CARNATIONS FROM CUTTINGS.

"The Carnation cuttings in pots look healthy. What varieties are they?"

"They are all the old Raby Castle, which is a great favourite here for cut flowers. They are propagated from cuttings, not layers, and with a little heat soon make roots. They are planted out in the beds in spring."

A Mushroom bed, lately spawned, was next visited, and from this we went on to what was a Rose house, but is now being converted into a Peach house. The roots will be outside, the plants being brought in under arches. Then we passed into the early Vinery, where are four Black Hamburghs and one Muscat of Alexandria.

"The Muscat is inarched on Foster's Seedling, and we find it gives better results than when on its own roots. The plants have been cleaned and pruned, and we shall put on heat at the end of January. On the back shelves near the roof we grow Tomatoes."

"What are the varieties here?" I asked, as we entered the second Vinery.

"There are two Black Hamburghs and one Mill Hill Hamburgh, though there is very little difference between this and the other two. The Vines in all the houses, by the way, have their roots on outside borders."

"You have Oranges in fruit here?"

"Yes; there are Oranges and a Lemon. The Orange is not the sweet one, but is very good for preserving. The tubs are taken out to the terrace for the summer. These pots of Freesias will go into the house shortly, and the Daffodils will be handy a little later on. In the late Vinery, which we are now entering, we have Prince of Wales and Muscat of Alexandria. We cut several bunches for Christmas. On the back wall is a Nectarine."

"There is a good batch of winter-flowering Stocks."

"The variety is Christmas Beauty. Some of the plants have been returned from the house; others are ready to go in. The scented Geraniums are used for outdoor work in summer. The Chrysanthemums have also done duty in the house."

"You force a few Strawberries?"

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"Yes; but of course we cannot do so much as we did formerly. The Potatoes now sprouting in boxes are for early work. This is all the glass we have, but before going to the kitchen garden you may like to see the Violets in frames. They are Marie Louise and Princess of Wales, and we always go in for them strongly."

APPLE HERBERT'S PROLIFIC.

"What is the extent of the kitchen gardens?"

"Including this orchard at the top, it is about four and a half acres. We go in largely for fruit, especially Apples."

"How were the crops last year?"

"They were very poor, and my father, who has been a head gardener for forty years—twenty-nine years here—cannot remember a season like it before. All told, we did not get more than twelve bushels of Apples, and nine of these came from four trees. The previous year the crop was three hundred bushels."

"Were the four trees that gave the nine bushels all the same variety?"

"Yes; it is one my father has named Herbert's Prolific. They were four very old trees which did no good, so he subjected them to a severe pruning, opening out the centres to allow the branches to extend. Since then they have borne well and consistently, and last year gave nine out of the twelve bushels we got from the trees. Their original name is not known."

"What are the characteristics of the fruit?"

"It can be used either for the kitchen or dessert, and grows to a large size. It is a good cooker, and keeps splendidly. The colour is green, and in the winter it changes to a good yellow. As to its bearing, it is the heaviest cropper we have, and a strong grower. Another point in its favour is that it is free from canker and black spot."

"I see you have pruned most of the trees."

"My father and I have done the work between us, and hope to finish it shortly. Then in February we shall spray the trees, which have not been done for four years, as we have had no labour."

"Do you use a caustic winter wash?"

"No; we prefer to spray with lime wash. We get the lime fresh, and slake it well, and the results are, I think, quite as good as with a caustic wash."

GOOD OLD APPLES.

"You have a considerable number of trees here. Will you tell me the chief varieties?"

"Some of them are quite old sorts, that you do not see often nowadays. I will point them out as we go along. Here is a standard of Yorkshire Greening, a kitchen Apple that is at its best in January and February. It is a good cooker, and keeps well. Witherington Fillbasket is another old variety also a cooker. It is a splendid cropper. Still another old one is this—Summer Stivet, a fine flavoured dessert Apple, with conical shaped fruit. Then there is that good old Sussex variety, Forge. It is a good grower, and bears freely. The fruit is not large, but it is very rich flavour, with a strong, aromatic scent. Winter Queening is an old cooker, that does well on this soil, and the fruit keeps sound till April or May."

"When were the trees planted?"

"Forge is a young tree; but most of the others were planted by my father about twenty-eight years ago. A few were brought from other parts of the garden. Blenheim is a variety that always does well when it is established, and we have several standards here. Norfolk Beaufin is a cooker that will keep till Apples come again. Here is a Cox's Orange Pippin that we moved from one of the flower borders, where it was not doing well. Now it bears very good crops."

"What is the nature of the soil?"

"It is a sandy clay, which dries out very quickly in hot weather. But in May we mulch as far as the branches extend, and fork it in in the winter. We never dig close."

SOME POOR AND SOME GOOD DOERS.

"Some varieties, I suppose, do better than others?"

"Yes; some do not get on at all well. Scarlet Nonpariel, for instance, is to be grubbed up. We have given it a good trial, but it cankers badly, and evidently is not suited by the soil. Cox's Pomona is another that cankers, and is not a success. New Hawthornden is a useful variety, but it, too, is apt to canker, and is subject to black spot. I think it does better in a heavier soil."

"And what of those which do best?"

"Annie Elizabeth is a very reliable cropper, and always bears heavily. We have several trees of this sort. Wellington is another that you can depend on. Duchess of Oldenburgh can be used as a cooker or for dessert, but it does not keep. It is a good cropper, in season about the end of August. Keswick Codlin is another of the old varieties that is very reliable. Lane's Prince Albert is a sort that should be in every garden. It is of a drooping habit of growth, much different from some of the others, and does not do well as a standard; but as a bush it is one of the most consistent bearers that I know of. Ecklinville Seedling is another that does well, and the fruit is good up to Christmas. Bramley's Seedling is quite indispensable. Stirling Castle, Lady Henniker, Lord Derby, Gascoyne's Scarlet, The Queen, Newton Wonder, and Bismarck are others that never fail in ordinary seasons. As to dessert varieties, of course Cox's stands first. Lady Sudeley is a good early sort, and Irish Peach is another. Gravenstein is not a particularly heavy cropper, but it is of very good flavour, and can be used either for dessert or cooking. Wealthy is useful for dessert, and is a very pretty fruit. Fearn's Pippin has a very taking appearance, but the flavour is poor. The old Golden Pippin is very early. The fruit is small, but the flavour is excellent. There is one other cooker I should like to mention—Sandringham. It bears well, and is quite a good flesh, but it is soft, and does not travel well."

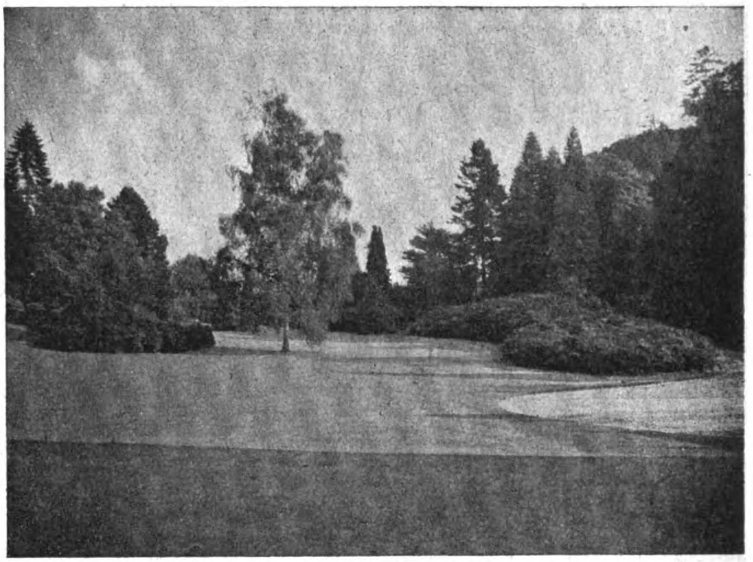
PRUNING APPLE TREES.

"You keep the centres of the trees well open?"

"That is one of the important points in Apple growing. Once the trees are established they want very little thinning. Of course, some varieties call for different treatment from others. Irish Peach fruits on the ends of the growths, so all we do is to keep it from getting straggly. Bismarck, too, I have found bears fruit on the current year's growth, so in pruning we leave the spurs longer than with other varieties."

"Where do you grow your Pears?"

"There are one or two trees up here, but most of them are in the kitchen garden. We have a number of Plums in this orchard. We have just planted some new standards of King of Damsons. Orleans Plum does well, but the trees do not last many years. They were necessarily a bit neglected during the war, but we have now thinned them out, and put them straight. A very good cooking Plum is Prince Engelbert. It bore so heavily in 1917 that some branches were broken down, and rather spoiled the appearance of the tree. Diamond is another good cooker. Monarch is also a very fine cropper, and we have several bushes of this, as well as Victoria, Czar, and Pond's Seedling. There are a few other trees in this part of the garden. The old Siberian Crab gives a lot of very bright coloured and ornamental fruit, which makes a nice preserve. Two Quinces give useful crops for flavouring and jellies. We have only one variety of Black Currant, Boskoop Giant, but that is like the others, and is often attacked by 'big bud.' Some trees that were too bad we have grubbed up."



RHODODENRONS ON THE LAWN AT NUTFIELD COURT.

We were now joined by Mr. T. W. Herbert, who took the rôle of conductor, and together we made our way round the kitchen garden. This is circular in shape, partly walled, partly fenced, and in part enclosed with a high bank. It is divided into four principal sections, with paths crossing at right angles, and a wide border at the side. On this border are planted many bush Apples and Pears. The edgings are of Box.

A FRUIT PERGOLA.

A handsome pergola, clothed with Roses and Wistarias, runs from the upper end of this garden to the pool in the centre, and another is contemplated to continue the walk to the far end.

"This is one of the many alterations that are now being carried out," said Mr. Herbert. "The ground has been trenched three feet deep, and we have worked in plenty of decayed leaves and manure. The strip on each side of the path is where we used to grow Sweet Peas and

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Violas, but I am going to make a fruit pergola here instead. As you see, we have already planted some of the trees. There are Plums, Apples, and Pears, and they will be trained in the usual manner for pergolas."

"You have a large plantation of Raspberries here?"

"Yes; they are greatly liked, and the canes did so very well last year that the bed is to be made about three times larger. We have already prepared the soil, and have given it plenty of manure. On this soil it is necessary to mulch Raspberries heavily. Then in winter we give a lot of manure water, especially to Raspberries, though also to other fruit trees. This next bed is to be filled with Currants."

"The winter greens look healthy."

"We have some good beds of various greens. The Sprouting Broccoli is as good as could be wished. The Brussels Sprouts have been very satisfactory. I had early Potatoes between the rows of Sprouts, and when the Potatoes were lifted we planted a crop of Cos Lettuce."

"What are the fruit trees on the wall and fence?"

"They are Plums and Pears mostly. On the fence are Morello Cherries, which give plenty of fruit."

"Does it not get attacked by insect pests?"

"We manage to keep them under by spraying with soft soap. On each side of the little gate at this end there used to be a great Poplar, and their roots ran for twenty yards and more through the beds, so that vegetables did not do so well as they might. Mr. Charlesworth would not have them removed, although the soil at this end is the best in the garden for vegetables. However, Mr. Nockolds gave his permission, and the trees were taken down. On their site I am planting Rhododendrons. By the way, I may tell you that in 1917 I entered in twenty classes for the Fruit Show, and had some splendid fruits; but Mr. Charlesworth was buried on the day of the show, so of course I did not exhibit."

THE PLEASURE GROUNDS.

Leaving the kitchen garden, we next proceeded to look at the pleasure grounds surrounding the house. The surroundings are delightfully picturesque. The ground slopes in every direction, falling away in one place, and revealing a view across the country; in another rising and presenting a cool, green outlook, surmounted by trees, and with Rhododendrons on the outskirts. Rhododendrons, indeed, are one of the features of Nutfield Court, and the collection is being increased. They are taking the place of two long beds of Roses fronting the house, and when this work is completed there will be a striking display at blossom time, while the evergreen foliage will provide a cheerful outlook even in winter. Already on the lawns they are planted in large masses.

"Did you let the lawns go?" I asked.

"Much of the grass had to go, and we have had a good crop of hay off it for two years; but I managed to keep the lawns cut near to the house. The work is done with a pony mower, except, of course, the grass banks, which have to be scythed."

"You have a fine border of herbaceous plants, which should be very handsome in summer."

"It is indeed very fine. It is about a quarter of a mile long, but you would scarcely think it, because of its windings. It is, I think, much to be preferred to a straight border. Here the eye does not take in everything at once. The background of shrub adds to its effectiveness. As you see, we have a very choice selection of evergreen and deciduous shrubs."

"You are making some new beds on this farther lawn?"

"These are to be for Dahlias, which we are going in for largely, as Mr. Nockolds is very fond of them. He especially favours the Collarettes, and the Star Dahlias which Messrs. Cheal have introduced. They are splendid for the garden, and so very useful and decorative as cut flowers."

"This is not all the alterations you are aiming at?"

"No; there are many others in contemplation, and as soon as we can get the labour we shall proceed with them. Meanwhile, we are doing the best we can." W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Next week: The gardens at Cuckfield Park, Sussex.—Interview with Mr. C. F. Wood.

LYCHNIS ARKWRIGHTII.

Since it obtained its recognition by the Royal Horticultural Society at their Holland House Shows in 1913 and 1914, Lychnis Arkwrightii has made considerable progress in the estimation of growers of flowers, although this has been sadly hampered by the prevailing war conditions. It is certainly one of the most striking hardy plants produced by the hybridiser within the last decade, and should be of considerable assistance in making our gardens gay. It is so easy to raise from seeds that it need be absent from few gardens where it is desired. If these seeds are sown early in heat, and treated like a half-hardy annual, the resulting plants should bloom the same autumn.

Still better is it, I think, to delay the sowing until cool treatment can be given, either under glass or in the open. A greater number of seedlings will be secured from a packet if the seeds are sown under glass in pots in March or April, grown on gently, and planted out in summer. The early-raised plants will be about eighteen inches high the first year, but will grow to three feet or so the second year.

So far, L. Arkwrightii appears to be a hardy perennial, as we may expect when we know that it is the result of a cross between the old favourite, L. chalcedonica, and L. haageana. Its colours vary from brilliant crimson to pale hues of high beauty. It loves a sunny place, and a good but rich soil, and slugs seem its greatest foes, as they have a penchant for young plants, and for old ones in spring.—S. ARNOTT.

PRIZE COMPETITION.

To encourage readers to give other gardeners the benefit of their knowledge and skill, we offer each week cash prizes of 10/-, 7/- and 3/- respectively, to the writer of the most useful and practical letters on the subjects chosen from time to time. The subject for the present series is—

HOW I GROW ONIONS.

Letters should be as brief as possible, and must be practical, embodying the writer's own system of cultivation. The Editor's decision will be final. Mark envelopes "Onions," on top left-hand corner, and address The Editor, "Garden Life," Hatton House, Great Queen St., London, W.C.2.

THALICTRUM AQUILEGIFOLIUM.

Some highly ornamental plants are included among the Thalictrums, or Meadow Rues, and few, I think, rank more highly in the estimation of those who know hardy flowers really well than the Columbine-leaved T. aquilegifolium. It is one of the most pleasing of border flowers, possessing much grace from the time it begins to grow in spring until it is in the seed state in autumn. The character of the leaves is well described by the specific name of aquilegifolium, for few other plants imitate so perfectly the foliage of the Columbines. With the consummate grace of the Columbines in the form of the leaves it has the virtue of bearing an inflorescence of equal charm. In early summer it carries in broad plumes an inflorescence of the lightest and most elegant description. In the case of the white variety, indeed, it looks like a mass of pure sea foam. This, T. aquilegifolium album, is, in my view, the most attractive of all.

There is a form with reddish flowers, called rubrum. Another of high beauty, T. a. atropurpureum, has purplish leaves and stems and deep red flowers.

The ordinary height of this handsome plant is some three feet, but it may exceed this, while in very dry soil it may be as little as two feet high. It prefers a rather moist soil, and there attains its most stately dimensions. Propagation is effected by division or seeds.—S. ARNOTT.

GARDENING GOSSIP.

The President, a new variety of Primula malacoides, made its *début* last week. It comes from Messrs. J. Carter and Co., Raynes Park, and has pale mauve flowers, which are fully double, and very pretty. They are borne in quantity on stems six inches high, above neat green foliage. Altogether it is a desirable addition to our greenhouse plants, and the Award of Merit it received was well bestowed.

Samples of a seedling Apple, St. Cecilia, shown last week at the R.H.S. meeting, aroused much interest. They were sent by Messrs. John Basham and Sons, Bassaleg, Mon., who last year obtained an Award of Merit for the variety. It is a seedling of Cox's Orange Pippin, crossed with an unknown variety, and shows evident traces of Cox's, which it is said to resemble also in foliage and habit of growth. The fruit was of fair dessert size and attractive in appearance, and was in splendid condition. The introducers say it is a regular and heavy bearer, and that they know of no Apple to equal it for flavour at this season. There has been no appearance of canker on young trees, nor on the parent tree, which is about sixteen years old.

Over five thousand Cabbages, twelve hundred Cauliflowers, one thousand six hundred sticks of Celery, two thousand Leeks, three thousand three hundred Lettuces, one thousand two hundred Kohl Rabi, thirty-six bushels of Spinach, twelve and a half hundredweight of Turnip-tops, and smaller quantities of eighteen other vegetables, were grown in the public gardens of Bermondsey, of which Mr. W. H. Aggett is superintendent. All the produce was given to two local hospitals.

The council of the R.H.S. has decided to hold two shows at Chelsea this year. The first, on May 20th, 21st, and 22nd, will be in aid of the Wisley Gardens Endowment Fund; the second, a month later, will be a substitute "Holland House show," and the proceeds will go to the Horticultural War Relief Fund. For both these shows the promises of support from amateur and trade exhibitors is so encouraging as to warrant the assumption that they will be even more successful than in pre-war days.

The National Sweet Pea Society is going to hold a re-union of its members on the evening of the annual show, which is fixed for July 1st. For July 2nd the president, Mr. E. W. King, has invited the members to inspect his trials of Sweet Peas, provided he is able to grow sufficient to make it worth while.

Dulwich Chrysanthemum and Horticultural Society, which was founded in 1894, has met with a measure of success equalled by few local societies. Devoted at first to Chrysanthemums, it won the N.C.S. shield and the R.H.S. silver cup. Since the war it has included allotment work, no fewer than four hundred and fifty plots being taken up. In the same period it has, by means of shows, raised the sum of £423 8s. 5d., which has been given to various war relief funds.

Suspended during the war, the great Yorkshire Flower Show and Gala is to be resumed this year at York, the date fixed being June 18th, 19th, and 20th. This was always one of the outstanding events in the Northern counties, and there is every reason to hope that its glories will be revived. The prize fund amounts to £700. The secretary, Mr. H. W. Pulleyn, 8, Coppergate, York, will supply schedules.

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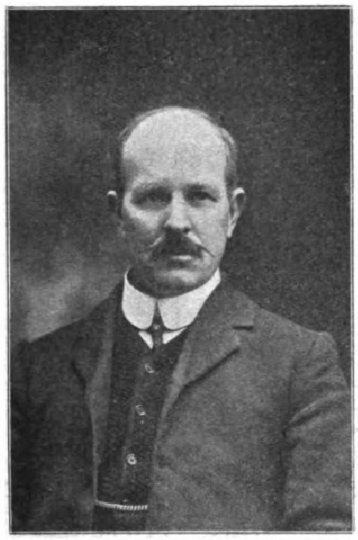
are very poisonous; so, perhaps, the word has the old Anglo-Saxon and present Irish meaning in connection with a death. This poisonous property may be beneficial to the plant in two ways. It would ordinarily prevent animals or birds from eating the seeds, while, if any hungry creature did do so, and perished in consequence, its decaying body would supply the seedlings with nitrogenous food, just as do the insects that are caught in the pitchers or other devices



MR. HERON.

of insectivorous plants. There is, however, one bird which in some remarkable manner has become immune to the poison, and that is the thrush. It eats the berries readily, and is the chief agent in the distribution of the seeds. It is curious that, though the Arum is not insectivorous, it does entrap insects, but after a time, when they are covered with pollen, they are allowed by the collapse of their prison walls to escape. By the way, I see that one of the popular names, Cuckoo-pint, used to be Cuckoo-pinde, and this throws some light on its origin, pinde being a bar.

The Weather and Arrested Developments.

September 10th.—It not infrequently happens that Cauliflowers and Broccoli fail to form heads. The cause is generally said to be some injury to the growing point due to insects or accident of some kind. This may be so sometimes; but as the failure is most common in cold seasons, the weather must be regarded as a more potent factor. There are other plants which behave in the same disappointing manner—for example, Cannas. In a hot summer, when they are grown in rich soil and supplied with plenty of water, they generally flower magnificently, but in a cold, dull season the shoots reach scarcely half their usual height and bear no flowers. To use the expression applied to Cauliflowers, they are blind. Here certainly insects are not concerned; it is purely a case of arrested development due to unfavourable weather—though, perhaps, not always weather during the year of growth, for the failure might be due to insufficient ripening of the tubers.

A Hint for Covering Walls.

September 11th.—There are two ways of covering ugly walls. One is to grow climbers over them; the other, to make pockets in them, as shown in the illustration, by taking or leaving out a brick here and there, and growing in them trailing rock-plants. The latter method, though slower than the other, is often very effective. A little care at the outset—care in selecting the plants, providing them with suitable soil, and keeping them watered—will save much time and trouble in the long run. Of course, the best wall, for the purpose, is a retaining wall—one with the solid ground behind it.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Capenor, Nutfield.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. THOMAS HERON.

THE situation of the gardens at Capenor is equalled by few even in Surrey, and the outlook from the terrace in front of the handsome residence is excelled by none. The latter embraces the considerable estate belonging to Mr. H. B. Brandt, and includes a panorama of the hills, with almost every variety of scenery, Ashdown Forest being on the right. At the time of my visit, towards the end of July, everything was looking its loveliest.

The Rosery.

Starting in the pleasure grounds with the Rosery, Mr. Heron, who fills the dual position of estate agent and head gardener, surprised me by saying that a large portion of it was formerly a herbaceous border, and that this was not planted with Roses until last spring.

"On what system did you plant?" I asked.

"There are a number of beds containing one variety only. Here, in the sun, are beds of Frau Karl Druschki and Caroline Testout, Liberty, Madame Ravary, and Mrs. John Laing; while in the shade are Scotch Briers and Roses of the Rugosa section."

"I notice that one side of the pergola consists of Roses, and, on the other, varieties of different climbers."

"Yes; the principal Roses are Queen Alexandra, Dorothy Perkins, Ards Rover, Electra, Bouquet d'Or, Marie van Houtte, Aimee Vibert, Waltham Climber, Longworth Rambler, and Madame Alfred Carriere. The other climbers include Honeysuckles, Clematis, Akebias, Ampelopsis, Vitis, and Wistarias in variety. The back line is confined to standards; there are two lines of Hybrid Perpetuals, and a line of Teas and Hybrid Teas in front."

To Prepare Soil for Roses.

"Bearing in mind that though only planted this year, they are all in flower, I conclude that the soil is congenial."

"As a matter of fact, it is by no means the best kind of soil for Roses. But we put the best cake-fed manure into it, and trenched it two and a half feet deep. Subsequently, a coating of liquid manure was given. There is a good prospect of getting a second crop of Roses."

"You might mention, as we proceed, some of the varieties that do best in the beds."

"Corallina, Madame Isaac Periere, Captain Hayward, Ulrich Brunner, General Jacqueminot, Marchioness of Londonderry, Marjorie, Gruss an Teplitz—which is the earliest, and yields masses of bloom—Margaret Dickson, Gloire Lyonnaise, Duke of Edinburgh—which, like many of the oldest, is amongst the best in colour and constitution—and La France de '89, with fine large blooms of good colour, rather lighter than the ordinary La France."

CAPENOR, NUTFIELD.

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"And the standards?"

"Gruss an Teplitz does specially well as a standard, and so do Caroline Testout, Duke of Edinburgh, and Mrs. John Laing. Also Viscountess Folkestone, Antoine Revoire, Gloire de Dijon, Ulrich Brunner, Reine Marie Henriette, Madame Isaac Periere, Grace Darling, and Alliance Franco-Russia—a yellow Rose that needs fine weather."

"Now," continued Mr. Heron, "we come to some beds that were planted three years ago. They are similar varieties, grown as standards and bushes; but next year these beds will probably be planted entirely with standards of Caroline Testout, and a groundwork of Frau Karl Druschki."

Delphiniums and Veronicas.

The next feature which attracted my attention was a great bed of Delphiniums intermixed with Veronicas, making a splendid mass of blue and white.

"When was the bed planted?"

"Only this year. One of the advantages of growing a quantity of Delphiniums is that if the early blooms are taken off, the flowering season can be prolonged until September. There are seven varieties, three dozen of each, massed in different shades of colour. The best is King of Delphiniums, but the others, Belladonna, Falka, Almary, Provost Hay, Geslin, and Violet, are very good. It is well to remember that Delphiniums take a lot out of the ground, and require a deal of manure."

"You have a plantation of trees in the valley below?"

"Yes; these are all young trees. The taller varieties are planted in the lower ground. Here we are five hundred and sixty feet above sea level. The trees are chiefly Spanish Chestnuts, with an undergrowth of Hazel. The standards are flowering shrubs, such as Laburnum, Cherries, Thorns in variety, Prunus, and Birch; while on the banks are the shorter-growing varieties, such as Spiræas, Deutzias, Ribes, Weigelas, and Brooms. Earlier, we had a marvellous display of choice Rhododendrons. After they cease to bloom, I have them all hand-picked. It means a lot of work, but it is work that pays in the end."

From the tennis lawn, with its three courts, the Veronicas against the Delphiniums looked like snow, and at this point, noticing that a motor mower was in use, I enquired:—"Do you find that the advantages are considerable?"

The Economy of a Motor Lawn-mower.

"We have had the motor mower for four years, and have, therefore, given it a good trial. Practically, we get over eight acres of grass with it in two days, as against a week with an ordinary mower."

"When were the trees on the lawns planted?"

"About twenty-two years ago, 1887, when the mansion itself was built. On one side are Weeping Limes, Ash trees, and Horse Chestnuts; on the other, Thuja gigantea, Cupressus Erecta, a fine specimen of the Tree of Heaven, and two nice young trees of Pinus Escallonia. In the avenue, from the lodge to the front of the mansion, are Cedrus Deodara, Araucarias; Abies Douglassi nobilis, Pinsapo, and Nordmanniana; Cupressus Lawsoniana and macrocarpa; and gold and silver Hollies. Conspicuous on the lawn in front of the mansion is a large Ash and two fine specimens of Elms."

THE CORRIDOR AT CAPENOR, NUTFIELD.

"Do you naturalise Daffodils under the trees?"

"About twenty thousand Three years ago we planted the border of flowering shrubs on the north side for early summer display. They are mainly Lilacs, Kalmias, Berberis, Wiegelas, and Olearias."

A Notable Creeper on the Porch.

"What is the name of the charming creeper which clothes the porch?"

"Rhamnus alternus angustifolia. It also covers the outside of the billiard-room. To keep it in its present form, we clip it twice a year. In addition, the creepers on the mansion are Ampelopsis Veitchii and Ivies."

"The three beds of Dahlias are a feature near the porch."

"One is composed entirely of the variety Mr. H. B. Brandt, salmon pink, a Pompone Cactus raised by Messrs. Cheal. In one of the other two beds are two lines of Mrs. H. B. Jackson and Night; and in the other, Uncle Tom is the outer line. These beds are so arranged that we always get contrasts of colour, the darker shades in the centre."

"Then there is the extensive bedding on the terrace."

"Some of the beds in the vicinity of the terrace, which faces south, will be changed. Thus, the bed of Lilium longifolium is to be filled with standard Fuchsias, about four feet high in the centre, and eighteen inches at the edge, all Rose of Castile. In the little border on the dip of the terrace wall are Verbenas, starting away with a variety of light shade, and continuing with darker. Planted on the wall to hang over are Cotoneasters and Cistus in variety. Creepers in variety are planted in teak wood frames, including Escallonias, Berberis, Ampelopsis, and Rose W. A. Richardson, the verandah being adorned with Wistarias, Cratægus, and Pyrus japonica."

Hydrangeas in Boxes.

"How long have the Hydrangeas in boxes and sunk in the earth been in flower?"

"Since the middle of May. The boxes are eighteen inches wide. As you see, the plants flower remarkably well. In the border are flowering shrubs, such as I have already mentioned, in the background, with the addition of Choisya ternata and Spiræa Anthony Waterer. Then there are new herbaceous borders just planted in groups."

"How are the groups composed?"

"They include Pæonies, Pansies, Evening Primroses, Canterbury Bells sown among Cornflowers, Candytuft (white and pink), Gypsophila paniculata, Calceolarias Golden Gem, followed by Liliums rubescens, Delphiniums, Nigella Miss Jekyll, Eremurus (white and pink), Eschscholtzia, Sweet Williams, Viscarias, Red Antirrhinums, Chrysanthemums King Edward, and tall-growing Asters. Behind are Roses Crimson Rambler and Clematis Jackmanni mixed, also a number of Hollyhocks, grown in colours, from seed. The only way to keep Hollyhocks free from disease is to raise them from seed, flower them for two years, and throw them away."

The Making of the Wild Garden.

"Are there any flowering shrubs on the walls of the terrace which you have not already mentioned?"

"They include also Pyrus Malus, Potentilla fruticosa, Berberis in variety, and Lonicera. Below the wall are Rock plants, such as Alpine Phlox, Aubrietias, Sedums in variety, Saxifrages, Dwarf Campanulas, and Lithospermums."

"What do you use for the spring bedding on the terrace?"

"Largely Polyanthus, Myosotis, and Tulips. The wild garden on the slopes, to which we are now proceeding, is planted with Daffodils in the spring, and for the rest of the year there is always something else coming in flower. To name only two or three: Heaths in variety, Roses in profusion, St. John's Wort, Poppies in variety, and Sweet Williams, give masses of flower at different seasons. The whole of this wild garden, which covers, as you can tell, a great deal of space, was planted with seed costing only between £3 and £4."

Grape-Growing on the Scotch System.

Then, passing what is called the Children's Garden, which was planted this year, and contains, not only a variety of annuals, but Peas, Beans, Turnips, and Carrots, we entered the large kitchen garden. Here are the glasshouses and a Vinery planted with trees two years old

"This Vinery," said Mr. Heron, "is planted on the Scotch system, with a border on each side, and the roof is three-quarter span. On one side are Mrs. Pince, Golden Queen, Gros Maroc, Melton Constable, Alnwick Seedling, Appley Towers, Lady Hutt, Lady Downe, and Black Alicante. Facing these are more Lady Downe, Black Alicante, and more Alnwick Seedling, and also Diamond Jubilee and Princess of Wales. These have all cropped, and Golden Queen is especially good. In the second Vinery, planted this year at the back, are Foster's Seedling, Black Hamburgh, and Buck-

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land Sweet Water. The Vines in the front were planted fifteen years ago, and are Lady Downe, Madresfield Court, Muscat of Alexandria, and Bowood Muscat, the first of all the Muscats, and a Grape of beautiful flavour."

A Great Range of Glasshouses.

"Do you go in largely for Melons?"

"We only grow the Scarlet flesh. Monro's Little Heath, a very free setter, is an old variety, and we also grow Sutton's A1 and Invincible. We started Cucumbers before Easter, the varieties being Telegraph, Improved Telegraph, Sutton's A1, and Sutton's Everyday. The feature of our glass is, however, the series of houses giving out from the corridor, which we are just about to explore. The first, as you see, contains a quantity of Orchids, chiefly Cypripedium, Insigne, and on the centre stage are Coleus and Cannas. Other plants here are Grevillea robusta, and Jacaranda mimosæfolia, a very effective little foliage plant."

"The next, I notice, is the Malmaison house."

"With regard to Malmaisons, it might be interesting for you to know that after the plants have flowered for two years, we throw them away. The best of the varieties are Albion, Mercia, King Oscar, Duke of Westminster, The Queen, Princess of Wales, Sault, Mrs. Trelawney, H. J. Jones, Baldwin, Churchwarden, Nell Gwynne, and Maggie Hodson. The best of the winter-flowering varieties are Enchantress, Lady Bountiful, Nelson Fisher, Britannia, Mrs. Robert Norman, Jessica, Robert Craig, and Mrs. S. J. Brookes. Border Carnations are grown in frames in the winter, and we decorate the tables with three varieties, Sundridge, Uriah Pike, and Mrs. R. G. Campbell (dark, yellow, and pink)."

Pot Fruit Culture.

"Now we come to one of the fruit-houses containing fruit in pots. Cherries are largely grown, Early Rivers, Belle d'Orleans, Black Tartarian, Governor Wood, Early Red Bigarreau, Empress Eugenie, Elton, Bedford Prolific, Bigarreau, May Duke, Black Eagle, Florence, and Late Duke, grafted on seedling wild Cherry. The worst enemy of Cherries is black-fly, but, if taken in time, it is easily got rid of by syringing with a good insecticide, after the sun has gone off the house. In the next house, devoted chiefly to Peaches, we planted this year Dymond and Peregrine Peaches, with Early Rivers and Cardinal Nectarines; while on the shelves are a big batch of Nerines and Amaryllis."

"You have Peaches and Nectarines in pots in the adjoining house?"

"Yes; on the four lines of shelves. The best early varieties of Peaches for pot culture are Duke of York and Duchess of Cornwall, which are followed by Peregrine, Sea Eagle, Princess of Wales, Thomas Rivers, and Barrington. The best Nectarine for early forcing is Cardinal, and this is followed by Early Rivers, Lord Napier, Rivers' Orange, Violette Hative, Stanwick Elruge, Pine Apple, Byron, Humboldt, and Victoria. When the Peaches and Nectarines are moved out of doors, we put in Tomatoes in boxes, the varieties being Sutton's Perfection, Dickson and Robinson's Money Maker, Stirling Castle, and Cascade."

The Decoration of the Corridor.

"Have you any special features in the stove?"

"We grow nearly two hundred Calanthes, Antirrhinums, Caladiums, Crotons in variety, Dracænas, Begonias Gloire de Lorraine and Turnford Hall, a number of Palms and Ferns, principally Maidenhair and Pteris."

"Of course, you change the contents of the corridor to a large extent?"

"Yes; but the creepers are permanent. On the roof are Clematis indivisa, Bougainvillea glabra, Hoya Australis, and Plumbago capensis. On the brackets, Stephanotis is growing, and on the pillars, Acacia dealbata. The corridor is about one hundred and twenty feet long, with a stage on each side."

"Speaking of height, what is the height of the Campanula Pyamidalis in pots on one of the stages?"

"Not quite eight feet. I sow them in boxes in May, transplant in July, and pot them up in September, flowering them the next year. Also in pots on the shelves are Fuchsias in variety, the double blue Lobelia, Gloxinias in variety, Geraniums, Begonias in variety, Petunias, and Streptocarpus, which have been in bloom for two months. Earlier, we had a fine show of Schizanthus, but at all periods of the year this corridor is kept bright."

Tree Carnations Outside.

"I notice that you have some winter-flowering Carnations planted outside."

"My belief is that these will entirely supplant the border varieties. We force them and flower them all through the winter and spring, plant out in May, and they go on flowering for some months. To secure plenty of blooms, all that is necessary is to manure freely. Sweet Peas are planted in groups of three varieties, four feet apart. I won first prize with them this week in the open class at Bletchingley."

"What about Chrysanthemums?"

"They are in pots just now in the vegetable garden. We grow five hundred bush varieties, double and single, for decorative purposes, such as Mrs. Judson, Source d'Or, Mary Anderson, Poinsettia, Earlswood Beauty, Winnie Wells, Autumn Tints, Golden Elsie, Princess Victoria, W. H. Lincoln, and Lady Canning. The Japanese varieties for specimen blooms include Algernon Davis, F. S. Vallis, Valerie Greenham, Edith Smith, J. Doyle, Beatrice May, Madame R. Oburthur, Reginald Vallis, Mrs. W. Knox, W. R. Church, Mrs. D. Willis James, Mr. Dalton, and Florence Penfold."

Hardy Fruit.

"With respect to fruit outside and on the walls, which varieties of Apples do you find crop the best?"

"Of dessert varieties, the best are Cox's Orange, Charles Ross, Duke of Devonshire, James Grieve, King of Pippins, Ribston Pippin, and Worcester Pearmain; and of kitchen Apples, Annie Elizabeth, Blenheim Orange, Bramley's Seedling, Duchess of Oldenburgh, Ecklinville Seedling, Keswick Codlin, Lane's Prince Albert, Mere de Menage, Newton Wonder, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Stirling Castle, and Warner's King."

"And your best Pears and Plums?"

"The twelve best Pears are Beurre d'Amanlis, Conference, Doyenne du Comice, Glou Morceau, Beurre Diel, Beurre Superfin, Josephine de Malines, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise, Pitmaston Duchess, Williams' Bon Chretien, and Comte de Lamy. The best dessert variety of Plums are Coe's Golden Drop, Early Transparent Gage, Late Transparent Gage, Jefferson's, Kirke's, Orleans, and Late Orange; the best cooking, Diamond, Early Prolific, Magnum Bonum, Monarch, Prince Englebert, The Czar, and Victoria."

"How many varieties of Strawberries do you grow?"

"Only two; Royal Sovereign and Givon's Late Prolific. We plant eighteen inches apart each way, and get a splendid crop the first year. After they fruit, we take out every second line; we only fruit the runners for two years. In the fruit cage, as you can see, we have splendid crops of Currants, Gooseberries, and Raspberries; and the north wall is well covered with Morello Cherries."

THE GARDEN STAFF AT CAPENOR, NUTFIELD.

"Have you anything special to say about vegetables?"

"All the winter Cabbages are grown in an exposed position, and divided into two sections; on one side of these are Potatoes, and on the other side, Peas, the ground being changed every year. The varieties of Potatoes are Midlothian, The Factor, Early Puritan, British Queen, and Up-to-Date. The early Peas are William I., King of the Dwarf, Sutton's Early Giant, and Gradus. These are followed in the order named by Sutton's Centenary, Marrowfat, Duke of Albany, Telegraph, Glory of Devon, Ne plus Ultra, Dr. McLean, Best of All, and The Gladstone. Spinach, Beans, and most other vegetables are grown in quantity."

"Please tell me a little about your own career."

"I served my apprenticeship in Kirkcudbrightshire, and went next to Munches House, on the Solway Firth, the gardens at Munches being at that time famous for the botanical collection of plants and shrubs grown both out of doors and under glass. My next appointment was at Tullichewan Castle, on the banks

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of Loch Lomond, where fruit-growing was a special feature. My next move was to Ravelstone Park, near Edinburgh, where I had charge of the glasshouses. From Ravelstone, I proceeded to Ellary Castle, Argyleshire, as general foreman, and as the owner was a gardening enthusiast, things were done exceedingly well. At the end of eighteen months I became foreman at Bythorne House, Northumberland. My next post was that of head gardener to Mr. C. D. Rudd, of Ardvamurchan, in Argyleshire. I carried out the formation of the new gardens and pleasure grounds attached to two new mansions which were erected while I was there. At the expiration of nine years, I came to Capenor with Mr. Rudd, who purchased this estate three and a half years ago. He sold it to Mr. Brandt eighteen months ago. I have never done much showing."

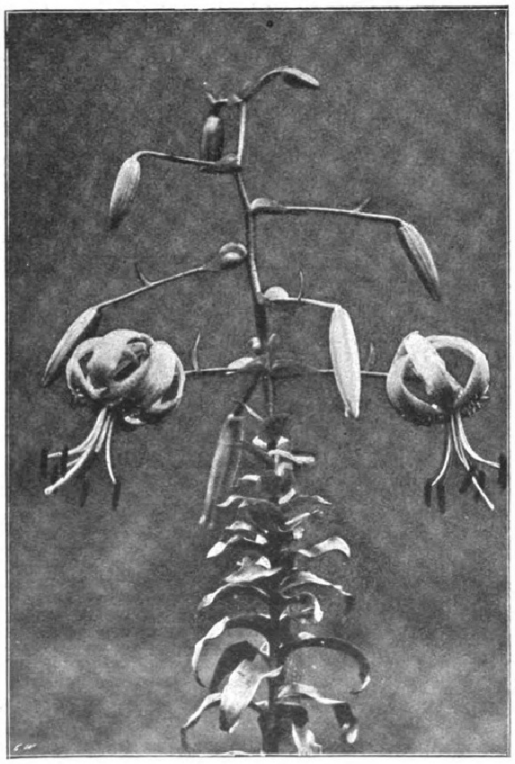
ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 372,—AUTUMN FLOWERS AND EARLY BULBS.

DEAR KATE,—The autumnal blaze of scarlet and gold has begun early this year, and the house is brilliantly draped with the beautiful foliage of Ampelopsis Veitchii and A. quinquefolia; whilst various Sumachs (Rhus); Parrottia Persica, a small tree of the nut family, with many rich tints carmine before it drops. Then the Canadian Maples and Amelanchies Canadensis sanguinea will add to the show of colour; and various berberises (especially Berberis Thunbergii) are very bright in the autumn. Our own British barberry, too (B. vulgaris), is both elegant and richly tinted in fruit and foliage.

Amongst the brightest of the autumn flowers



LILIUM HENRYI.

brighten the garden in autumn; Azalea mollis, too, which turns crimson at this time of year, and others of the smaller shrubs, such as Spiræa Thunbergii, Prunus Sinensis, and that very desirable member of the St. John's Worts, Hypericum Hookerianum, which not only produces elegant sprays of yellow waxen flowers for many weeks in the summer, but its foliage turns a rich (besides the Gladioli, of which I wrote last week) are the early-flowering Chrysanthemums, both single and double (of which I told you on March 20th). It is difficult to say which are the better—the double flowers, or the single—and you should grow them both. Single Dahlias, and the new spiky Cactus group (of which Mrs. Jones is a good specimen), are excellent for cutting, as well as in the garden at this season. The most effective in the borders are the dwarf, single varieties, which are easily grown (like single Chrysanthemums) from seed in February, if given slight warmth in the greenhouse, and potted up singly in March or April, planting them out early in June, when they begin to blossom at once, and flower the whole summer. They need no staking, and do not get so blown about by storms as the tall Dahlias, as they only grow to about the height of eighteen inches.

Cultivate Liliums.

The Japanese Liliums (L. auratum platyphyllus, L. speciosum melpomene, magnificum and rubrum), with the apricot Lilium Henryi from the Chinese mountains, are now in blossom in the Rhododendron border, and very beautiful they are. I am glad to find that my notes on these glorious flowers have been useful to the correspondent (E. E. S.) who gained the prize last week. It is a great pity that they are not to be seen in many of our gardens, and I advise you to start growing them this winter. You can keep the potted bulbs in an airy spare room, if you have no greenhouse or frame, giving them enough water to keep them moist, but not soaking them constantly whilst dormant, and increasing the dose (or, rather, giving it more frequently, for you must never give driblets of water to any plant) after the green shoots appear. Top-dressing them in March, when growth will be more rapid, and plenty of water will be required. But do not on any account plant out bulbs which have been deprived of their lower roots when you get them, as they are not strong enough in this case to stand our climate; and, although, if planted in February, they may produce a few miserable flowers, they will be sure to perish the following year.

Propagation from Bulblets.

It is singular that the Japanese cannot be induced to send us unmutilated roots. However, in some cases we can grow plenty of young bulbs for ourselves; the lovely crimson and white L. speciosums (as well as the Tiger Lilies, L. sulphureum, and others) form tiny black bulblets at the axils of their leaves in spring, and these, if planted in a box of sandy loam about six inches deep, and well-drained, will grow like seeds. Keep them just moist, and free from frost in winter, in a greenhouse frame, or a window with plenty of air, and they will appear quickly, and make good hardy bulbs in a few years' time, far stronger than those imported; but they must not be neglected, or dried off suddenly at any time. Move them to larger and deeper boxes as they need it (or covering them with a frame in the garden in winter), until they attain flowering size.

Seeds, too, may be ripened occasionally from an early bulb, and with sunshine and warmth in autumn; but, generally, I find our climate at this time of year too damp and chilly to ripen these seeds thoroughly, and for this purpose it is necessary to force a few bulbs, which is bad for their constitutions. Liliums are sure to be attacked by green-fly if forced in artificial heat, and it is difficult to prevent these insects from creeping into the buds before they are fully developed, and spoiling them. If grown without fire heat, and properly watered and top-dressed, they keep free from aphides, however, and home-grown bulbs are quite robust and hardy if planted in a well-drained border of light loam, placing each bulb on a little powdered charcoal four inches below the surface. If richly top-dressed in spring, and well watered during drought in summer, the result should be a magnificent group of Lilies.

Treatment of Imported Lilies.

Imported bulbs should not be planted out until they have been carefully cultivated in pots for at least one season, and their blossoms must be removed directly they are open. The leaves should be encouraged to take time in ripening

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Famous British Gardens.

Belair, West Dulwich.

Interview with Mr. F. A. Hicks.

FOR many centuries the expansion of London's boundaries has gone on, despite spasmodic attempts to check it—so long ago as the days of Elizabeth restrictive measures were initiated, but proved futile. One by one picturesque villages and delightful rural estates have been swallowed up and converted into "eligible building sites"; so that it is generally accepted that it is now impossible to find, within the London suburban area, any large private garden retaining its old charm unspoiled by bricks and mortar. But at least one such garden exists, and within five miles of Charing Cross—a garden where there is nothing to suggest the busy town which has overtaken and surrounded it, but which still retains an air of rusticity, even possessing its own farmyard. This is Belair, Gallery Road, West Dulwich, the residence of Sir Evan Spicer, which I was privileged to see, under the guidance first of Lady Spicer and then of the head gardener, Mr. F. A. Hicks, on a sunny afternoon in late autumn.

SOME CHOICE OLD TREES.

Dulwich, now one of the pleasantest of London's suburbs, was formerly largely covered with woods. Three hundred years ago the manor was purchased by Edward Alleyn, who there founded the famous College of God's Gift. The estate is now controlled by the governors of the college, and it is to their fostering care that many of the amenities of the neighbourhood are due. Belair, which comprises twenty-six acres, is almost facing the Picture Gallery, and stands on gently rising ground, sloping away at the back towards the east. The house is fronted by a fine circular lawn, with shrubs (in which clipped Hollies were prominent) and herbaceous borders on the outer side of the path, and a handsome Elm, probably a survivor of the old woods, as a distinguishing feature.

"This we call the Chestnut Grove," Lady Spicer explained, as we passed across the lawn and through a gate leading to an avenue, where the trees met overhead. Many of them had retained their foliage in all its greenness; while farther round the Chestnuts gave way to rugged and majestic Elms, whose leaves, in their autumn tints, formed a good contrast, which was again accentuated by other trees with bare branches.

The path ran round a large field, in which is a handsome Silver Birch, reputed one of the finest in the country, and finally brought us to the foot of the slope. Looking up, a good view is obtained of the back of the house, with its well-kept lawns. A stream at the bottom, crossed by a little bridge, is fringed by beautiful Alders, and numerous old Oaks, some curiously pollarded.

AN OLD RIVER.

"Is this a natural stream?" I asked.

"Yes; it is a tributary of the Effra, and drains down from the hills at Norwood," was the answer. "At the end there is a sluice, and the water eventually finds its way to the sewers. The River Effra itself in olden times was broad and deep enough for boats to sail upon it, and entered the Thames at Vauxhall. But it dwindled in volume, and finally was closed in, and is now used as a sewer."

BELAIR, WEST DULWICH.
The beds on the lawn have Rambler Roses on posts.

"The Oaks are extremely ancient?"

"This old one we call Cromwell's Oak. It must have been originally of immense size, as you can judge by the girth of the stump, but it has long since died."

"Why is it called Cromwell's Oak?"

"Because it is said that the Oaks in this part were pollarded and cut about by Cromwell's soldiers, who, under Captain Atkinson, were quartered in the college for a time during the Civil War."

At one part, directly facing the house, the stream has evidently been widened, and makes a pretty sheet of water, with its banks clothed with aquatic plants, and tall trees rising overhead, and reflecting on its surface.

"Though many things thrive here," continued Lady Spicer, "we cannot get Gorse to do well. It lingers for a few years, but then dies away."

There are, however, many other shrubs among the undergrowth, and the old Oaks and Elms are very imposing in appearance.

Now, arrived at the end of the path, we passed through another gate, and came upon a wonderful old Mulberry tree, whose branches were supported by stout props, and, bearing to the left, crossed the frame yard and so approached the kitchen garden. To reach this we went under a series of arches, covered with

SIR EVAN SPICER, J.P.

Roses, Loganberries, and other subjects. Here we were joined by Mr. Hicks, and Lady Spicer being called away shortly after, he piloted me round, suggesting that we complete the tour of the pleasure grounds before doing the kitchen gardens and houses.

THE LAWNS.

We therefore made our way to the lawn, which is of considerable extent, and is enriched by many fine Oaks. From where we stood the view was strikingly picturesque. London might have been miles away, instead of all around us, for though the house is on the brow of a slight hill, other hills arise a little way off, and these, and the fringe of tall trees surrounding the estate, produce an effect of seclusion and quiet altogether charming. Nor are Oaks the only trees to impart dignity or grace to the scene. On our right, in a corner close to the house, is a very fine Deciduous Cypress, Taxodium distichum, which, though nowhere near water, has made splendid growth, and towers to a great height. Then, near by, are two nice specimens of the Cork Oak, Quercus Suber, contradicting the theory that this species will not live near London. The situation here is open to the north, and the winds sweep across with little to check their fury; but the Oaks are sheltered slightly by the house. Two magnificent Catalpas—one on each side of the lawn—are also noted. They flower well each year, and last season fruited, though the fruits did not ripen.

The Rose garden, at this period of the year, was naturally showing little in the way of bloom, but the plants had made promising growth. Facing the house, and edging one side of the lawn, are circular beds, with Roses on poles, and I asked Mr. Hicks to tell me something about these.

ROSES ON POLES.

"On the poles the principal varieties are Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, White Dorothy, Lady Gay, Hiawatha, and Leuch-

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stern, all of which do well here. At the foot of the Roses we bed Salvias, Stocks, Marguerites, Geraniums, Begonias, and other plants. They do not interfere with the Roses in any way. In the Rose garden itself we have most of the up-to-date varieties. Green-fly, by the way, has been a great pest this season—more so than usual."

"How do you fill these beds on the lawn?"

"Some have Antirrhinums; others Geraniums, such as Paul Crampel, King of Denmark, and White Niphetos; another was of mixed Fuchsias, which do very well indeed. Then we also use Heliotropes, with the white Nicotiana affinis—this is especially favoured for the beds and borders round the house, because of its sweet fragrance; and Salvias can always be relied on for giving a bright patch of colour. As you see, they are still effective; but we have cleared most of the beds."

"I see you are filling them now with spring flowering plants."

"Yes; we use a lot of Wallflowers and Polyanthus, as they do very well. Forget-me-nots are greatly liked. For edging the beds we have Daisies, especially the large-flowered variety, Monstrosa; and London Pride is very effective."

"Do you raise the Antirrhinums from seed every year?"

PROPAGATION OF ANTIRRHINUMS.

"Not all of them. I find they do best from cuttings, as they come into bloom earlier, and we thus get a good effect before the seedlings are ready. Then, by picking off the first blooms as they fade, a second lot comes on, and so keeps up a succession. Seedlings do not commence blooming until later. Another advantage from striking cuttings is the certainty as to the colour."

A basket bed, the outline and handle formed of Ivy, was next pointed out. This is filled in summer with Begonias and Leucophyton Brownii, which make a good combination.

"We have several large tubs filled with Hydrangeas," Mr. Hicks continued; "and these we stand on the lawn in summer. As to shrubs, you may like to note these two pieces of Magnolia Soulangeana on the wall. They flower excellently every spring. Magnolia stellata was planted on the lawn, but it did not prove at all satisfactory, and gave scarcely a flower, so I moved it into its present position, where it is sheltered by other shrubs, and it now blooms very freely."

With a brief glance at the shrubbery, we passed next to the kitchen garden, and entered into the first of the houses. This is the stove, and it formerly held a good collection of Orchids, but when the supply of fuel was restricted during the war, most of them were disposed of, only a few—chiefly Cypripediums—being retained. These, however, are in a number of varieties, and were good, healthy-looking plants. Ficus elastica clothes the wall, and Stephanotis partly covers the roof.

"It flowers extra well," Mr. Hicks said, in reply to my question; "indeed, it almost flowers itself to death. Gardenias are likewise very successful. The Pancratium is just over. Here is a plant which always arouses curiosity, and visitors are surprised to see the leaves curl up when touched. It is the Sensitive Plant, one of the Mimosas."

UNCOMMON STOVE PLANTS.

"You have some uncommon plants here," I remarked.

"You refer to these Tydæas? They do very well indeed here. I treat them differently from the ordinary method. I root the young shoots in the usual way, but do not dry off the old plants. In consequence they came in early, and a longer succession of flowers is provided."

Other plants I noticed were Euphorbia jacquinæflora, and varieties of Anthurium, one of these bearing a creamy coloured flower which changes to pink with age. Cucumbers occupy one side of the stove.

In the cool house was a large batch of Perpetual-flowering Carnations, which replaced the Tomatoes which had filled it in summer.

"Among our best varieties are Carola, Scarlet Carola, Sunstar, Brilliant, Mrs. T. Ives, Highland Lass, Destiny, Coquette, and Mrs. Hamilton," said Mr. Hicks.

"You have made provision for a good show in spring."

"Yes; in addition to the Carnations we rely principally on Cyclamen, which make a splendid display; Primulas of sorts, including malacoides—an absolutely indispensable plant, and one which everyone should grow, especially as it has been so much improved; Cinerarias, now in the frames; Arums, which will be available soon after Christmas; and then there are plenty of bulbs, which will be brought in."

Outside the houses are heated pits, where Melons are grown in summer, while in winter and spring they serve for the bedding plants, of which about five thousand are required each season.

In the Vinery are Black Hamburgh and Muscat of Alexandria. The borders are outside. In the centre of the house broad staging was filled with Chrysanthemums, and others occupied the available space under the Vines. Queen Mary, Mrs. Gilbert Drabble, Mrs. A. T. Miller, Master James, Maud Jefferies, Mr. Lloyd George, General French, Edith Cavell, and Felton's Favourite were among the varieties, and a further batch of two hundred was in the conservatory.

From the Vinery we proceeded to the Fernery, a large and lofty structure adjoining the house. The central staging, divided in the middle, was filled with seedling Begonias, choice Ferns, and other shade-loving subjects; while a fine old Bougainvillea, trained on wires carried half way to the roof, covered considerable space. A Fern bank, with only a couple of inches of soil, was decidedly pretty, the Maidenhairs calling for special notice, as did two plants of the Stag's-horn Fern.

This finished our inspection of the houses, and we now turned our attention to the first of the kitchen gardens, which occupies about two and a quarter acres. The paths are edged with dwarf Box, and arches covered with Roses, Cratægus, and other plants are a feature. Young fruit trees on one side, and a number of established bushes in another part, prompted me to inquire as to the results of the season's cropping.

APPLES WHICH DO WELL.

"It has been fair," said Mr. Hicks, "but under the average, as regards Apples, Pears, and Gooseberries. Strawberries were poor, but Currants were very good. Of the Apples we could not complain of Cox's Orange Pippin, Lady Sudeley, and Devonshire Quarrenden amongst dessert varieties, and Cox's Pomona, Allington Pippin, Blenheim Orange, and Wellington among cookers. But Blenheim and Wellington are always reliable. As to Pears, Gravenstein invariably does well, and so does Madame Freyve, while Pitmaston Duchess—of course on the wall—carries fruits weighing from one and a quarter to one and a half pounds each. Williams' Bon Chrêtien, Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Diel, and Catillac are also very good. We are much troubled by birds, which destroy a lot of fruit."

"How do you fare with Black Currants?"

"They are very liable to 'big-bud,' and every variety we have tried suffers—so far, none has proved immune in this garden."

"You have Figs on the wall?"

"Yes; and they ripen fruit splendidly. In the beds Rhubarb is extra good—I have not seen it better anywhere."

THE STREAM IN THE GROUNDS AT BELAIR.

FAILURES AND SUCCESSES WITH VEGETABLES.

"What varieties of Potatoes do you find best?"

"The soil here is clay, and King Edwards do no good at all. I have tried them for three seasons, and have now given them up, as the tubers do not come any larger than Walnuts. The variety is not so good with us as the old Up-to-Date. For earlies I have made trial of several varieties, and find Sharpe's Express the best. To follow it we have Carter's Royalty, a good second early, which gives us excellent crops of fine-flavoured Potatoes. Arran Chief is our maincrop, and the latest are Scottish Farmer and Longkeeper, which carry us through to July."

"Do you have any difficulty with vegetables generally?"

"There are varieties which do not thrive at all, while others are quite successful. For instance, I find that Parsnip Tender and True is the only sort that does not get brown rust. Neither Student nor Hollow Crown do at all well here. Beets are another case in point. Globe Beet is good, but Blood Red is a failure. It goes on all right till about the end of June, and then

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stops, and does not swell. Veitch's Intermediate is much better, and makes a good root. It comes half out of the ground, but this does not affect it in any way."

"You have five very fine rows of Celery."

"Celery is one of our successes. The varieties are White Gem (which is quite dwarf), Sutton's Solid Winter, and A1 (pink). Seakale Beet is another, and both Jerusalem and Globe Artichokes do very well indeed."

"What is the variety of Brussels Sprouts, of which I see you have a good bed?"

"Sutton's Exhibition is our only variety, and for this I have nothing but praise. We depend on Sutton's A1 for our Scotch Kale, and find it especially useful in spring. Our Cabbages are Sutton's Harbinger, April, and Flower of Spring."

"How do Beans and Peas fare?"

"Scarlet Runners bear excellently. The variety we grow is Sutton's Champion Scarlet. We have several varieties of Peas, early, mid-season, and late, but they did poorly this season. We manage to get good Carrots, starting with Early Champion, going on with New Red Intermediate, and finishing with Sutton's Maincrop."

THE SECOND KITCHEN GARDEN.

There is another kitchen garden, taken in from a field, and this we next visited, passing through the farmyard, where four cows, several pigs, and a lot of poultry are kept. The effects of the mild autumn were apparent, many of the crops being too advanced.

"Last year," said Mr. Hicks, "our Savoys did not begin to turn in till Christmas; but this season they are unduly forward. The varieties are Best of All and Drumhead. They were sown late, and planted out late, but the mild season has hurried them on. The Kales, too, are becoming taller than I like to see them."

"Do you force much Seakale?" I asked, seeing a good-sized bed.

"About five hundred each season. We do not have a permanent bed, as the roots go black after a time; so I make up a new bed each spring, using the thongs saved when lifting them for forcing."

"What are the varieties of Strawberries?"

"There are only two—Kentish Fillbasket and Laxton's Reward. You see this bed of Asparagus? It is a new bed, and its merit is that it comes very early, fully three weeks before the bed in the inside garden."

Other beds were occupied with Carrots, an excellent crop; Broccoli Winter Queen, also very good; and there was a large plantation of Jerusalem Artichokes at the north end, and a nice row of white Swedes, which, I was told, prove far more satisfactory than Turnips. Wallflowers, waiting to be transferred to the beds on the lawn, were likewise noticeable.

In the kitchen garden itself there are long herbaceous borders, but most of the subjects had died down, except Michaelmas Daisies, which still made a brave show.

Mr. Hicks has been four years at Belair, prior to which he was for some time at Fen Place, Sussex. W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Curled Kale is very tender after being exposed several times to frost. Even large leaves may be used at this season of the year, if they are quite green at the time of gathering. The tops should not be cut, where it is possible to leave the plants till they commence growing again in spring and produce tender leaves.

Roses in pots may be introduced to gentle heat to start them into growth, before raising the temperature. Indeed, this should be gradual at first; only after the flower buds are visible should the heat be raised to sixty degrees. Prune them as soon as they are taken indoors, or even before.

Schizanthus sown about the end of summer are sufficiently advanced to be put in their flowering pots, and when these are filled with roots the plants may be fed with weak liquid manure or a good fertiliser.

MARKET MEN'S METHODS:

HOW NURSERYMEN ACHIEVE SUCCESS WITH THEIR PLANTS.

I suppose we have now arrived at that period of the year when we make new resolutions and resolve to do better than we have ever done before. And there is no gainsaying the fact, it is a grand idea. The chances are, however, that in the ordinary way we shall accomplish just about as much as we did the year previously, all things being equal. We may improve some particular crop, and obtain the customary reward, though I fear other crops suffer in consequence—at least, this has been my experience over a considerable period. This, however, has nothing whatever to do with the question.

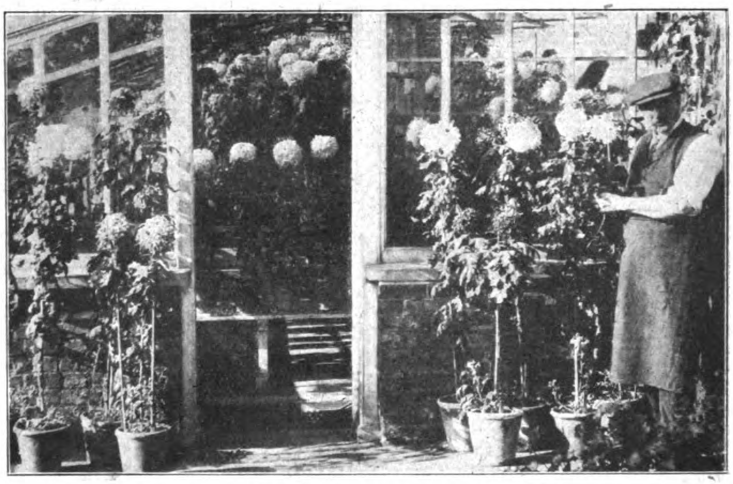
There is nothing like being optimistic, as far as land cultivation is concerned. It is time to be pessimistic when you can get no "forrader"; though, as far as I can see, this state of affairs will not exist in the near future. Therefore, my advice to all my readers is to keep going full speed ahead.

UNSEASONABLE WEATHER.

A fortnight ago I was under the impression that we were in for a spell of real winter, especially when the younger generation searched out their sleighs, or got other people to do it for them (which is more to the point in these days), and went off tobogganing. Even the experts, who are supposed to know all about the weather, led us to believe that we were in for a severe spell. All, however, turned out to be false; and we have had exactly the reverse. Instead of having to "fire hard" to keep out the frost, we have had to use just about the same amount of fuel to keep out the "damp;" and as I look round the soft-wooded stock, I wonder whether a good, hard Christmas would have done less damage than the green one experienced. I do know, at all events, that Geraniums and similar stock will have to be handled at once, and cleared of all decaying leaves, which would not have occurred with a good old-fashioned Yuletide.

THE FUTURE.

With the advent of the New Year we are all bustle, or hustle, as the Americans have it. And every commercial grower will be busy sowing seeds for all sorts of crops connected with his particular line of business; in fact, a large number anticipate the New Year by sowing in the last week in the Old Year, which is certainly to the good. They just fancy they are a week or two in front of their neighbours. After all, it is better to be too soon than too late. No man has ever been fined or punished for being too early at work; but goodness only knows how many thousands, nay millions, have suffered through being too late. And the commercial grower forms no exception to the rule. He must be up and doing for the next six months, not eight hours per day, but just as many hours as he can crowd into a day, daylight or dark. TRADE GROWER.



CHRYSANTHEMUMS AT BELAIR.

Mr. F. A. Hicks, the head gardener, is seen on the right of the picture.

RED AND WHITE CURRANTS.

Red and White Currants will succeed in almost any soil and position; but, like other fruit, the quality will be better under good culture. On the whole they prefer a rather heavy, deep loam; therefore, when preparing the ground, light soils should be made richer by incorporating heavy manure to make it more retentive of moisture. Clayey soils should be made lighter by the addition of refuse, ashes from a garden smother, and stable manure.

PREPARING THE GROUND.

With the decrease in stable manure, we shall in the future have to rely on decaying vegetable matter and artificial manures, with which most soils may be improved, especially for bush fruits. Bonemeal is very useful to incorporate in the top layer of soil, and half-inch bones in the bottom when trenching, as a store of lime phosphate for the roots. Dressings of superphosphate in spring, and a little sulphate of ammonia early in the summer, and also liquid manure, will greatly improve both size and quality of the berries.

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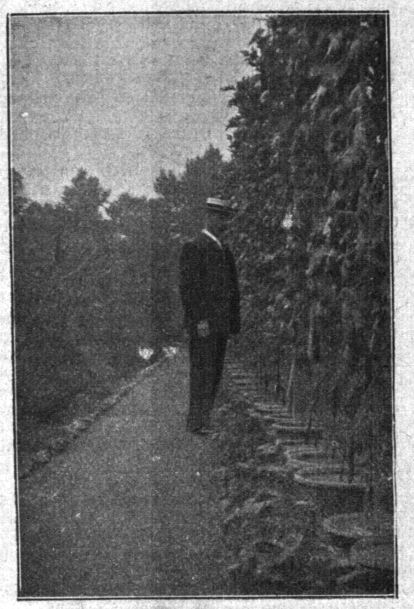
no means universal. He instances the Dead-Nettle, which rabbits and snails do not hesitate to eat, though they are careful to avoid the ordinary Stinging Nettle, which it closely resembles. And he gives, as the reason, the fact that herbivorous animals and insects are guided by smell, and not by sight. If that really be a fact, what becomes of protective mimicry? The matter is one of supreme importance to the gardener. Is it not possible that



CHRYSANTHEMUMS IN THEIR SUMMER QUARTERS AT FETCHAM.

we have here a weapon with which we may keep at bay all these insects and herbivorous animals, among which herbivorous birds must presumably be placed? An example will bring this out clearly. Paraffin, though rather a dangerous thing for the purpose, is sometimes used to protect Peas against the attacks of birds. The explanation ordinarily given is that it renders them distasteful. That has always seemed to me an improbable explanation. For, if the paraffin were to penetrate beyond the outer skin, it would assuredly kill the Peas, and if it stops at the outer skin it cannot affect the taste of what lies beneath. It is far more likely that the paraffin, by its strong smell, hides the more subtle odour of the Peas, and thus prevents the birds from discovering them. If that is the case, cannot we extend the principle to protect not only seeds of all kinds, but also plants which are liable to be attacked by birds and insects? One would take a real pleasure in hoodwinking slugs and aphides. It might be difficult to give a different smell to vegetables without interfering with their flavour, but the ground around might be strewn with some suitable preparation. With greenhouse plants the task should be easy enough. Has camphor ever been tried? Whatever the substance used, it should have a smell which will last.

December 24th.—One of my Vineries is roofed with the thickest glass I ever saw in any structure of the kind. It is so thick that if it were flat it might, I should think, be safely walked upon. It was put up thirty or forty years ago, perhaps more, and though it is close to the road, and stones thrown by boys sometimes fall upon it, I doubt whether a pane has ever been broken. It is wonderfully effective in preventing the escape of heat, and it renders leakage almost impossible. It may not always be economical to use glass of this thickness, but there can be no doubt that cheap, thin glass —and, unfortunately, many firms keep no other —is a mistake It necessitates a much larger consumption of fuel to maintain a given temperature than good glass does; it cracks during frost; it breaks at the slightest pressure. I have sometimes been driven to use it, because I could get no better, but I have always regretted doing so. Anything lighter than 21-oz. glass is certain to cause dissatisfaction.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME

No. 117.—MR. W. HIGGS, AT FETCHAM PARK GARDENS, LEATHERHEAD.

ALTHOUGH Mr. W. Higgs has achieved a quite unique reputation as a successful grower and exhibitor of Incurved Chrysanthemums—which was attested in a remarkable manner at the annual dinner of the National Chrysanthemum Society, when he first received one of the two Holmes' Memorial Cups, and then was presented by Messrs. Mackenzie and Moncur, Limited, with a silver tea service—he is an all-round gardener who takes a pride in everything he cultivates. Therefore, on the occasion of my visit to Fetcham Park Gardens, just after the dual presentation, he started by showing me some of the other evidences of his skill and attention.

As those who are acquainted with the charming Surrey seat of Mr. J. B. Hankey, whose family has reigned at Fetcham Park for very many years, know, there is much that is interesting to be seen. First of all, I noticed that near the mansion are two dells, which were formerly pits. One of these contains a fine collection of British Ferns, and the other a small lake and fountain. The lake is planted with Lilies of an ordinary character. There are tennis and croquet lawns, and at one end of the former is a magnificent Cedar, of obviously great age.

I asked Mr. Higgs to tell me its dimensions, and he replied:—

"Its girth, six feet above the ground, is thirty-one feet four inches, and its branches stand fully thirty yards from the main trunk. The Box tree, also on the lawn, is twenty-two feet through, and the Beech in the centre is considered an exceptionally fine specimen."

"I see that there are beds laid out in front of the dining-room."

"Yes, and some of the larger beds are filled with sub-tropical plants, Geraniums being used in the smaller ones. Beyond the mixed flower beds are four beds of Tea and Hybrid Tea Roses, of nice size, including such varieties as Papa Gontier and Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Viscountess Folkestone, White Lady, and Madame Eugene Verdier, five or six dozen in each bed. The large bed in the lawn is devoted to Hybrid Perpetuals, arranged in three circles, the centre filled with standards, the two outer circles with half-standards, and all edged with dwarfs. When these are in flower, the high, half-high, and dwarf plants look very pretty from the house."

"What varieties do you have in the circles?"

"The most free-flowering and hardy. We get a lot of wind from the park, and tender varieties would be cut up. Another large bed is always full of hardy Bamboos, which were planted fifteen or sixteen years ago, and are well established. Some of the growths last summer were from ten to twelve feet in length. Skirting the lawns are several shaped shrub beds. The common Box and Yew do well here because the soil is chalky."

"You have a wild garden on a considerable scale?"

"We call it the Wilderness. A herbaceous border runs the whole length of one side. At the back there are variegated Maples, and, in a line with the Maples are Clematis on poles. The contrast between the trees and the colour of the Clematis Jackmanii is very striking. In front of the Clematis are large clumps of Spiræa, Blue Thistles, different varieties of Iris, Oriental Poppies, and then the smaller things, according to the season. All through the summer and autumn there is a mass of flowers."

"Roses, I conclude, cover the archway in the centre?"

"Yes, and the paths under the archway are the only portion of the Wilderness we keep mown. In the spring we have quite a white carpet of Snowdrops, which are followed by Daffodils. Last year I planted two thousand Daffodils. I also planted the same number on the edge of the lawns, which, as you observe, are divided from the park by a hedge. No shrubs are ever clipped in the wilderness."

On our way to the kitchen garden, I noticed that there is a fine Magnolia on the walls of the mansion, as well as a quantity of Ampelopsis Veitchii.

"The kitchen gardens," Mr. Higgs explained, "are in three different portions, and half a mile distant there are three orchards, with old varieties of Apples and Pears, and a few Plums."

"They seem to be very well arranged. What do you grow in particular?"

"Celery is a great feature among vegetables. We grow fourteen hundred heads every year. Asparagus also is very popular, and we have a continuous succession of Pears from the first week in June to October. We pick them daily during that period. When the family are away in Scotland, I send them both vegetables and fruit. There is a wall covered with dessert Cherries, another with dessert Plums, and a third with dessert Pears, the last grown on the cordon system. The thirty varieties of Pears include Pitmaston Duchess, Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Hardy, and Veitchii Conference. The varieties of Apples include King of Pippins, American Mother (like Ribstons), Cox's Orange Pippin, Red Astrachan, and Margil."

MR. W. HIGGS.

"Do you grow much bush fruit?"

"Large beds of Strawberries and Raspberries, for gathering and preserving. Then we have salad every day of the year, for which we grow between eight and nine hundred plants of Endive and Chicory, to mix with it. Mr. Hanbury's favourite fruits are Melons and Muscat Grapes."

"How many Melons did you cut in the season?"

"About a hundred and fifty. We only grow the green fleshed varieties, of which the best are

Imperial Green, Windsor Castle, and Sutton's Royal Jubilee. Cucumbers are grown for salad in winter. A number of Tomatoes are forced under glass, to ripen in May, and to carry us on until we can pick out of doors. I fertilise all out of doors, which gives me quite double the ordinary crop, especially in a sunless season."

"You have a border of Cactus Dahlias in the kitchen garden. What are your best varieties?"

"Mrs. Weston (yellow), Salisbury (white), Night (dark), Gloriosa (scarlet), Countess of Lonsdale (crushed strawberry), and Captain Broad (crimson). We generally have a fine show of Cactus Dahlias."

"How many Vineries are there?"

"Three, and two Peach houses. We grow Rivers' Early Nectarine, the new Cardinal, and the new Victoria in the latter. The Grapes are chiefly Muscats, but the early varieties are Foster's Seedling and Black Hamburgh. The late varieties are Alicante and Lady Downe's."

"Do you go in much for Orchids?"

"No, we only grow a few. We have a good batch of Calanthes, which are useful for cutting."

"They look remarkably pretty with the Gloire de Lorraine Begonias."

"Yes, the mixture is pleasing and unusual. We grow the Begonias for little silver pots on the table. They are struck very late, and the plants are three or four inches across."

"You have a splendid lot of Poinsettias?"

"We grow two hundred every year. They are a great help with church decoration. As you know, the church is in the grounds, and we decorate it at all the festivals. There is nothing better than Poinsettias for the purpose."

"But how do you make them last?"

"I scald the ends of the roots in boiling water for a minute, and seal in the sap. Also, before cutting, I give them a little extra ventilation, which hardens the bracts. By means of this treatment they will last nearly a fortnight. We also grow about fifty Gardenias for buttonholes."

"How long do you keep the plants?"

"Only two years. I strike every year. There is no doubt that the young plants produce much finer flowers."

"Now, then, we come to the Chrysanthemums, of which you still have some grand flowers remaining."

"Chrysanthemums have always been a great feature at Fetcham since I came here."

"Yes, your success has been wonderful. How many of the Incurved varieties do you grow?"

"Four hundred, and one hundred Japanese. The Incurved are, of course, my favourites. They are much more difficult to grow, and I like the cleaning and finishing of the flowers."

"Anything you care to say about their culture would be useful."

"They require a long season of growth. The late sorts should be started the last week in November, and the early ones the first week in December. I prefer frames for the cuttings where heat can be turned on to exclude frost, as they then get the benefit of all the light possible. If kept in a temperature of about forty-five degrees, some will be rooted in five weeks, and will need a place to themselves where air can be admitted."

"When do you reckon that some of them are ready for repotting?"

"About the end of January. The soil should be composed of about equal parts of leaf-mould and loam, with a good sprinkling of silver sand. In March they will be ready for 6-in. pots. For this potting, coarser soil should be given. To a bushel of leaf-soil should be added two bushels of loam, and one of spent Mushroom manure, with coarse silver sand to keep it open. At the end of March they can be placed in cold frames."

"What date do you like to get them outside?"

"The first week in May, but I always erect a rough framework, in order to be able to cover them, in case of frost. At the end of May I make a start with the final potting of the strongest plants. With regard to soil, which is of extreme importance at this stage, I use loam which has been stacked for twelve months, not chopped too small. I add, to two barrow-loads of it, a half-load of leaf-soil, and a half-load of well-decayed manure; also a 9-in. potful of bonemeal and a sprinkling of soot. To get it well mixed, the compost should be turned several times, and it should also, if possible, be prepared a fortnight before it is required, as the bonemeal causes the whole heap to heat. After potting, I stand the plants close together, to prevent them from drying too quickly. They should not be watered for several days, but I keep them going by spraying with the syringe."

"When do you place them in their summer quarters?"

"The middle of June. In August the pots are fairly full of roots, and I give them a little assistance, in the shape of top-dressing, consisting of sifted loam, with some artificial manure and horse-droppings, passed through a sieve. A fortnight later I begin giving manure-water, and, alternately, guano and sheep-manure, with soot added."

"Do you house them all by the end of September?"

"Yes, it is not safe to keep them out afterwards. From the end of September they need

"DRESSING" THE CHRYSANTHEMUMS AT FETCHAM.

constant attention, and the most careful watering. Early buds should be kept apart from the others, and should be lightly shaded. I fumigate two or three nights in succession, and then examine the plants for rust and mildew. They should be syringed with half an ounce of sulphate of potassium to a gallon of water, with one "thumb" potful of paraffin. This destroys mildew and prevents rust from spreading. The house should be kept as cool as possible. A temperature of forty-five to fifty degrees is suitable for Incurveds to flower in. With respect to dressing, all forked and split petals should be pulled out as the flowers open, so that there may be room for the better ones to develop properly."

"I should like the names of a few of the best varieties?"

"Duchess of Fife, Frank Hammond, Charles Curtis, Egyptian, Ma Perfection (an old variety), George Lock, Mrs. Barnard Hankey (named after Mrs. Hankey), which received a first-class certificate in November, and Mrs. Alice Dighton, which had a certificate for growing at the same time. Neither of these two are in commerce yet."

"How many years have you been growing and exhibiting Chrysanthemums?"

"Three years at Woodland Park, and eleven years here. I have gone on increasing the number of blooms, and showing at fresh exhibitions. In 1903 York and Portsmouth were added. The last six years I have not had a second prize for Incurveds. For five years I have taken first at Devizes, for four years first at Reading, and for two years first at Sheffield, and one year at Hull."

"Can you tell me the record of 1903?"

"At Devizes I obtained first for twenty-four Incurved and twenty-four Japanese in one class. At Portsmouth, where Mrs. Higgs put up the flowers, I took first in a similar class."

"Does Mrs. Higgs often help you?"

"She always goes to the shows with me, and is sometimes alone. In 1902 my wife put twenty-four Incurveds up at Bristol, and we won against nine competitors. She helped at the last National Show."

"You were very fortunate at the last Crystal Palace Show?"

"Yes, I took first prizes both for thirty-six Incurved, distinct on boards, and for thirty-six in vases, with stems. At Sheffield I got first for twenty-four Incurveds, and also for twenty-two, and second for twenty-four Japanese, being only a point and a-half behind the first."

"How did you come off at York?"

"I was first for eighteen Incurveds and eighteen Japanese in one class, and eighteen in another class. I finished up the season of 1903 at the Royal Horticultural Show, in November, exhibiting sixty blooms of Incurved, and receiving the silver Flora medal, and I have just brought home the silver teapot, cream jug, and sugar basin, presented to me at the dinner of the National Chrysanthemum Society for six vases, with five blooms in each vase, one variety to a vase."

Here Mr. Higgs showed me the prize, given by Messrs. Mackenzie and Moncer, Limited, which forms a very handsome tea service. I expressed my admiration of it, and asked the names of the six varieties."

"Duchess of Fife, Mrs. Barnard Hankey, Hanwell Glory, Lady Isabel, Charles Curtis, and Nellie Southam. I may add that I have shown at Kingston, Wimbledon, and Dorking, in addition to the places named."

"I should like to know what your plan is in selecting flowers for exhibition?"

"I choose those that have depth, rather than large, flat flowers. I commence by taking out a few petals in the centre, gradually rounding the flowers, and working the petals up, so that they all point to the centre. On some blooms I spend an hour, and on others not more than ten minutes. I arrange the largest at the back of the board, and keep them well up, so as to permit the front flowers to be raised clear of the board. Of course, a great deal of practice is required to finish a flower so that it will be free from bruises on the following morning."

"How large is the gardening staff here?"

"There are eight employed here regularly, and more sometimes, for extra work. In exhibiting, and, in fact, in all my work, I receive every possible encouragement from Mr. and Mrs. Hankey."

ALFRED WILCOX.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 74.—SHRUBS, THREE CHRYSANTHEMUMS, AND EPIPHYLLUMS.

DEAR KATE,—I have been exploring in the shrubbery, where I have a good many beautiful flowering shrubs, and I find that some of them are being starved by stronger plants, such as Laurels, and Privet, which exhaust the soil for a long way round their roots, and are really not fit subjects for a mixed shrubbery. Laurels, especially, with their large evergreen foliage, are extremely hungry plants, and should not be grown within six feet of anything more valuable but less robust. They make a good sheltering hedge, at a distance from the

William Hill

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1876 n.s. 5

Mr. Hill, the subject of our present portrait, will be best known to those outside the circle of personal friends by his success as a cultivator and exhibitor of Grapes. Those who know him more intimately, and know also the fine establishment over which he has now for a quarter of a century so worthily presided, will be quite ready to endorse our statement that Mr. Hill has shown himself to be a master-hand in all branches of the profession. Of the horticultural training which has led up to this he gives us the following particulars:—

"I was born at Silsoe, in Bedfordshire, in 1824. My first start in gardening was in the year 1838, at Bedgebury Park, Kent, then the seat of Viscount Beresford, but I was there for a few months only, as ray parents left the neighbourhood, and I lost sight of gardening (or was not fully occupied) until March, 1840, when a premium of £10 was paid to Mr. Cockburn, Caen Wood, Highgate, under whom I served for three years. In the autumn of 1843 I left Caen Wood for the Horticultural Gardens, Chiswick, when I entered the fruit department under the late Mr. R. Thompson. While at Chiswick I had an excellent opportunity of becoming acquainted with fruits, particularly Apples and Pears, as the unpacking and arranging for comparison fell to my lot, as also the collecting of scions for all parts of the world. This was Chiswick in its palmy days, when Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Green, Mr. Cock, and a host of others used to exhibit, and when there was also some good fruit shown, and thousands of visitors. In those days it was not an unusual thing to see the rank of carriages extending nearly to the Broadway, Hammersmith, while the whole of Turnham Green (this was previous to the church being built) was covered, and they extended a long way towards Kew. What a change has come over the scene !

In April, 1845, I left Chiswick for Trentham Garden, under Mr. Fleming, to gain experience in the early forcing houses among Vines, Pines, &c. At this time extensive alterations were going on. In April, 1S46, Mr. Fleming was applied to for a young man for the vineries, &c., at Nuneham Park, Oxford, and I left Trentham for Nuneham, where I remained until November, I S49, returning again to Trentham; but previous to this, however, in July, Mr. Fleming had recommended me to the late Mr. Sneyd, with the understanding that I was to remain at Trentham for twelve months previous to going to Keele, to become further acquainted with the gardening peculiarities of the soil, and the climate of North Staffordshire, as the late Mr. Sneyd, when he engaged a gardener, wanted one to remain in his service.

On October 17, 1850, I entered on my duties at Keele Hall. I shall never forget a remark my late employer made to me: 'Hill, I am particularly anxious to have good Grapes, as they are the only fruit I eat.' In this respect I have every reason to believe he was perfectly satisfied. For many years we were never without Grapes all the year round; and with regard to their quality the metropolitan exhibitions will afford the best criterion. The following is a list of the prizes which I took for Grapes during ten years, viz., from 1853 to 1863:—

Royal Horticultural Society of London; twenty-two 1sts, eleven 2ds, and six 3ds.
Royal Botanic Society, Regent's Park; twenty-three 1sts, eight 2ds, and thirteen 3ds.
British Pomological Society; two 1sts.
Crystal Palace Company, Sydenham: fourteen 1sts, seven 2ds, and two 3ds.

Many of our best productions have been obtained since the above date (1863). The finest Black Princes and Buckland Sweetwater exhibited on the opening day at South Kensington were the produce of a graft put on Black Hamburgh in i860. These received 1st prizes at South Kensington on the Saturday, and, on the following Wednesday, two 1sts at the Regent's Park, the same Grapes being exhibited. There was something worth competing for at that time. The highest prize I ever received for a single dish of Grapes was at Regent's Park, for Black Prince, £4; and the lowest at the Royal Horticultural Society, South Kensington, 1s. 8d., with the following note—'I have the pleasure to

enclose a remittance of 1s. 8d., being the amount of your prize account for the last show'!

During the twenty-five years I have been at Keele, I have had considerable experience in the formation of new Vine borders and the renovation of old ones. I have also had much practice in planting forest trees and evergreens of all descriptions, both large and small, as well as in the formation of woodland walks by the mile, green carriage drives, &c.

I must refer your readers to the Gardeners' Chronicle, 1871, p. 1452, for a full description of Keele, where I have spent my happiest days, and met with great kindness, not only from my previous but also from my present employer."

be easier to grow than formerly. I am inclined to think that the best situation in which to plant all the broad-leaved Eremuri is the back row in a herbaceous border, or among low-growing shrubs, where their leaves can be sheltered from spring frosts and the bare part of their stems hidden. In such a situation they look better, and, if not overcrowded or shaded, grow quite as well, but their thick fleshy roots spread so far from the crown that care must be taken not to injure them when the border is pricked and cleaned.

I must say a good word for an old and much-neglected plant which was at the end of May the most beautiful shrub in my garden. This is Kerria japonica flore-pleno, which, notwithstanding what Mr. Bean says (*Trees and Shrubs*, I., 685), is as hardy as anything I know; and in a neglected corner, where it hardly sees the sun, climbs up among the Yew branches which overhang it in wreaths of golden flowers. It has had not the slightest attention for twenty-five years at least, and is immensely superior to its single form, which I do not think worth growing. *H. J. Elwes.*

ASTER PURDOMII.

The dwarf Aster illustrated in fig. 143 was collected by Mr. Purdom for Messrs. J. Veitch and Sons on the mountains of Tai Pei Shan,

Fig. 143.—Aster purdomii: flowers violet mauve colour.

Shensi, and is named in his honour. It was awarded the R.H.S. Award of Merit in 1913. The plant is dwarf, and suitable for the rock garden, the flowers being about 9 inches high. The petals are a shade of violet-mauve surrounding a small, pale-yellow disc, on unbranched, slender, hairy stems. The flowers vary from 1¼ inch in diameter to over 2 inches, and have from thirty to fifty narrow ray florets. In colour and general appearance the bloom suggests a small flower of Erigeron speciosus. The lower leaves are ovate or ovate-lanceolate, with a few distinct marginal teeth, and distinctly stalked. The few stem leaves are sessile, lanceolate to oblong, and more or less entire. The illustration is from a photograph of a plant exhibited by Mr. J. C. Allgrove.

ORCHID NOTES AND CLEANINGS.

ODONTOGLOSSUM ROSEFIELDIENSE THEODORA.

This handsome Odontoglossum was raised by De Barri Crawshay, Esq., Rosefield, Sevenoaks (gr. Mr. Stables), between O. Harryanum and O. Lambeauianum (Rolfeae × crispum), and flowered first in 1911. A description of the original form was given in *Gard. Chron.*, January 21, 1911, p. 46, following the Award of Merit. A remarkable form of the plant has recently flowered at Rosefield, and has proved to be the finest of the favourite section of Harryanum crosses. The flower extends 4 inches across the sepals, the petals being 1⅜ inch wide and the lip 1¼ inch broad. The petals and lip are broadly ovate, almost circular in outline, and the sepals proportionately broad. The sepals and petals have a cream-white ground, heavily barred with blue-purple, the blue being very evident in the petals. The labellum is pure white, with reddish-violet spotting in front of the crest.

In the description referred to the original form was described as "one of the happiest combinations," and the variety Theodora accentuates the remark.

A study of the flower confirms the opinion as to the excellence of O. crispum, O. Pescatorei, and O. Harryanum in hybridising; indeed, these three species play more satisfactory parts than all the other members of the genus put together. O. Harryanum favours expansion, firm substance, and decided marking. O. Pescatorei tends to give good shape, especially in the broad, flat labellum; and O. crispum gives uniformly broad segments and is receptive of the colouring of the other parent. In the variety now under notice the recurring characters of O. Harryanum, combined with O. Pescatorei through O. Rolfeae, are very interesting.

ODONTOGLOSSUM FARMERI.

This distinct and showy Odontoglossum was raised by Messrs. Armstrong and Brown from O. amabile and their O. King Emperor, and received the R.H.S. Preliminary Commendation at the meeting on May 16. The hybrid is one of the best of the hybrid Odontoglossums shown with a view to securing the new award. The flower is of perfect shape, all the segments being almost equally broad. The inner two-thirds of the sepals and petals are of a rich claret-red, with a decided orange shade, the broad margins being pure white. This and many others of the crosses of complex parentage show a tendency to change the colour of the whole flower instead of arranging the colour in blotches, and new and attractive tints are produced. By an error the exhibit card gave the name as Odontoglossum Baileyi, and it was so recorded.

KEELE HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

The recent death of Mr. J. Dempster, of Manchester shipping circles, reminds us that the deceased gentleman some years ago took over Keele Hall, Newcastle-under-Lyme, on a short lease from Mr. Ralph Sneyd, the present owner. Keele has a great interest for gardeners, for in the last century it enjoyed for many years a rare reputation for Grape cultivation, and it was one of the principal show places in the Midlands. The Hall was built by Ralph Sneyd in the fifties, who also planned most of the features of the pleasure grounds, and with his own hands pegged out the numerous paths in the woods that stretch from the Hall itself on the north-west side for a mile and a half in the direction of Butterton. So early as 1850 he appointed as gardener the late William Hill, who at that time was serving under Fleming at Trentham, situated only a few miles distant, and known at that time by name, at least, in every British garden. In appointing Hill, Mr. Sneyd stipulated that he should grow plenty of good Grapes, as he cared for no other fruit. This fact may partly explain Hill's devotion to Vine cultivation during the 28 years he laboured at Keele. He exhibited Grapes from the Keele vineries at shows in most parts of the country, and on one occasion at least was awarded prizes for them at an exhibition in Paris. He commenced to exhibit in 1853, when he had been but three years at the work. In the two years following he gained sixty-one first prizes at the London shows. But many of Hill's best Grapes were produced subsequent to that date, as he himself states in the following paragraph published in these pages in 1876.

"Many of our best productions have been obtained since 1863. The finest Black Prince and Buckland Sweetwater exhibited on the opening day at South Kensington were the produce of a graft put on Black Hamburgh in 1850. These received 1st prizes at South Kensington on the Saturday, and, on the following Wednesday, two 1sts at the Regent's Park, the same Grapes being exhibited. There was something worth competing for at that time. The highest prize I ever received for a single dish of Grapes was at Regent's Park, for Black Prince, £1; and the lowest at the Royal Horticultural Society, South Kensington, 1s. 8d., with the following note:—'I have the pleasure to enclose a remittance of 1s. 8d., being the amount of your prize account for the last show'!"

Nevertheless Hill was not in a position to give his undivided attention to Grape growing, for his appointment preceded the formation of the gardens excepting the centre portions, which included many of the fruit houses and all the vineries. He was engaged with his master in laying out the grounds, plant-

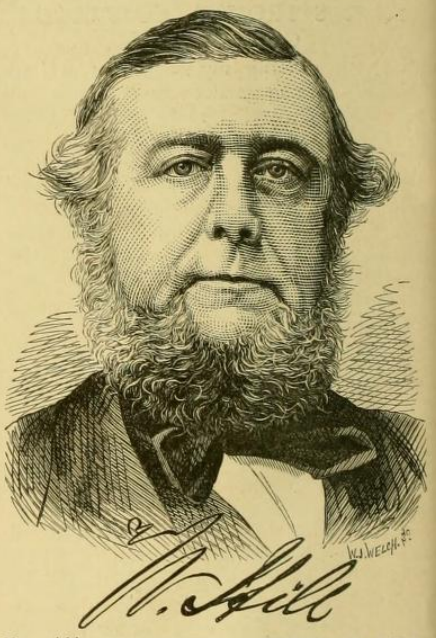


Fig. 144.—William Hill, gardener at Keele, 1850—1878.

ing forest and ornamental trees on a prodigious scale, and the forming of woodland walks. In all these operations his employer took the closest personal interest; he was one of the most energetic of men, and would go into the details of the building of the mansion and of walk planning and tree planting with a freshness that never tired. In these days when the proper training of gardeners is much discussed, it may be of interest to describe Hill's training in his own words:

"I was born at Silsoe, in Bedfordshire, in 1824. My first start in gardening was in the year 1838, at Bedgebury Park, Kent, then the seat of Viscount Beresford, but I was there for a few months only, as my parents left the neighbourhood, and I lost sight of gardening (or was not fully occupied) until March, 1840, when a premium of £10 was paid to Mr. Cockburn, Caen Wood, Highgate, under whom I served for three years. In the autumn of 1843 I left Caen Wood for the Horti-

cultural Gardens, Chiswick, when I entered the fruit department under the late Mr. R. Thompson. While at Chiswick I had an excellent opportunity of becoming acquainted with fruits, particularly Apples and Pears, as the unpacking and arranging for comparison fell to my lot, as also the collecting of scions for all parts of the world. This was Chiswick in its palmy days, when Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Green, Mr. Cock, and a host of others used to exhibit, and when there was also some good fruit shown, and thousands of visitors. In those days it was not an unusual thing to see the rank of carriages extending nearly to the Broadway, Hammersmith, while the whole of Turnham Green (this was previous to the church being built) was covered, and they extended a long way towards Kew. What a change has come over the scene!

"In April, 1845, I left Chiswick for Trentham Garden, under Mr. Fleming, to gain experience in the early forcing houses among Vines, Pines, etc. At this time extensive alterations were going on. In April, 1846, Mr. Fleming was applied to for a young man for the vineries, etc., at Nuneham Park, Oxford, and I left Trentham for Nuneham, where I remained until November, 1849, returning again to Trentham; but previous to this, however, in July, Mr. Fleming had recommended me to the late Mr. Sneyd, with the understanding that I was to remain at Trentham for twelve months previous to going to Keele to become further acquainted with the gardening peculiarities of the soil and the climate of North Staffordshire."

Before Hill's death, in 1878, he had lost his first master, and was serving the Rev. Walter Sneyd, who subsequently appointed as gardener Mr. John Wallis, then gardener to E. M. Mundy, Esq., Shipley Hall, Derbyshire. Wallis remained at Keele for twenty-one years, and, like Hill, he had the misfortune to lose his employer by death. Wallis continued the cultivation of Grapes with marked success for some years, but as time went by other growers competed with him at the exhibitions, and often secured the coveted awards. Wallis grew Peaches and Nectarines in the greatest abundance, and of the best quality. Both these fruits and Figs he exhibited with unvarying success. Mr. Wallis left Keele in 1899, and was succeeded by Mr. Alex. Wright, who was in turn followed by the present gardener, Mr. W. J. Guise.

One of the interesting features at Keele at the present time is the large lean-to Fig house, which is entirely filled with one huge tree of the variety Brown Turkey. We well remember the same house when it accommodated six trees of fair size of as many different varieties. Now all the varieties are borne by the one tree, owing to the system of grafting in the centre of the tree for the primary purpose of maintaining a good supply of fruit-bearing wood, where it is usually only to be found in sparing quantity.

A visit we were privileged to make recently showed that, in spite of some minor alterations, Keele in its main features is much the same as it was even when Hill left it, excepting, of course, that the trees he planted are now, in many instances, first-class specimens of considerable dimensions; for instance, the avenue of Deodar Cedars that now contributes so much interest to one portion of the pleasure grounds. The great Holly hedge (see fig. 145) is still the wonder of all fresh visitors, and in these times of scarce labour it must be very difficult indeed to give it the usual amount of trimming. Its length is 200 yards, width 10 yards, and height 25 feet. We reproduce the old figures, which give a very good idea of the fine appearance of this marvellous hedge. It was described in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* in 1871 in the following terms:—

"It is kept closely clipped, and in appearance looks like a solid piece of masonry, or a powerful breakwater. One could almost walk on the top of it, so dense is the growth; and at all parts it is like a compact fortress wall."

—a description which applies equally well at the present time.

Another feature of extraordinary interest at Keele is the collection of very large and very old Spanish Chestnut trees on the terrace overlooking the lower portion of the kitchen garden. Half a century ago these veteran trees had many of their great, sprawling branches chained up with infinite care, and faulty places on their trunks protected with huge sheets of lead, and they still appear much about the same to the visitor as then, though possibly a question on the subject might bring out the information that some at least had been compelled to give up the fight in the meantime. There are many fine trees of other species in the garden and park, particularly Ash, Elm, and Oak, which, taken with the magnificent Hollies, afford conclusive proof of the fertility of the somewhat heavy soil. Whilst all the old fruit houses are still in good repair and closely cropped with fruit, the present gardener, Mr. Guise, has introduced a greater quantity of flowers, both indoors and out-of-doors, with the result that the place generally looks brighter even than in the old and glorious days of Hill and Wallis. It may be hoped that Keele—where, it will be remembered, the Grand Duke Michael of Russia resided previous to the commencement of the present lease—may continue always to be counted amongst the more interesting and progressive of Midland gardens.

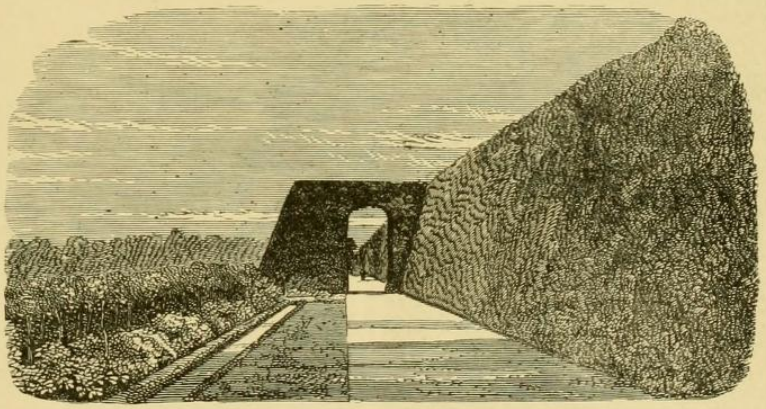


FIG. 145.—HOLLY HEDGE IN KEELE HALL GARDENS, STAFFORDSHIRE.

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

WOMEN AND THE LAND.*

MANY read with interest the contributions by Lady Wolseley, which appeared last year in the *Nineteenth Century*, and elsewhere, on women's work in gardening and farming. The volume just issued deals with the same subject in a more comprehensive and detailed manner.

The value of women's service in gardens has been abundantly proved, and the only doubts expressed have referred to the utilisation of more labour on farms, beyond the duties connected with dairies and poultry keeping. In brief, the question of physical fitness has been the chief one demanding an answer. It has, however, been overlooked by some opponents that the life of the modern British girl has materially improved, outdoor sports and athletic exercise have resulted in a development that fits young women for much that was beyond their powers previously. To illustrate this, a recent demonstration of women's work on the land was held by the Lindsey County Council at Holton-le-Moor. About thirty women and girls took part, and were engaged in ploughing, threshing, distributing manure, lifting roots, and other operations. Much satisfaction was expressed by the practical men who witnessed the tests, and the results were recorded as "workmanlike and good."

In such an extremely critical time not only is it of national importance that every available area should be cultivated to the best purpose, but it is essential that all labour which can be spared from other pursuits should be utilised to the fullest extent in this direction. Judgment and experience are needed in selecting women for such special occupations, and careful training is of the utmost importance; but women students are mostly quick to learn, and in some respects are more teachable than men. I have had hundreds of women under my direction on land work in several counties, and have invariably had reason for satisfaction with the results, both with respect to speed and efficiency.

The authoress of *Women and the Land* indicates in the course of eleven chapters (224 pages) how women can help to advance the cultivation of land, the course of training needed, the value of co-operation, and the preparatory education desirable for women and girls in villages. Many other cognate subjects are discussed, including rural housing, wages, and local industries, all bearing upon the matter more or less intimately, and the difficulties to be overcome are considered in the right judicial spirit. In fact, much useful information can be gained by a close perusal of this work. The book is well printed in clear type on stout paper, and is appropriately illustrated. *C.*

* *Women and the Land.* By Viscountess Wolseley. (London: Chatto & Windus.) 1916. Price 5s.

HILL Thomas Leonard Esq.
Personal Estate under £100.

29 April. The Will of Thomas Leonard Hill formerly of 16B Old-Cavendish-street Cavendish-square in the County of Middlesex but late of Sidmouth in the County of **Devon** Esquire who died 1 February 1878 at Sidmouth was proved at **Exeter** by Emily Marianne Hill of 1 High-street Exmouth in the County of Devon Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

HILL Thomasine.
Personal Estate under £100.

8 October. The Will of Thomasine Hill formerly of Hyde but late of Newtown within Disley both in the County of **Chester** Spinster who died 5 August 1878 at Newtown was proved at **Chester** by John Hibbert of Hyde Gentleman the sole Executor.

HILL Walter Easterbrook.
Personal Estate under £100.

22 November. Administration of the Personal Estate of Walter Easterbrook Hill late of 60 York-street in the Parish of Lambeth in the County of **Surrey** Stonemason who died 25 November 1858 at 60 York-street was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Sarah Epps (Wife of Thomas Epps) (formerly Hill, Widow) of 5 Laleham-road Staines in the County of Middlesex the Relict.

HILL William.
Personal Estate under £2,000.

24 January. The Will of William Hill late of Castle-street Hertford in the County of **Hertford** Tailor and Draper who died 27 December 1877 at Castle-street was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Thomas Hill of Castle-street Printer and Frederick Hill of 55 Lordship-road Stoke Newington in the County of Middlesex Postmaster the Sons the Executors.

HILL William.
Personal Estate under £200.

2 April. Administration (with the Will) of the Personal Estate of William Hill late of William-street Brighton in the County of **Sussex** Innkeeper who died 9 March 1878 at William-street was granted at **Lewes** to Charlotte Hill of William-street Widow the Relict the Universal Legatee.

HILL William.
Personal Estate under £3,000.

4 June. The Will of William Hill late of Keele-gardens in the Parish of Keele in the County of **Stafford** Gardener who died 9 May 1878 at Keele-gardens was proved at **Lichfield** by Indalasha Hill of Keele-gardens Widow the Relict and Zadok Stevens of Trentham in the said County Gardener the Executors.

HILL William.
Personal Estate under £300.

19 September. The Will of William Hill late of 5 New-England in the Parish of St. Paul's Peterborough in the County of **Northampton** Engine Driver who died 3 June 1878 at the Royal Free Hospital Gray's-Inn-road in the County of Middlesex was proved at **Peterborough** by Mary Ann Hill of 5 New-England Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

HILL William.
Personal Estate under £3,000.

29 October. The Will of William Hill late of Twist-lane Leigh near Bolton in the County of **Lancaster** Carrier who died 28 April 1878 at Leigh was proved at **Liverpool** by William Hill Contractor the Son and John Duff General Dealer both of Twist-lane the Executors.

4. The Gardener's new Kalender, with plates, London.

5. An idea of a Botanical Garden in England, 1758.

6. Account of a stone which upon being watered produces mushrooms, plates 2, London, 1758, 8vo.

7. Method of producing double flowers from single by a regular course of culture, illustrated with 7 plates, London 1758.

8. The origin and production of proliferous flowers, with the culture at large for raising double from single, and proliferous from double, 7 plates, London, 1759, 8vo.

9. The practice of Gardening by T. Perfect, a pupil of Dr. Hill, London, 1759. 8vo.

10. Botanical Tracts, London, 1762. A collection of previously published Pamphlets.

11. The construction of Timber explained by means of the Microscope. London, 1770. 8vo.

12. The Vegetable System, or Experiments on the structure and life of Plants, 1759.

1754. The Gardener's Pocket Book, or Country Gentleman's Recreation; being the Kitchen, Fruit, and Flower Garden displayed in alphabetical order, by R. S. Gent.

THOMAS HITT, appears to have been a native of Aberdeenshire. He served his apprenticeship under the gardener of John, the 3rd. Duke of Rutland, at Belvoir Castle, in Lin-

colnshire, who was like his father a great delighter in Gardening, especially the culture of Fruit Trees. Hitt lived sixteen years with Lord Robert Sutton at Kelham House, in Nottinghamshire. During almost all the period he was a serving Gardener, he lived with one branch or other of the Rutland Family. In 1755, he lived with Lord Robert Manners at Bloxholm in Lincolnshire. He eventually became a nurseryman, a designer of Gardens &c. in Kent. He died about 1710. He wrote upon Husbandry in general, and upon the improvement of waste land in Aberdeenshire, but his chief work is

1. A Treatise of Fruit Trees, London. 1755. A second edition appeared in 1757. Third Edition, Dublin, 1758. Miller mentions a third Edition 1768, London:

It is the result of long experience, and is decidedly one of our best practical works upon the art of training trees. The characteristic of his plan is to check the rise of the sap by making the stem take a tortuous course.

At his death his MSS came into the possession of James Meader, then gardener to the Duke of Northumberland, from which he published " The Modern Gardener. "

2. A Treatise of Husbandry, London, 8vo. 1760.

1756, On the Heat and Cold of Hot houses, London, 8vo. anonymous.

——— Observations on Husbandry, published from the original MSS of the late Edward Lisle, Esq., of Crux-Easton, Hants, with Notes and observations by his son T. Lisle. D. D. 4to.

Mr. E. Lisle settled at Crux-Easton in 1793—4, being then about 27 years of age. He died in 1722. His son resided at

causes than the weight of the crop, many of them as yet little understood.

July 21st.—I do not think that any garden is complete without perennial Sunflowers. Some people call them coarse, but I consider them beautiful, the dwarfer varieties especially, and for indoor decoration they are of the greatest value. It is true that if they are left alone they will very soon smother other plants, but a little attention is sufficient to keep them within bounds. The whole of the Composite family, to which the Sunflower belongs, is a most interesting one. Specialisation is not a human invention. Nature resorted to the division of labour countless centuries before man was, and here she has carried it to its highest point. For every tiny floret is, in reality, a complete flower. Once upon a time each grew on its own stalk, in much the same way as may be seen in the monstrous variety of the common Daisy, called Hen-and-Chickens; but as plants multiplied, and competition for the visits of insects grew keener, the insignificant florets combined, in order to make a greater show, first in small groups, and afterwards in larger groups, until at last they became combined in a single large community as we see them to-day, with the individual stalks suppressed, all working together for the common good. Examine the outer ring. These have sacrificed their power to perpetuate their kind, for the pistils which they still carry are aborted; they have laid themselves out merely to attract insects to their fellows, and for that purpose they have developed large, strap-like petals, which form the rays of the flower. It is wonderful. There is not a flower which will not repay study as to why it is so fashioned, or why it is so coloured, but, as I have said, there are none more interesting than the Compositæ.

July 22nd.—To those who are on the look-out for novelties, I would suggest that the edible Bamboo (Phyllostachys mitis) might be worth attention. It is not, of course, a new plant, but it would be new in this country as a vegetable. It has been largely cultivated for the purpose in Japan, and has lately been introduced in the United States, where, I believe, it is doing well. The young shoots are cooked like Asparagus, and are considered delicious by those who have tasted them.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 147.—MR. HENRY HOARE, AT THE GARDENS, PUSEY HOUSE, BERKSHIRE.

IF only because Pusey House was the home, in boyhood, of the great High Church leader, it would be interesting to many thousands of people. But its history goes back to the far-off time of King Canute. As may, therefore, be imagined, the gardens have features of their own, which include magnificent old walls, some fine specimens of timber, and a beautiful lake. In fact, the whole of the surroundings are singularly attractive, not only because of their old-world character, but also because the cultivation of modern plants has not been neglected. At present the house is occupied by Sir William Anson, Bart., M.P., Warden of All Souls' College, Oxford, but it is the property of Mr. Pusey, nephew of Dr. Pusey.

MR. HOARE IN THE GARDENS AT PUSEY HOUSE.

Glass is not a feature, but when I visited Pusey on a sunny morning in June, Mr. Hoare, the head gardener, was able to show me in one of the two Vineries a Vine which is practically unknown in this country. It was established some fifteen years ago, and was brought by Mr. Pusey from abroad.

"What are its characteristics?" I inquired.

"The fruit is black in colour, with a beautiful bloom," replied Mr. Hoare. "The flavour is wonderfully good, and, as you see, the leaves are larger and darker than those of the ordinary Vines. It is called the Catauban Grape."

"Is it a great bearer?"

"Yes, it is very prolific, though the bunches of Grapes are not particularly large. The fruit is not fully ripe until August. Most people who taste it say that it is delicious."

"You go in for Muscats?"

"The other varieties grown are Muscats, Hamburgh, Alicante, and Lady Downe's. We get some very fine bunches of Alicante, but we are doing away with Lady Downe's, and intend to graft Foster's Seedling in its place. In the only other house we grow Tomatoes. Sutton's A1 is, I think, the best. But nearly everything here is grown outside."

"Including Strawberries?"

"Practically, no forcing is done. We have lately put in some plants of Laxton's Latest of All, which promise well, but our principal Strawberry is Royal Sovereign. There is also a bed of Alpines, which are very prolific, and no trouble at all."

Near the houses I noticed an old waste bed, and Mr. Hoare said:—

"Here we turn out our old clumps of forcing Violets for early use in frames. We do not grow any of the white varieties, but in addition to Princess of Wales, Marie Louise, and Neapolitan, we have Patria, very dark blue, and Odoratissima, a deep blue with very large blooms."

We decided to return to the very fine kitchen garden, and proceeded at once to what is known as the Symmetrical Garden. It is full of little beds containing annuals, with different varieties in each.

"Of course, you do not have a show of flowers until August," I observed, "but I should like to know how the beds are planted."

"In one there is dwarf Salpiglossis; in another, Nemesia strumosa Suttoni, in four colours; then we go in very largely for dwarf Antirrhinum, which is treated as a half-hardy plant. We sow the seeds under glass, pot them in "sixty"-pots, and bed them out in May. Schizanthus is grown in several colours, and Phlox Drummondii. In a centre bed is a fine specimen of Dr. Rouge Rose—which was a mass of flower early in June—and in other beds, by themselves, are Antirrhinums, Verbenas, and Sutton's dwarf pink Petunias."

"I notice that you have the Mexican Orange-flower in the garden."

"Yes, and it is very fine when in flower. Usually, Choisya ternata requires indoor treatment, but having the shelter of a south wall, which protects it from cold winds, we manage to grow it outside without any special treatment."

"Your bed of Roses in the centre is very effective."

"The varieties are chiefly China Roses, including Laurette Messimy. We merely cut out a little of the wood. It starts flowering in the middle of May, and continues more or less until the middle of the autumn. Near it is an arch of Clematis montana."

"What varieties of Roses do you grow on the numerous poles?"

"Paul's Carmine Pillar, William Allen Richardson, Queen Alexandra, White Pet, Bardou Job, Bouquet d'Or, Cheshunt Hybrid, Euphrosyne, Thalia, Longworth Rambler, Papillon, and the Garland."

"How often do you clip the Box which edges all the beds?"

"Three times a year."

In a corner of the Symmetrical Garden is a specimen of the Christ Thorn. Mr. Pusey

brought it from Palestine some years ago. In the spring, about Easter, it bears little white flowers. Passing into the pleasure grounds proper, which are on a large scale, the timber in the background, the lake, and the Rosery opposite, at once arrested my attention. By the side of the lake is some New Zealand Pampas Grass. The seeds were brought to Pusey by Sir William Anson's brother some three years ago, and the Pampas were coming into flower at the time of my visit. Standing in the Memorial Temple, which faces the lake, I asked how the adjacent border was composed.

"There are clumps of single Dahlias, which came from abroad, and Sweet Peas, a row of Gladioli, Golden Calceolarias, Henry Jacoby Geraniums, and Cerastiums. They make a very pretty border picked out with Nicotiana affinis, and clumps of the tall variety of Salpiglossis."

"How about Roses?" I asked, as we went down to the side of the lake.

"There is a general collection. Some of the beds are mixed, but we also try to get single plants with thick bushes, like the tree of Pink Provence."

"That is a remarkable specimen."

"It has been in that position for a number of years. There are thousands of flowers on it during July. A few varieties which do specially well are Mrs. John Laing, Marie van Houtte, and A. K. Williams. Here are the names of other principal Roses: Madame Gabriel Luizet, Charles Lefebvre, General Jacqueminot, Jeannie Dixon, Madame Victor Verdier, Ulrich Brunner, Victor Hugo, Margaret Dixon, John Hopper, and Suzanne Rodocanachi, Hybrid Perpetuals; Caroline Testout, Clara Watson, Captain Christy, Grace Darling, and La France, Hybrid Teas; Bridesmaid, Ethel Brownlow, Anna Olivier, and Honourable E. Gifford, Teas. We prune them hard to keep them well established at the bottom. Crimson Ramblers also thrive here; and there are some fine specimens of Box. They require a good deal of clipping."

Approaching the mansion, I observed that the summer bedding on the top terrace had just been done, but inquired about the spring varieties.

"In spring the large beds contained Wallflowers, and the small ones Aubrietias. Now, there are Vesuvius Geraniums and Violas in the large beds, and Petunias in the small."

"The garden," continued Mr. Hoare, "is now planned on the old Italian system; it used to slope down to the flat."

"Did the magnificent vases come from Italy?"

"Yes, all of them, between twenty and thirty in number. They are filled with Ivy-leaf Geraniums, the specimen plants of Souvenir de Charles Turner especially making a fine show in the season. On the sloping banks we are establishing the Wichuriana Roses. Lavender is a great feature on the terrace, and grows on each side of the Recess, with its fine fresco work."

"What about the panel bedding below?"

"The outside panels consist of Henry Jacoby Geraniums, edged with Lobelias; the inner panels of Flower of Spring Geraniums edged with Pyrethrums; and the centre of Abutilons Thompsonii, Cannas, blue Salvias, edged with Echeverias."

"Do you use the panels for spring?"

"No, for summer only. They are, I believe, quite unique, and, as you can perceive, they take an enormous quantity of plants to fill them. Of course, they are in the Italian style."

"Then, there are the beds under the walls on the top terrace?"

"For the summer we have single Dahlias, Abutilons, Nicotiana sylvestris, Cannas, Solanum Robertsonii, sub-tropicals, which we grow for the foliage, and variegated Maize. On the walls on the top terrace are, on one side, a very fine Ceanothus Veitchii, Roses, Clematis, Jasminum; and, on the other side, Wistarias, and Roses Anna Olivier."

"Among the attractions of the top terrace must be included the fine Oak with seats underneath."

We next descended to the lower terrace, obtaining on the way a very pretty peep, with the Temple on the right, and on the left a wooden rustic bridge leading to the church, the water and the dark green of the trees enhancing the beauty of the picture.

"The beds on the lower terrace are made to correspond," Mr. Hoare observed. "Thus, on one side the centre bed contains Geraniums, Vesta and Dandy, edged with Pyrethrums; the small beds are full of Sutton's Dwarf Petunias (pink and white), edged with Lobelias; there are two star beds made up of Tagetes signata pumila, with Cannas, Abutilons, Perilla Nankinensis, and Salvia splendens, the contrast between the scarlet of the Salvias and the golden Tagetes being very striking; and two shield beds with Ivy-leaf Geraniums, Madame Crousse, pegged down, edged with dwarf Ageratums and Cerastiums. Beyond the shields are beds of Calceolarias, edged with Lobelias."

"And the beds all round the side?"

"There are two of Petunias, two of scented Geraniums, and two of Heliotropes."

LADY ELIZABETH'S GARDEN AT PUSEY HOUSE.

Leaving the terraces, we came to a little Rockery, where Mr. Hoare is trying to establish Gentianas, and where also numerous varieties of Saxifrage flourish. Roses on pillars are a feature of this part of the pleasure grounds, Paul's Carmine Pillar, Captain Christy, and Stella Gray being much in evidence. Close to the lake is a fine specimen of Claire Jacquier. Tritomas and the yellow Water Lily flourish here, and the banks are ornamented by excellent specimens of Copper Beech, Oriental Plane, Weeping Willow, and Acacia. Across the bridge, near the ancient and admirably-kept church, are fine specimens of Cyprus trees, not often met with, and Cedars of Lebanon.

Returning along the lower lawns, a striking herbaceous border, backed by ornamental trees, such as the variegated Maple, pink May, and Laburnum, attracted my attention.

"Here, too," Mr. Hoare pointed out, "is the Burning Bush, which is in full beauty about the middle of August. There is another specimen on the other side. Other features of the lower lawns are Crimson Ramblers, Hollies in the winter, Weigelas, several grand old Elms, and the Yew and the Box are rampant."

"The soil suits them?"

"Remarkably well. It is very dry—so dry that we wan' rain every week. It is stone at the bottom, and the rain soon runs away. In the woods on the other side of the lake are splendid specimens of Hickory and Plane, and through the woods is a children's garden with summer house. Spiræa Lindenii flourishes in the woodland path."

"How large are the gardens altogether?"

"The pleasure gardens enclosed are about six acres, and the kitchen gardens quite an acre and a half."

"Have you any special features in the kitchen gardens?"

"I am doing away with the old fruit trees as fast as I can, and establishing young ones in place of them."

"Do you go in for many varieties of Peaches on the walls?"

"Mainly, Hale's Early, Waterloo, Grosse Mignonne and Goshawk; and Early Rivers' Nectarine. I am planting Apples on pyramids all round by degrees. Among the varieties are Lord Suffield, Irish Peach, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Lane's Prince Albert, and Lady Sudeley. Some of the Pear trees are very old, especially Crassane. I should think it dates a hundred and fifty years back."

"What sort of Pear is it?"

"A dessert variety with a very fine flavour, and it keeps until Christmas. Another dessert Pear is Beurré Clairgeau, and we have also Marie Louise, Doyenné du Comice, Windsor, Beurré Diel, Louise Bonne, Marie Louise, Williams's Easter Beurré, Brockworth Park, and Bon Chretien."

"Mention ought to be made of the Niphetos Roses which are flowering just now so luxuriantly, and of the fine specimen of Safrano."

"I cut fifty flowers off the Niphetos this morning (June 19th). I was cutting the Safrano when my photograph was taken."

"Do you grow many Carnations?"

"Only a quantity of Raby Castle and the Old Clove. The strain of Delphiniums in the herbaceous border in the kitchen garden is very fine. The Spanish Iris is also very pretty, and a good grower. Pyrethrums and Montbretias, Gypsophilum, Campanula persicifolia, Harpaliums in large quantities, annual Poppies (especially the Shirley strain), and other varieties make up the rest of the border."

"What about Cactus Dahlias?"

"Our varieties include Capstan, Matchless, Mrs. Basham, Queen of Yellows, Bridesmaid, Delicatra, Countess of Gosport, Island Queen, The Clown, and Iceland Queen."

"You grow Sweet Peas in clumps?"

"Yes, we adopted that system some time ago. We have all the newer varieties. Countess Aberdeen, Duchess of Westminster, Countess Cadogan, Blanche Ferry, Captivation, Mary Cowell, Lady Grisel Hamilton, and Lady Nina Balfour are among the best."

"Speaking of Sweet Peas, you seem to have a large quantity of Peas?"

"Our earliest Pea is Sutton's Ringleader, and I find the Autocrat very good for late work. The other varieties are Sutton's Duke of Albany, Sutton's Prince of Peas, Gradus, and Doctor Maclean."

"I hear that you show vegetables?"

"A little, at Faringdon, Wantage, Oxford, and other local shows. I have been fairly successful in showing Ailsa Craig and Carter's Onions. I also show eight varieties of vegetables, Sutton's White Italian Onion, Magnum Bonum Cauliflower, Sir John Llewellyn Potato, Duke of Albany Pea, Ai Tomato, Snowball Turnip, Early Gem Carrot, and Telegraph Cucumber."

"Do you think much of Sir John Llewellyn?"

"I am trying it this year for the first time. It seems very good. Sutton's Ringleader is the best of the earlies. We have half an acre of Potato ground in addition to the kitchen garden. Satisfaction, Windsor Castle, Sutton's Century, Up-to-date, and Evergood are the other varieties."

"Artichokes appear to be a favourite vegetable?"

"Yes, we grow a great number of the Globe. Artichokes want protection in the winter. We protect them with ashes, and release them in the spring. Deep trenching is one of the necessities of cultivation. We devote a dozen beds to Asparagus, a very old variety, and very good. Sutton's Giant is also grown."

Finally, as we strolled round a walled-in garden, with Gooseberries on one side and Currants on the other, where Mr. Hoare has introduced the cordon system of growing Apples, I inquired about his past experience, and he rejoined:

"I spent my early days in London nurseries, was foreman at Fairfield, Herne Hill, for six years, head gardener at Warren House, Cobham, for three years, and I have been here for ten years."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 104.—FOXGLOVES AND BEGONIAS.

DEAR KATE,—The white and spotted Foxgloves have been very fine in my garden this year. The corner beds at the end of the lawn (which contain Rhododendrons, Lilies, etc.) have tall groups of them between the shrubs, which have reached the height of about eight feet, and as the front of these borders is a mass of fine Violas in broad patches of purple, yellow, blue, and white, the effect is excellent.

If you want good Foxgloves, you must sow the seed every year, in May, so as to have strong, young plants to put out into the borders in October; not only so, but the seedlings must be transplanted now into a nursery bed of rich soil, placing each eighteen inches from the next, when they will grow rapidly. But you must take care of these baby plants for a week or two, and if the present hot weather continues, you should water them well in, and then cover each with a flower pot, to shade it and keep it cool until it has had time to get hold of the soil, when you can take off the pot at night, only covering

BEGONIA, "MARCHIONESS OF BATH."

the plants during the middle of the day for a day or two, and then leave them uncovered.

If you have not yet sown your Foxgloves, you had better do so at once; only the finest of the plants will blossom next season, but on the other hand those which fail to do so will gather strength for fifteen months, and be very handsome specimens in 1906. All the biennial seedlings sown in May need to be pricked out now, and planted about a foot apart in nursery beds till October. A good place to put them is the spare space which should always be left vacant between and around Apple and Pear trees, or in front of espaliers and wall-fruit trees (such as Peaches, Pears, Cherries, Plums, etc.), as these places are full of the surface roots of the fruit, and must not be heavily covered or dug with a spade; though the soil should be rich, if they have been properly mulched in the spring. These young plants (which are all taken up again, and placed in their flowering quarters in October), do not take much out of the soil, and can be dibbled in (after hoeing the surface to the depth of four inches) quite safely. They consist of Wallflowers of the finest varieties, Foxgloves, Canterbury Bells, and other Campanulas, Forget-me-nots, Dianthus, Coreopsis grandiflora, etc., and they will make a grand show in the garden next spring.

Now is the time for sowing tuberous Begonias of the finest double varieties, as these very small seeds germinate best in the middle of the summer without fire heat, and the plants thus obtained are stronger and hardier than those raised in heat in January and hurried on to flower the first year. We get a shallow chocolate box from the grocer's, drain it with ashes an inch deep, over which there should be a layer of dry moss, then small pieces of fibrous peat or turfy loam, making this quite firm and absolutely flat before adding a quarter of an inch of the finest possible soil, sifted through a gravy strainer, for we find many of the kitchen things come in handy, though we don't use them for both purposes, but give the cook a new utensil when we confiscate anything from the kitchen. Then a pepper-box comes into play, and into it we first put half a teaspoonful of fine white sand, and then the seed, shaking them gently together till mixed. Having again made the fine surface-soil (which should be a mixture of good loam, leaf-mould, sand, and charcoal dust), quite flat and firm, we shake the contents of the pepper-pot (or perforated tin, such as Keating's powder is sold in) over the surface evenly, not adding any more covering to the seed, for if covered it usually rots.

The box is then held carefully in a tank of tepid water until the water just shows at the corners; but you must take care that the surface is never flooded in doing this, as the poor little seeds would be floated about, and certain death ensues. A piece or two of glass, so arranged as to allow a little air to escape, and a covering of brown paper over that, will give moist air and shade (both necessary for germination), and you can put the box in any place where the temperature is about sixty-five degrees. Often there is a warm wall near the kitchen chimney, which makes a good place; but in really warm, summer weather this is not necessary, for a sunny window will give sufficient warmth at this time of year. When the tiniest of plants appear (in about ten or twelve days), a piece of newspaper may be substituted for the brown paper, and they may gradually be given more air, though,

BEGONIA, "SAPPHO."

as fresh plantlets keep on appearing for some time, you had better not be in a hurry to take off the glass or the paper; and those seeds which are the last to germinate will be found to contain the finest flowers of the lot. Keep them growing as long as possible in the autumn, and prick them out when quite small, into slightly deeper soil in rather deeper boxes, as they grow, with the same care in draining, and giving them fine soil at top. After being transplanted into these boxes, you should put glass and newspaper again over them until they begin to grow, after which they may be gradually hardened off, but they always like a little shade. Every little tuber that is formed will start into life again next spring, and can then be potted up separately, when they will bloom earlier and better than spring-sown seed can do.

But you must be very careful with the watering of them; the boxes should not be soused from a watering pot, but held in a large pan of tepid water, as I have described, whenever the surface soil approaches dryness, for the tiny rootlets of these seedlings cannot endure to be short of water. They must not, however, be soaked when already quite wet, so that you must use your very best considering-cap in dealing with them. Fine tuberous Begonias are very valuable plants, so that they are worth a little care and tact in growing them. They can be grown in a window, in a greenhouse, or even in the open air (as they are dormant all the winter), so that there is no reason why we all should not possess them. We have a fine collection of them. Dawn is an enormous bloom, with erect habit, in pale apricot and carmine shades; Sappho is a lovely tint of pink, with a white eye, about six inches across, and Marchioness of Bath is in pure white—a lovely flower. The Queen is a double Begonia of a rare shade of amber; and Salmonea is a magnificent fimbriated blossom nine inches across, in rich salmon-pink.

THE GARDENS AT CROFTON COURT, ORPINGTON.

Interview with Mr. Thomas Hobbs.

AT the Temple Show this year, a fine group of Calceolarias, shown by Mr. Vivian Phillipps, of Crofton Court, Orpington, attracted much attention, both because of the remarkable range of striking colours, and the extraordinary excellence of the foliage. The head gardener at Crofton Court is Mr. Thomas Hobbs, and with the courteous permission of Mr. Phillipps I visited the gardens before the Calceolarias had lost their beauty. Calceolarias, however, are but one of many interesting features at Crofton Court gardens. Situated on high ground, three hundred feet above sea level, some distance from Orpington station, in characteristic Kentish scenery, the Court is a charming old-world house, while the surroundings show that the most has been made in the way of improvements on modern lines. As it was raining heavily on my arrival, Mr. Hobbs suggested that we should first inspect the houses, and at the outset I had the opportunity of seeing a fine collection of Petunias.

"These," said Mr. Hobbs, "are going to Holland House. They are chiefly white and pink."

"The pink are exceptionally beautiful. How long have you been growing Petunias?"

"This is the first batch I ever grew. There are three dozen here. As to cultivation, I potted them in the same soil as Calceolarias, Cinerarias, and Begonias. They do well for table decoration, last in flower for three days when cut, and they continue blooming in the house for fully two months."

Seedling Begonias.

"You make a special feature of Begonias?"

"Yes, I have had flowers six inches across. They are seedlings grown from Gwillim's seed. With regard to soil, I use two parts loam, one leaf-soil, and sand, for potting. Begonias want potting as soon as the roots are through. I dry them off in the Vinery in the autumn, and then store them until the early spring."

"When do you flower them?"

"Not until September. Begonias are not used for bedding."

"How long have you been growing Calceolarias?" I asked, as we turned our attention to the splendid plants in flower, which won so much admiration at the Temple Show.

"Ever since I was a boy. But I never showed any until the Temple Show last year, when I was awarded the Banksian medal. I consider the foliage and flowers of equal importance."

"Do you find that the frost injures them?"

"It need not do so. I syringed these Calceolarias when the frost came, and they recovered, but the syringing should be done before the sun shines. The same applies to Cinerarias."

"Do you grow many Cinerarias?"

"A fair number. I have had C. stellata as high as four to five feet, and down to about two feet; and five inches across the blooms. This year I am going in for Carters' Brilliant Prize and Cactus-flowered Cinerarias."

Carnations and Geraniums.

"Then you have Carnations in these houses?"

"Chiefly Trees. The varieties include A. G. Steel, Henry Fenn, Norway, Flamingo, Duchess of Marlborough, Hon. A. Lyttelton, Lady Bountiful, America, Hawarden, Britannia, and White Perfection. There are a few Malmaisons."

"Your Geraniums are looking well. What are your favourite varieties?"

"Lady Warwick, Owen Thomas, Mrs. J. A. Bell, The Czar, Nigeria, Juliet, King of Denmark, Mrs. Lawrence, The Sirdar, Mrs. Kendal, Countess of Derby, Duchess of Marlborough, Phyllis, Hope Dene, Royal Purple, Improved Raspail. The Cactus varieties, Cactus King and Fire Dragon, make splendid flowers for table decoration."

"What is the height of your fine plant of Trachelium cœruleum?"

"Four feet; and it is three feet through. The strain is Sutton's. Streptosolens are used for decorating the table; they will last a week in water."

MR THOMAS HOBBS.

"And Spiræas?"

"Yes; Peach Blossom, japonica, and Queen Alexandra. We also grow in these houses Schizanthus, Primula obconica, and P. kewensis, which has been in flower all through the winter up to now. Rhubarb is also forced here; that is to say, we just keep out the frost. As you see, we also run Tomatoes through both houses."

"With good results as to crops, I notice."

"There are two dozen and a half fruits to a tree. The first trusses of Holmes's Supreme are only three feet from the ground."

"How many varieties do you grow?"

"The other two are Sunrise and Duke of York. I think Sunrise is the best for fruiting and quality."

"You grow them all in pots?"

"Entirely in Seakale pots, which are also used for bulbs I feed them with a little artificial manure."

"Your Vinery," I remarked, as we entered, "is adorned with Geraniums on the walls."

"One is Madame Crousse, which has been in bloom since April 1st, while Henry Jacoby, the other, has supplied us with blooms all through the winter."

"Do you feed them?"

"No. I tie Jacoby in, but do not even give it any water. Madame Crousse I only cut back with the hand."

A Point in Grape Culture.

"How old are the Vines?"

"Between twenty and thirty years. The borders are outside. They always colour well, but three years ago I started young rods, and I can see the benefit. The varieties are Alicante, Muscat of Alexandria, Black Hamburgh, and Sweetwater. As to plants here, the Gloxinias will go into the greenhouse later."

"Are they named?"

"The named varieties are Butterfly, Duchess of York, Cassius, and Mermaid. There is also a batch of seedlings. The Cape Lily had five spikes of flower on it last year. Agapanthus umbellata is in flower, and Ferns are coming on."

"Do you get good crops of fruit in your Peach house?"

"Generally. Two years ago I had sixty-six dozen Peaches and Nectarines from seven trees. The Fig, Brown Turkey, has been in that pot for six years, and save an occasional administration of artificial manure, has not been touched. It bears well."

The storm having ceased, we made our way to the pretty Rose garden near the Court.

"When was this made?" I asked.

"Six years ago. I took the soil out, and worked it in again with clay, maiden loam, and cow manure. The natural soil is gravel, with sand underneath. I trenched the border, and, for the rest, I have used the knife pretty freely."

"What are the varieties in the centre bed of standards?"

"Viscountess Folkestone, with Maman Cochet outside. The four corner beds are made up of La France, Bessie Brown, Killarney, and Mildred Grant. They are chosen for colour to harmonise with the standards."

"Are the single standards all different varieties?"

"Yes, and there are about two dozen. One of the best is Caroline Testout."

"They all look well, and the foliage is singularly clean."

"I do not think you could find any maggots. Probably the cleanliness is due to late pruning. I do nothing else to them except fork them up in the autumn. The Rose garden faces south-west, and on the wall Peaches, Apricots, and Figs are intermixed with Roses. On the archway, at the entrance, are Honeysuckles, with old-fashioned Pæonies on one side, and in front a collection of Auriculas."

"Are there many varieties of Roses on the wall above the border?"

"Only Boule d'Or and W. A. Richardson. In the border there are about a hundred bushes, and the varieties include Madame Hoste, Madame Lambard, Lady Roberts, La France, The Bride, and Souvenir de S. A. Prince."

Furnishing the Conservatory.

"The conservatory looking on to the Rose garden," continued Mr. Hobbs, "is now largely furnished with Ivy-leaved Geraniums, Beauty of Jersey, Charles Turner, Baden-Powell, and

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Purity; Hydrangeas, Tree Carnations, Pelargoniums in variety, and Primula obconica. The conservatory is always full. We grow for it, and for the rooms, generally speaking. But the Calceolarias are kept for the greenhouse only."

"You hide your stoke-hole in a charming manner."

"We have managed with Ivy, Ferns, Periwinkle, and the Everlasting Pea, to cover it tolerably well."

"Does the grand old Mulberry tree, on the lawn near the house, bear fruit regularly?"

"Every year; and the fruit is splendid. Other specimen trees on this side of the lawn are a Catalpa, a pair of Thuja Lobbii, a Sumach, a giant Fir, and a Copper Beech, the latter overshadowing the front gate. The Ivy climbs fifty feet up the Fir."

"There are several creepers on the house?"

"Ivy, Japanese Honeysuckle, Roses, and Ampelopsis Veitchii. The window boxes are filled with Nasturtium Empress of India, and Ivy-leaved Geraniums Madame Crousse and Charles Turner."

Border Combinations.

"The contents of the effective long borders seem to vary a little, though I observe that scarlet and gold are the prevailing colours?"

"We make a point of varying them. The border nearest the house contains Geraniums Vesuvius (free-flowering, and a splendid colour), white and blue Lobelias, with Echeveria as edging. The next border is made up of Geraniums Harry Hieover and Little Dot, the Lobelias, and the edging of Echeveria. Then come Calceolarias Golden Gem, and Geraniums Henry Jacoby, with the same edging. These, in the spring of next year, will be followed by Auriculas, Wallflowers, and Myosotis."

"Here you have another break?"

"Yes, the Geraniums used being Harry Hieover and Flower of Spring. Yet another break is with Geraniums Vesuvius and Little Dot, and Calceolarias Golden Gem, the edging being still the same. But behind the last break are Grevilleas robusta, and Azalea mollis."

"When was the plantation of Syringa trees made?"

"Six years ago. They were planted to make a break, and in March last I cut them back to two eyes."

"Did you have special soil?"

"The same soil as the Roses on the fence close by, White Rambler and Crimson Rambler."

Rhododendrons on the Tennis Lawn.

"There are some grand Oaks on the tennis lawn, near the collection of Rhododendrons."

"The Rhododendrons are named varieties, but mixed. The flowers were very fine this year, and every year we have to enlarge the beds to let them grow. When they are out of bloom, the flower of St. John's Wort furnishes a pretty contrast to their foliage. The Roses on the fences, near the stables, are Pink Rover, White Bouquet, and Gloire de Dijon."

Flowers from the Seed.

Passing into what may be called the general flower garden, I was greatly impressed by the wealth of bloom and variety of colour, both in borders and in beds.

"To start with," said Mr. Hobbs, "here is a mixed border, in which Phloxes, Delphiniums, Foxgloves, Aquilegias, Lychnis, Pyrethrums, Sweet Williams, Spanish and English Iris, are the chief features, edged first with Pinks (Mrs. Sinkins), and next with London Pride."

"I will not ask you to name all the plants which are so admirably represented, but you might mention those upon which you chiefly depend."

"I may say that all these are grown from seed, and that, therefore, it is easily possible for amateurs to grow them with success. Amongst the principal plants are Asters, Antirrhinums, Petunias, Stocks, Schizanthus, Marigolds, Gaillardias, Statices, Pentstemons, Doronicums, Anemone japonica, Geums, Veronicas, Violas, and Liliums."

"What is the name of that very strong-growing Lily, of which you have two clumps?"

"It belongs to the L. Humboldti class, and I can strongly recommend it. We also grow L. candidum in quantity."

"How long has your Tropæolum been in flower?"

"All through the winter; and it will continue in flower until September. These varieties, Fire Ball and Empress of India, are used for cutting in the winter months. Speaking of cutting, the Aster sub-cœruleum, a perennial, is very valuable for table decoration. The plants you see have been here for six years, and I save the seed. Like Cactus Dahlias, many varieties of Asters are grown, varying in height from eighteen inches to six feet."

The Best Sweet Peas.

"What varieties of Violets do you go in for?"

"Only one—Marie Louise. It does splendidly, and when I get a good thing, I like to stick to it. Here, you see, we have our rows of Sweet Peas. I sow in February, in pots, put one Pea in a pot, place it out in a cold frame, and plunge in ashes, planting in the open the first week in April."

"How many rows are there?"

"Twelve, and twelve varieties, namely, Phenomenal, White Spencer, Helen Lewis, Lord Nelson, Mrs. Collier, Helen Pierce, Dorothy Eckford, Henry Eckford, Lady Grisel Hamilton, Queen of Spain, Pioneer Spencer, and Florence Moore Spencer. Close to the Sweet Peas are the children's gardens—two young ladies, and one young gentleman. The former contain Auriculas, Pinks, Violets, Asters, Stocks, Marigolds, Schizanthus, Campanula pyramidalis, with Roses, and an edging of London Pride; the latter, with the exception of a fine show of Sweet Williams, is chiefly devoted to Peas and Beans. Here, too, is the Chrysanthemum ground."

"With a number of very healthy-looking plants."

"We grow them for cut blooms, the chief varieties being Niveus, Pride of Leatherhead, Lady Hopetoun, Florence Perry, Triumph, Queen of Exe, Mrs. Thompson, Norah Davis, Mrs. H. Greenfield, Framfield Pink, Mrs. J. I. Thorneycroft, Mrs. C. H. Payne, Mrs. W. Gardiner, Nellie Pockett, and Source d'Or."

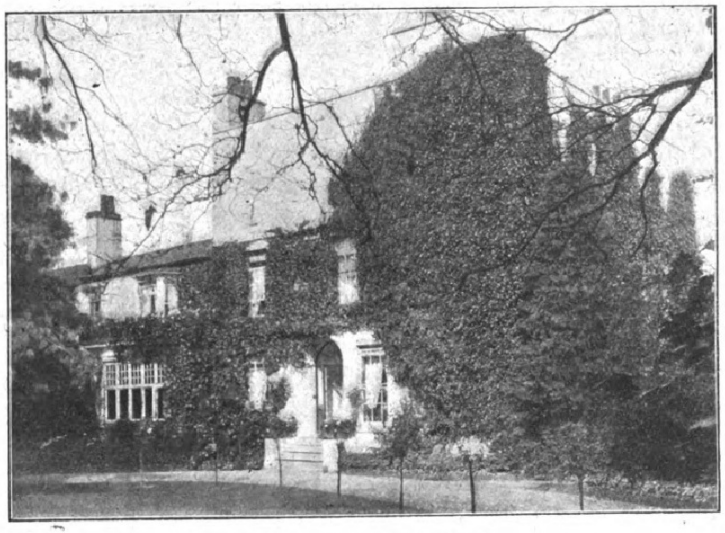
Adjoining the flower garden is a useful fruit and vegetable garden, in which are also flourishing beds of Lilies of the Valley, perpetual-flowering Roses, and a fine display of Campanulas in variety, the centre walk being adorned with a mixed herbaceous border.

Hardy Fruit.

"With regard to hardy fruit," said Mr. Hobbs, "Morello Cherries do well on the back of the Vinery, and Plums and sweet Cherries trained on the fences. I keep my Strawberries for four years, and plant Spinach after the old crop. The varieties of Strawberries are Royal Sovereign and Paxton. We grow several varieties of Gooseberries, including Whinham's Industry, Crown Bob, and Telegraph."

"You have not mentioned the Peaches grown as standards."

"The variety is Royal George. We had over a bushel of fruit from these standards last year. There are about thirty varieties of Apples, standards and fan-trained, and about twenty of Pears. We begin picking Apples in August, and go on till the middle of the succeeding June. At the far end of this garden there is a piece entirely devoted to Raspberries, Red and Black Currants, Damsons, and Gooseberries for dessert."



CROFTON COURT, ORPINGTON.

Asparagus Cultivation.

"Do you grow many vegetables in frames?"

"Celery, chiefly; and after it has been started in the frames, we plant it out in the trenches to follow Peas. The varieties are Sutton's Pink and Standard Bearer. Asparagus is rather a big feature."

"I see that you have a very large bed."

"I always make two raised beds. The top soil is raked off in the autumn, manure is put on, and then the soil is replaced. I began to cut on May 28th, and shall continue through part of July, but after a certain date I do not touch the strongest growths. I rather attribute my success in Asparagus growing to this practice. The beds should be gone over carefully in order to catch the Asparagus beetle."

"When do you usually start picking Peas?"

"This year I picked Peas, Early Morn (the best Pea for early use), on June 23rd. It was planted on March 21st. My next crop was Carters' Buttercup, and other varieties are Quite Content (which is a grand mid-season variety), and Carters' Exhibition."

"How about Potatoes?"

"I have been digging for a fortnight. One of

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the best varieties is the Langworthy from Haddingtonshire. Between the later Potatoes, I plant Brussels Sprouts, and Broccoli. Carrots I began to pull about June 9th. But for the main crop I grow Carters' Intermediate. I find Harbinger one of the best Cabbage Lettuces, and Pineapple a very good Beet."

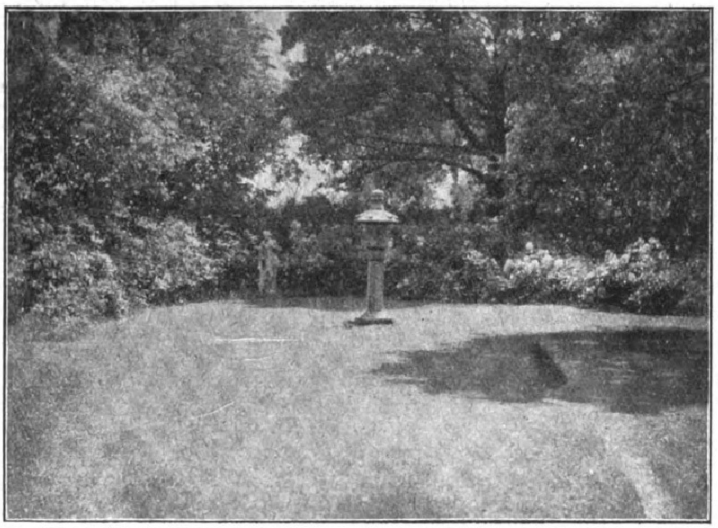
"Have you anything special in Onions?"

"In growing them I use plenty of good rotten manure, lime, and soot. This is for Spring Onions, James' Long-keeping; the later varieties are Ailsa Craig and Giant Rocca. You may think it worth noting that Leeks do all the better when they are planted deeply with a dibber, and not in trenches. With respect to vegetables generally, I sow my seeds in nursery beds. They lie dry, and I give them protection from frost and birds by means of nets. The result is that I always have good fortune with them."

"How long have you been at Crofton Court, Mr. Hobbs?"

"Eight years. I started at Duddleswell House, Uckfield, Sussex, and was then at Claremont Gardens for two years and a half. I left the Duchess of Albany's employment in order to go to Moor Place, Esher, as foreman. I remained there for seven years, and this is my first place as head gardener."

ALFRED WILCOX.



THE LAWN AT CROFTON COURT.

THE gardens of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., at Highbury, Birmingham, will form the subject of next week's interview.

Hints to Exhibitors.

ABOUT FRUIT.

FRUIT is exhibited in separate classes, and also in collections, usually of four, six, nine, or twelve kinds. And here the amateur must beware of confusing "kind" with variety. If four "kinds" are asked for, they must be of separate and distinct fruits, and not merely variations of the same sort; thus Black Hamburgh and Muscat of Alexandria Grapes would be classed as one kind, although quite different in appearance. Before entering into competition in the larger collections, the exhibitor should go carefully over the fruit he intends showing, and if he is doubtful of the merits of one or two, choose rather a smaller class, for loss of marks in one dish may mean losing the prize, whereas by excluding the poor specimen he may make sure of the coveted "first" where a smaller number of dishes are required.

Relative Importance of Different Kinds.

All fruits do not rank as of equal value in collections, and it is well, therefore, where no stipulation is made as to what the kinds shall be, to note the relative importance of each, as laid down by the Royal Horticultural Society. A perfect dish of Pineapples would be allotted ten points; Grapes—Muscat of Alexandria, Cannon Hall, Muscat Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, and Mrs. Pince, ten points; Black Hamburgh, nine points; all other Grapes, eight points; Peaches and Nectarines, eight points; Melons, Figs, and Apricots, seven points; Pears, Apples, dessert Plums, Strawberries, and Cherries, six points; Gooseberries and Raspberries, five points; other fruits and nuts, with Tomatoes (if admitted), four points.

While aiming to produce fruit of large size, and good colour and shape, the overwhelming importance of flavour and quality must always be kept in mind. As the "Rules for Judging" intimate, the three first are all comparative, while the last two are absolute merits, so that "varieties naturally large, but usually somewhat lacking in quality, should not be preferred to varieties naturally smaller, but of greater recognised excellence."

In dealing with fruits which have a long season—as, for example, Apples and Pears—those varieties should be used which are in best condition at the time of the show. Thus, in spite of the superlative merits of Doyenne du Comice, it should not be preferred to Jargonelle for a fixture held in August; although, at the same time, it is not necessary with Apples and Pears to show the fruit in a ripe state, except when the schedules say so. No attempt should be made to enhance the colour of these fruits by artificial means, such as rubbing off the bloom, or polishing in any way—the exhibit is liable to be disqualified where this is done.

Use Care in Handling.

Grapes should be so cut that a piece of the stem, about six inches long, is attached to the bunch. The largest bunch is not necessarily the best; if the berries are uneven in size and shape, and indifferently coloured, it is better to rely on a smaller bunch possessing berries free from those faults. But though the bunch be relatively smaller, the berries must be large for the particular variety, and should be free from defects arising from bad cultivation. The boards on which they are shown should be covered with tissue paper—white for black varieties, pink for white ones—and slant slightly.

Plums should be handled very carefully, so as to preserve the bloom It is well, when gathering them, to place them gently on leaves, and avoid rubbing them against one another.

Peaches and Nectarines should be large, and coloured nicely, according to the variety. There should be no blemishes on the skin, no hard places, and no trace of disease. Unless care is exercised in handling them, they are very liable to be bruised by the fingers, and unsightly marks will be left on them. They should not be squeezed at the side, but taken off by pressing the finger and thumb against the base of the fruit, and gently pulled. In packing them for the exhibition, wrap them separately in soft tissue paper, and then enclose them in cotton wool. Arrived at the show, put some leaves on the dish, and gently place the fruit in position, again using a little cotton wool as an aid. Do not stage any with split stones. The same routine may be followed for Apricots.

Apples and Pears should be wrapped as carefully as the fruit mentioned in the preceding paragraph. Pay particular attention to the schedules of these classes, as disqualification frequently follows disregard of the rules. Dessert fruit should not be shown in the same class as kitchen varieties, and if any doubt exists as to which class a variety belongs to, it will be advisable to consult the lists issued by the Royal Horticultural Society. Cooking varieties ought to have a clear skin and good shape; size, also, is considered, if accompanied by quality. If the shape is not good, the stalks or eyes deeply set, or any other blemish appears, it will involve waste in paring, and is, therefore, reckoned as a defect.

Melons should be staged on a plate decorated with large leaves. Flavour is the chief consideration. The flesh should be of delicate flavour, very juicy and cool; the rind thin, and the seed cavity small. It is a good plan to cut the fruit the day before the show, and to store it in a cool place until it is wanted. Other points being satisfactory, a good weight for a Melon would be about three pounds. Let a portion of the stem be attached to the fruit.

In many exhibitions dishes are provided by the committee, but where this is not done, no restriction is placed on the shape or material of the dish.

SCRUTATOR.

The Latest Comers.

A New Cosmos.

THE name of this variety is Rose Queen, and it produces a profusion of single blossoms of a pretty mauve colour, with yellow centres. It was shown by Messrs. Dobbie and Co., and received an Award of Merit.

A New Gypsophila.

THIS is called G. carminea; it is an annual variety of very elegant habit, bearing a quantity of single flowers of a soft carmine hue. It was shown by Messrs. Dobbie and Co., and received an Award of Merit.

A New Begonia.

MRS. W. L. AINSLIE is the name of a Begonia with very large blossoms of a rich buttercup yellow—a most unusual colour in these plants. It was shown by Messrs. Blackmore and Langdon, and received an Award of Merit.

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bulbs grown in water, though it is sometimes recommended, its utility is very doubtful. For the food which they use in the production of their flowers is, with the exception of water, what they stored last year, and any which they absorb now will simply be stored up for next year, and thus will be wasted, for it is useless

Mr. W. Honess.

o keep bulbs which have been grown in water. They are so weakened by the unnatural process hat it is best to throw them away.

Eel-Worms.

March 30th.—The damage done by eel-worms s so great that every possible means should be aken to stop it. There are several species—one hich attacks Clover, Onions, flowering bulbs f various kinds, and many grasses; another hich attacks Cucumbers and Tomatoes, and on. All are so minute that they can be seen nly with the aid of a microscope; they are haped like eels, being long and narrow, taper-g towards both ends, especially towards the il end, and they possess remarkable vitality. a leaflet, issued by the Board of Agriculture, is stated that "eggs containing the embryo orm can be kept dry for six months without sing their power of hatching, and young orms have the power of resuming animation d active life after they have remained in a rfectly dry condition, in dead tissues or in soil, for between two and three years." is will show how extremely difficult it is, not y to get rid of eel-worms when once they e entered a garden, but also to prevent their eading. They may be carried from one place another on the boots, on tools, in manure, l in a large number of other ways. A small ntity of soil, such as is used for growing nts under glass, may be disinfected; but en eel-worms occur in the open ground the y thing to do is to attempt to starve them by not growing on it the particular crops ch serve as their food. The application of phate of potash—at the rate of a hundred-ght an acre—is said to have produced satis-ory results in some cases.

Iarch 31st.—A sundial, apart from its asso-ions, is an interesting object in a garden. In these days, when things can be turned out so cheaply by machinery, I am rather surprised that they are not offered for sale in large numbers. They would lose much of their charm then, no doubt, but the intellectual interest would remain, and that, if it went no further than mere curiosity, should make them popular for a time.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 232.—Mr. W. Honess, at Cobham Park Gardens.

When I visited Cobham Park Gardens, at the end of January, by the courtesy of the owner of the estate, Mr. Charles Combe, one of the first features that claimed my attention, as, in company with Mr. Honess, the head gardener, I proceeded round the beautiful pleasure grounds, was the picturesque lawn in front of the mansion, sloping down to a very fine lake, four to five acres in extent. Opposite the lake is an elevated bank, and, facing the north front, a bed of seedling Rhododendrons, which were shifted about three years ago, and are getting a very good colour. Their thriving appearance prompted me to ask Mr. Honess whether particular shrubs find a congenial home at Cobham.

"Yes," he replied, "and also evergreen and deciduous trees, and Conifers. In the bed close to the mansion the Rhododendrons are all named, and include such varieties as Cynthia, John Waterer, Lady Eleanor Cathcart, Concessum, Everestianum, Duchess of Connaught, Mrs. Tom Agnew, and Salmon Roseum. In this bed are, likewise, Lilies edged with Violas and Pentstemons."

A Famous Weeping Beech.

"What sort of soil have you to deal with?"

"It is not more than six inches deep—nothing but a firm bed of sand, in fact. With regard to evergreen trees, there is a nice specimen of the Weeping Holly, about thirty years old, on the lawn, and also, on the east side, one of Ilex japonica latifolia, which is rather unusual."

"I conclude that, of deciduous trees, the Fagus pendula, which spreads over such a considerable area, across one of the paths, is a leading feature?"

"Yes, it is regarded as quite a perfect example of the Weeping Beech, and keeps its habit finely. Then, as you see, there is an extraordinary specimen of the common Lime. It is about sixty feet high, and the trunk is hollow for several feet upwards from the base. At a certain point, about five feet high, decay has eaten across the sides towards the back of the trunk, very much as if a saw had cut it. The principal support for the tree is therefore at the back; but it is, of course, gradually going."

The Cedars.

"You have a number of very good specimens of Cedars, old and young."

"The Cedars do well here, including the Cedrus atlantica glauca, which is making such rapid growth each season. But the Cedars at Pain's Hill entirely eclipse these. The loftiest is a hundred and seventeen feet high, with a girth of twenty-five feet eight inches."

"Where is Pain's Hill?"

"It is the mansion which you can see on the top of the hill opposite, and is situated on the Portsmouth road. Mr. Combe bought it three years ago, and it is to let. There are about twenty acres of pleasure grounds, in excellent order. The house itself has been redecorated throughout, and lighted with electric light. By the way, the Bamboos, which I only planted here about eighteen months ago, are doing well. There are two varieties in the bed close to the winter tennis court, B. Simonii and B. palmata."

"Along the walk by the lake, near the croquet and tennis courts, I notice you have beds of Roses. Do they include many varieties?"

The Sloping Lawn at Cobham Park.

"No, they are principally William Allen Richardson, of which we get a quantity of very fine blooms."

A Fine Herbaceous Border.

"I suppose you have several herbaceous borders?"

"Yes, but the principal one is under the hedge of Yews, in front of the home woods. The plants include Pæonies, Campanulas, Iris, Asters, Montbretias, Monardias, Polygonums, and Kniphofias, sometimes called Tritomas. We have a large number of these, which are quite hardy, and want no special treatment, but this border requires to be planted carefully owing to the shade of the trees."

"What is the length of it?"

"About a hundred and seventy-five yards. One of the beds on the other side consists of Azaleas, which are well set with buds, another of Heliotropes, a third of Phlox and Antirrhinum, and a circular bed, which was formerly full of Rhododendrons, is now planted with Begonia, Hibiscus, Acers, and the double Peach, edged with Azaleas. Bedding, however, is not a strong point with us, though we have recently added to the number of borders and beds by encroaching on the park."

"How are these beds made up?"

"There is one consisting of Rhododendrons, Acers, and Hydrangeas, the fronts being filled in summer with the usual annuals; another of these beds is made up of Wallflowers (Vulcan) and Tulips. We have other beds of Wallflowers, Cloth of Gold, and Blood-red; also one or two beds of the doubles."

The Cultivation of Solanums.

"Have you anything special in the handsome conservatory?"

"On the roof there is a fine specimen of Cobæa scandens, which, although planted less than two years ago, extends right across. We find Eupatoriums very useful for conservatory work, and grow two or three dozen in 8-in. pots. Another very useful plant for conservatory work is Solanum capsicastrum."

"How many Solanums do you grow?"

"Between five and six dozen. They require a good deal of care. We plant them out in the spring and lift them in the autumn, keeping them in a close frame for a week or two. We have had berries, as you see them now, ever since November."

"You seem to have had a fine batch of Begonias Gloire de Lorraine."

"We grow about a hundred and fifty, in pots of varying sizes, and also in baskets. At the present time we are also using in the conservatory, Cypripediums, Eucalyptus, Cinerarias, Marguerites, and Coleus thyrsoides.

"Outside," continued Mr. Honess, "We have a bed of royal blue Myosotis, double Arabis, Tulips, with Roses and Silver Hollies in the background. We are using the royal blue Myosotis very largely for bedding, and believe it will do remarkably well—the colour is so exceedingly good."

"Do you treat the variety in the usual way?"

"Entirely. In the border along the main carriage-drive it is used with Pinks (Mrs. Sinkins), and Heuchera sanguineum."

Lettuces in Frames.

Here we crossed the road, in order to inspect the kitchen garden and the range of glass, staying for a few minutes at the frames, in which are grown a number of Violets.

"Do you grow many varieties?" I inquired.

"Only La France; it does better with us than Princess of Wales. This year we are trying Lettuces in frames. The variety is Petite Noire, and these plants have been in the frame since October without any air or sun. I think that they are coming on well. The great point is to keep the air out."

"Do you force many vegetables?"

"Yes, a large number, including a batch of Peas (Harbinger), which we expect to gather about the 18th of May. Carrots (early French Horn) and Turnips (Sutton's Early Snowball) are also forced."

"How about Seakale?"

"We force it all on the beds," replied Mr. Honess, as we proceeded into the orchard, "growing a large quantity. Of Artichokes, the Globe is grown in quantity. We plant a certain number every year, between March and May, for the purpose of getting late Artichokes, and the arrangement answers occasionally. Asparagus, Spinach, and Onions—in fact, the usual winter crop of vegetables, is grown here. Last season we had a nice quantity in this orchard of Helleborus, of which we have still a few left. We grow about a dozen roots."

"Is there any point in the cultivation of the Christmas Rose which is worth emphasising?"

"Yes, it is extremely important that the plant should not be shifted too frequently. The Helleborus will also stand a good deal of feeding. The plants flower about the middle of December. In this part of the orchard I have just grubbed up an old hedge, and am going to plant the ground with Loganberry and similar fruits, in order to make this end of the garden attractive."

Apples and Pears.

"Most of your Apples are, I notice, grown on standards. What are the principal varieties?"

"Blenheim Orange, Ribston, Hoary Morning, King of Pippins, Cox's Orange Pippin, Allington Pippin, Lane's Prince Albert, King of Tompkins' County, and Keswick's Codling. These, of course, are both dessert and cooking kinds. Cordon Plums are rather a feature with us, and extend right along the garden, the three principal varieties being Jefferson, Victoria, and Kirke's."

"What about Pears?"

"On standards we grow Williams's Bon Chrétien, and on pyramids Doyenné du Comice and Marie Louise. Pitmaston Duchess and Durondeau are grown on the walls; and on espaliers we have Le Lectier, Easter Beurré, General Todtleben, Charles Ernest, Winter Nelis, and Fondante de Automne; of bush fruit, Black and Red Currants are largely grown."

"And I observe that you have a cage for the Raspberry canes. Perhaps you would explain the system."

"The wire netting is at the top, on posts seven feet high. In the summer, ordinary garden netting is run round the sides, and completely protects the canes, which, during the winter, are exposed. With the wide border between the canes, the fruit is convenient to pick. The variety is chiefly Superlative, and we get very fine crops."

"What do you grow on the piece of ground outside the walls of the kitchen garden?"

"Celery, winter greens, and Asparagus, while on the walls are Plums, Pears, and Apricots, the latter doing fairly well. Here, too, is a range of heated frames used for various purposes, including the forcing of Potatoes. The earliest variety is Sharpe's Victor, and we follow on with the Sirdar."

A Notable Centre Walk.

"How large is the walled-in kitchen garden proper?"

"About an acre and a half. The centre walk is planted on each side with dwarf Roses (Hybrids and Hybrid Teas), with borders of little white Pinks."

"That is to say, you have Roses and Pinks all along?"

"Yes. I know it is quite an unusual arrangement, but it makes a very nice break."

"Do you go in for many Sweet Peas?"

"Only a few—Lady Nina Balfour, Miss Willmott, and Gracie Greenwood. They were sown the first week in November. With regard to fruit, we go in largely for Strawberries—Trafalgar, Viscountess, Latest of All, and Royal Sovereign. Gooseberries are grown under a cage, with dessert Cherries on the wall, and Raspberries intermixed. The varieties of Cherries are Bigarreau Napoleon, Black Tartarian, Governor Wood, and May Duke; and of Gooseberries we grow Leviathan, Masterpiece, Dan's Mistake, Leveller, Telegraph, Yellow Champagne, and May Duke, a new variety."

The Cloches System.

"Is there anything special to notice about the vegetables grown here?"

"A quantity of Cauliflowers are wintered

The Gardener's House at Cobham Park.

under handlights. We sow them about the end of August, and we shall be cutting in May. Close to the range of glasshouses we grow Sutton's Early Pea and Little Marvel, other varieties being Sutton's Seedling and Early Giant."

"Why do you use so many traps?"

"Because of the mice; they are a great nuisance. I may call your attention to more Lettuces, planted in the ordinary soil of the border, or planted under glass bells. We get them, by this means, earlier and better."

"You have more Strawberries in your early Peach house," I said, as we entered the range.

"We have a nice lot of Royal Sovereign. Altogether we force about six hundred plants. The Peaches grown here are Hale's Early, Dymond and Princess of Wales. Below, in the border, Tomatoes are grown horizontally, Lister Prolific and Shardlow."

"Is this a regular practice?"

"Yes, we always do it, and we get an enormous crop of fruit off the Tomatoes every year. The second Peach house, in which the trees are nicely set with buds, is not heated, and, in addition to the varieties already named, there are Violette Hative and Sea Eagle Peaches, and Lord Napier and Pineapple Nectarines."

Lilacs in the Vineries.

"What varieties of Grapes do you grow in your early Vinery?"

"Black Hamburghs, Buckland's Sweetwater, and Foster's Seedling. The Geraniums are grown on the wall of this Vinery, and we use the flowers for decorating the church. The variety is, chiefly, Raspail. In the large Vinery, Black Hamburghs are principally grown. On the wall is a very fine Cactus, which flowers in the spring, and here are batches of Salvia splendens, and the new red Salvia, also of Freesias. Planted on the walls of this Vinery are Roses, Lapageria alba, Heliotropes, and Bignonias. In pots, below, Cytisus is nicely coming into flower. Lilacs have just been lifted from outside; they are taken out directly the flower is over, cut back hard, and planted out in a sheltered place."

"How many Vineries have you altogether?"

"Five. In the Muscat house I had the ventilators up all through the winter, and the rods exposed, in order to ripen the wood. On one of the shelves in the Vinery is a batch of Lilium Harrisii; on another, some old plants of Malmaison Carnations, and some plants of Smilax. In the late Vinery, where we grow Lady Downe, Alicante, and Appley Towers, are Broad Beans, planted in boxes. These are being hardened off, and we plant out in March, when weather permits. In the late Peach house, Cherries are grown on the back wall."

Iresines in the Fig House.

"You also have a Fig house?"

"We grow Figs both outside and under glass. The variety here is Brown Turkey, which we started towards the end of November. On the back wall are Nectarines (Victoria) and Peaches (Early Alexandria)."

"What about your Iresines in this house?"

"We lift them in good time in the autumn, and give them a nice warm temperature all through the winter. They make useful dot plants in the beds. In this house we have also an early batch of Fuchsias, the varieties being Masterpiece, Miss Lye, Madame Carnot, Walter Long, and Sylvia."

"Have you anything particular in the stove?"

"There are some nice specimens of Crotons, and one of the Temple plants of Ceylon. The cutting of the latter was brought from Ceylon, and the flower is white, with a yellow centre. In another house we have a quantity of Anthuriums, Dracænas, Aspidistras, and a good batch of Orchids (Cœlogyne cristata), with a number of Lilium longiflorum, on the shelf."

"When did you begin to cut Daffodils in the flowering house?"

"Ten days before Christmas. The variety is Trumpet Major. We had a few Tulips before then. On the shelf we have a nice lot of Browallia, and a batch of small Chironia, which flowers in the late summer and autumn, and is very useful for table work. Other plants grown are Cyclamen and Primulas, and perhaps I might mention, in conclusion, that we grow a considerable number of Melons, the principal being a seedling, Scarlet Flesh. Also French Beans, Williams's Early, Syon House, and Fulmer's Forcing, are forced."

"How long have you been at Cobham Park, Mr. Honess?"

"Five years. I succeeded my father, who had been head gardener here thirteen years. Formerly, I was at Welbeck Abbey gardens for ten years, my earlier gardening experiences being gained at Hatfield Hall, and Keele Hall, Staffordshire. If you asked me to sum up the features here, I should say that fruit and vegetables, particularly Peas and Lettuce, receive special attention, and that plants for decorating the conservatory are carefully cultivated."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 191.—AMARYLLIDS.

Dear Kate,—How many Amaryllids do you grow? I don't mean Daffodils, which, of course, belong to the same order, but Lilies of this description, of various kinds, such as Hippeastrums, Crinums, Imantophyllums, Pancratiums, etc., all of which are too often conspicuous by their absence from our greenhouses. Just now, the glory of the conservatory is the splendid flower of Amaryllis (Hippeastrum) Ant. Roozen, which is one of the very finest of the new hybrids introduced, and, really, one seldom sees a more glorious blossom.

Imagine a stout stem, two and a half feet high, crowned with Lilies of enormous size in creamy-white, striped and reticulated with the most perfect shade of carmine-scarlet, each

Amaryllis Hippeastrum—"Ant. Roozen."

petal (more than three inches across) bearing a silvery ray from the centre of the flower to the end of the petal, so as to form a distinct silver star. From the centre a tassel of stamens, etc., hangs, and the foliage, strong and handsome, sets off the whole flower to perfection from below it.

These plants are not at all difficult to grow; in fact, I have seen a Hippeastrum in bloom in a cottage window. They are so nearly hardy that they will survive in a frame well covered with mats in winter, or in a room without much warmth—in fact, in any dry place free from frost.

It is not easy to account for their general neglect; the bulbs are expensive, when speaking of the named varieties, but unnamed seedlings (many of which are almost as fine as the best) are cheap enough, and, with a good collection, they provide a magnificent show of colour all the spring, and often in the autumn, too; I have even had one in bloom at Christmas.

Amaryllid Culture.

Their cultivation is very simple; none of the Amaryllids like manure mixed with their soil, but should have rich loam, with a little sand and soot, and excellent drainage. They all have a mass of thick, fleshy roots, which must never be allowed to become dust-dry, and yet should be very seldom watered when the plant is at rest, *i.e.*, usually in winter.

The bulbs, which are large, should only be half-covered with soil, and in potting the roots it is necessary to shake the compost thoroughly between them, so that there is no vacuum left (something in the way that sugar can be shaken down in a jar), after which the surface should be made firm, taking care to leave plenty of room for water above it. For, although dryness is needed in autumn and early winter by these plants, when they start into life they must have plenty of tepid water, as they make rapid growth at that time, and like a warm place in the early spring, although they will remain dormant for months if kept cool, and start at any time from January to May, according to the warmth they obtain, so that by starting them at intervals, it is easy to obtain a succession of blooms, whilst some of them will probably blossom again towards the autumn.

Repotting.

When you repot them (which is best done directly they show signs of fresh growth), you should take off the young bulbs, which are sufficiently separate from the parent bulb to come off without injury, and pot them up, each separately. In about two years' time they will be large enough to flower, and make good plants, if you grow them on carefully.

After blossoming, the flower stem should be cut off, but the foliage must be carefully kept alive until it has had time to ripen away gradually, for, at that time, the embryo flowers for next year are formed in the bulb, and any check from over-dryness will be fatal to these, although the plant will not require nearly so much moisture as in the growing stage. When the last leaf has turned yellow and disappeared, the plants should be kept almost dry, and they should then be in a cool place, although they need the full sunshine at all other times. Ernest Kelway, Carmen Sylva, and Lord Rosebery are the names of three other fine varieties.

Clivia Miniata.

Another beautiful Amaryllid which flowers at this time of year is Clivia miniata, or Imantophyllum, which is, I believe, the more correct name now. The blossoms are produced in round bunches, and are in beautiful shades of

HOMER Mary Ann of The Manse High-street Old Hill **Staffordshire** spinster died 17 July 1937 at The Guest Hospital Dudley Worcestershire Administration **Birmingham** 5 October to Thomas Frederick Homer bank manager.
Effects £2331 13s. 3d.

HOMER Phoebe of 5 Bridle-road Wollaston Stourbridge **Worcestershire** spinster died 11 January 1937 Probate **Birmingham** 8 February to Nellie Hinds (wife of James Oswald Hinds).
Effects £185 8s. 7d.

HOMER Thomas of 39 West-street Walthamstow **Essex** died 2 May 1937 at Whipps Cross Hospital Leytonstone Essex Administration **London** 7 June to Amelia Ann Homer widow.
Effects £101 18s. 10d.

HOMER Thomas of 26 Portarlington-road **Bournemouth** died 26 March 1937 Probate **London** 13 August to Midland Bank Executor and Trustee Company Limited and Edwin Homer commercial traveller. Effects £102313 10s. 5d.

HOMER William Edmund of 19 Yew Tree-lane Coseley **Staffordshire** died 21 February 1937 Administration **Winchester** 26 October to Ernest Edward Hartland Homer drug store dealer.
Effects £146 4s. 10d.

HOMER William Frederick Hale otherwise William Frederick of Riverside House Northgate Beccles **Suffolk** died 5 January 1937 at the War Memorial Hospital Beccles Probate **London** 10 February to Selina Agnes Homer widow.
Effects £11700 16s. 8d.

HOMERE Ianthe of 35 Argyle-road Kensington **London** spinster died 6 August 1937 Probate **London** 28 September to Alexandra Homere spinster and Charles Edward Sprott company director.
Effects £21021 9s. 9d.

HOMERSHAM Elizabeth of 57 Ravenshaw-street Mill-lane West Hampstead **London** spinster died 11 January 1937 Administration **London** 24 February to William Shiers sub-postmaster and Frances Sarah Hillier spinster. Effects £73 1s. 7d.

HOMERSHAM Miriam Margery of 27 Boundary-road Marylebone **London** spinster died 27 July 1936 at 12 Exmoor-street Kensington London Probate **London** 4 January to Katherine Laura Homersham spinster. Effects £782 7s. 1d.

HOMERSHAM Sophia Eleanor of Lampeter Mount Hermon Woking **Surrey** widow died 19 January 1937 Probate **London** 11 May to Harry Burt Piper solicitor and Arthur John Homersham shipping manager. Effects £35873 6s. 5d.

HOMEWOOD Amy Gertrude of 35 Bourne-street **Eastbourne** spinster died 31 January 1937 Probate **London** 8 March to William James Homewood railway signalman. Effects £946 16s. 11d.

HOMEWOOD Edith Jane of 70 Lowden-road Edmonton **Middlesex** widow died 7 December 1936 at North Middlesex County Hospital Edmonton Probate **London** 6 February to Edith Emily Homewood spinster. Effects £371 12s. 7d.

HOMEWOOD Esther Maria of Schoolhouse Cottage Sutton Valence **Kent** (wife of Richard Homewood) died 10 April 1937 Administration **London** 15 May to the said Richard Homewood smallholder. Effects £133 19s. 10d.

HOMEWOOD George of Castweazel Farm Biddenden **Kent** died 10 October 1937 Administration **London** 7 December to Celia Offen Homewood widow. Effects £986 8s. 7d.

HOMEWOOD Mary Jane of Woodbrook Farm South Common Chailey **Sussex** widow died 24 January 1937 Probate **Lewes** 17 March to Richard John Homewood farmer and William George Norwood gardener chauffeur. Effects £982 14s. 1d.

MINOCHER
HOMJI Bomanshaw Hormasji of 11 Bonus-road Karachi **India** died 9 October 1935 at sea Administration (limited) **London** 12 April to Nader Hormasji Vajifdar accountant attorney of Cooverbai Bomanshaw Minocher Homji widow.
Effects £74 13s. 6d. in England.

HONE George Thomas of 24 Melville-road Stonebridge Willesden **Middlesex** died 9 December 1936 Probate **London** 19 January to Mary Ellen Hone spinster. Effects £576 0s. 6d.

HONE John of 8 Manor Cottages Walton-on-Thames **Surrey** died 6 August 1937 at 60 St. James-road Surbiton Surrey Administration **London** 28 October to John Reginald Hone boatman.
Effects £292 5s.

HONE Margaret of 2 Pittville Villas **Cheltenham** spinster died 8 March 1936 Probate **Gloucester** 12 January to George Hone farmer and George Leonard Hone auctioneer.
Effects £5926 13s. 11d.

HONE Nina Mary of 15 Clevedon-road Highams Park **Essex** (wife of Frederick Henry Hone) died 8 January 1937 at 91 Falmouth-avenue Highams Park Probate **London** 27 February to John Joslin Parker mill manager and Eva Annie Millgate (wife of Harold Millgate). Effects £1102 6s.

HONE Sarah Gertrude Mary of 62 Church-street Tewkesbury **Gloucestershire** widow died 6 September 1937 Probate **Gloucester** 2 November to George Leonard Hone auctioneer and estate agent and John Alfred Hone a member of the London stock exchange. Effects £2128 4s. 5d.

HONESS Charlotte of Dunder Park-avenue **Worthing** spinster died 20 January 1937 at The Myrtles Nursing Home Farncombe-road Worthing Probate **London** 16 April to Alice Fairchild widow.
Effects £79 4s.

HONESS Grace Hannah of Belle Vue Milton-road Milton **Portsmouth** widow died 21 November 1936 at 293 Milton-road Probate **Winchester** 20 April to Edward John Honess and Harold Thomas Honess dyers and cleaners and Leonard Rodolph Maidment solicitor. Effects £7652 19s. 2d.

HONESS Walter of 19 Shaftesbury-road **Bournemouth** died 14 April 1937 Administration **London** 7 June to Lucy Gertrude Honess widow. Effects £567 13s. 8d.

HONESS William Henry of Walhampton-gardens Lymington **Hampshire** died 17 March 1937 Probate **London** 7 May to Annie Kate Honess widow and Douglas Harry Bernard Harfield solicitor. Effects £3313 15s. 9d.

HONEY Amelia Beatrice of Portland House Marina-crescent Herne Bay **Kent** (wife of Alfred Theodore Honey) died 1 November 1934 Administration (with Will) **Lewes** 25 March to The Public Trustee. Effects £360.

HONEY Frank of Tor View St. Cleer **Cornwall** died 1 December 1936 Probate **Bodmin** 23 April to Cyril Honey farmer and Agnes Hoskin (wife of William John Hoskin). Effects £1345 2s.

HONEY Frederick of Primrose Corner Bredgar **Kent** died 4 September 1936 Probate **London** 19 February to Hamilton Pepper stockman. Effects £558 17s. 2d.

HONEY Frederick William of Greystone Knole Park Almondsbury **Gloucestershire** died 20 October 1937 at 75 Redcliff-street Bristol Administration (with Will) **Bristol** 30 December to Laura Emma Honey widow. Effects £3586 18s. 3d.

HONEY George Henry of 102 Wern-road Ystalyfera **Glamorganshire** died 23 February 1936 Administration (with Will) **Oxford** 3 July to Sarah Honey widow. Effects £759 9s. 7d.

HONEY Henry Joseph of 56 Maswell Park-road Hounslow **Middlesex** died 9 July 1929 Administration **London** 22 March to Gladys Matilda Honeysett (wife of John Honeysett).
Effects £571.

HONEY John of Southcott Farm Parkham Ash Parkham **Devonshire** died 30 November 1936 Probate **Exeter** 2 January to Freda Mary Dack (wife of Percy John Dack) and the said Percy John Dack farmer. Effects £1517.

HONEY John of 27 Berkeley Vale Falmouth **Cornwall** died 5 March 1937 Probate **Bodmin** 11 May to Caroline Honey widow.
Effects £200.

These elements and compounds found in a plant must have been supplied to it in its food, and this food is chiefly obtained from the soil in which the plant has grown. A soil may, however, contain large supplies of every substance which a plant requires, and may still be unable to yield them, because it is not in a condition available as food. Nothing is of any service as plant food unless it will dissolve in rain water, as a plant cannot take up anything in a solid state—it must be in a state of solution. Those portions of the soil, therefore, which can be dissolved in rain water are known as active, whilst those which will not dissolve in rain water are termed inactive. It is the active portion which is of immediate use to us as plant food, as it is in a state of solution, and is readily taken up by plants to nourish and support them.

The inactive portion, however, is not valueless in our soils, as it is quite possible to make it take an active form. It can be done by thorough cultivation of the land, for, as we all know, by exposing soil to the action of air and frost it is broken into a fine condition, which increases the amount of surface. Rain water can then pass through and into the soil, which, with its oxygen and carbonic acid together with the atmospheric agencies, will perseveringly bring that matter into solution, when it can be used as plant food; so that the inactive matter really preserves plant food, which can be called upon by the use of atmospheric agencies, and be equivalent to the addition of so much manure. This solution is then taken into the circulation of the plant through the small rootlets, which are constantly in search of food. A small portion of the organic matter is, however, taken in from the atmosphere, but as so much is absorbed from the soil we see the importance of adding to our soils plant food, which we do in the form of manure, upon which I purpose to speak at a future time.—UNDER GARDENER.

MR. ALEXANDER HONEYMAN.

IN accordance with our intimation of last week we publish a portrait of this accomplished gardener and striking and instructive writer, with an outline of his life. This we are able to do in the form of an autobiography, and under rather singular circumstances. About four years ago, and after having recognised his ability as an occasional contributor to our columns, Mr. Honeyman was invited to fill a vacancy on the staff of this Journal. Desirous that we should know something of his character and antecedents he sent the communication which we now publish. Under ordinary circumstances the letters of correspondents are not for obvious reasons preserved, but this one escaped destruction. At the time it was written our correspondent was strong and well with a promising future before him, and there was then no thought that his career would terminate so soon. The letter will not be the less interesting, inasmuch as its publication was not contemplated; it was simply a private letter, spontaneously penned, and, like other long private letters, would only be glanced at at the time of its arrival, hence was put aside for after perusal. Concisely is the sketch of our friend's life given. Vividly is his character pourtrayed. His life of labour, his thirsting for knowledge, his striving efforts at self-improvement, his untiring searching for truth, his perseverance, his determination to excel, all are visible. And what a lesson such a life is to young men. We know many of these are worthily striving, and glad shall we be if one can be found able to take up his "begun work," and continue it as he, had he been spared, would have continued it himself. In the letter which we now insert will be found the secret of his competency—constantly and unremittingly acquiring and storing knowledge; in it will also be found the origin of his once familiar and not soon-to-be-forgotten pseudonym "SINGLE-HANDED."

31st October, 1881.

SIR,—I promised in my last to acquaint you with some of the main points in my history, and I now take the opportunity of putting the same on paper. I was born at Ballo-Mill, Ladybank, Fifeshire, in April, 1851. My forefathers had been settled there for a century or two. I am, through my mother, descended from Andrew Melville, who gave Scotland Presbyterianism—the same man who, in a passion, informed James VI. that he "was God's ain silly vassal." In my youth—I left school at twelve—I spent two years with my uncle at railway-making, and learned some useful lessons, which have been of great benefit to me on more than one occasion. It was at this time that I acquired a taste for reading, and used to save my pence to buy papers.

At seventeen I went to Ramornie Gardens, the seat of F. L. Maitland-Heriot, Esq., lately deceased, to learn to be a gardener. The "youngest" and at once the oldest 'prentice I was frightened at being so long in going to the "profession," and did myself some physical injury in my eagerness to make up for lost time. All the gardening books I could get—such as "Mackintosh's Book of the Garden," Loudon's "Encyclopædia," Nicol's works, and half a dozen volumes of the "Scottish Gardener," were intensely studied. I became impressed with the idea that no one could be an accomplished gardener who was not well up in botany, geology, and chemistry. The cheapest way of securing works on these subjects was by buying "Cassell's Popular Educator." This I studied so intently that the doctor had to be sent for. Mr. Heriot lent me Balfour's "Elements" and "Class Books of Botany," Macgillivray's "Manual of Geology," Hugh Miller's works, Bence Jones and Miller's "Chemistry," and Liebig's "Agricultural Chemistry," with many others were also read attentively and studied closely while an apprentice. Ramornie was then a good old country garden. The collection of hardy fruit trees was as complete as nearly could be, and the gardener was one of the olden times, who went in for perfection in training, while all other branches of gardening were well conducted. The notes I took then I found of much value afterwards. When I left, which I did at the end of three years, I carried with me very flattering testimonials.

I then went to Delvine Castle, Dunkeld, the seat of Sir Alexander Muir-Mackenzie, Bart., at the Martinmas term, and was soon promoted to be inside foreman. From thence I went to Kerse House, Falkirk, one of the seats of the Earl of Zetland, and served under a first-rate gardener; but after a year was tempted to leave to lay out a new garden on a somewhat extensive scale. Only a little was done, however; in fact, I was "sold." Another gentleman then advertising for a gardener "accustomed to glass," I applied, was shown plans for a good range of plant and some fruit houses, and engaged. The work commenced and good progress made in two years, also in taking in ground and planting. "Calculating" chances—and they looked good—I married; but just as we were preparing to finish the ranges of glass comes the City of Glasgow Bank smash, and everything was stopped. My employer always met his calls, but the calamity spoiled the garden. For my own credit I worked often much too hard, sometimes nearly breaking down, as I was left practically "Single-handed." Only by very hard labour could the place be kept well, and anything short of "well" is a misery to me. We have a small collection of Orchids, which I would be proud to place alongside of any other their own age in the country; also a useful collection of Ferns and stove and greenhouse plants. I have raised several hybrid Cypripediums and Dracænas, and other plants. Potatoes I have raised in hundreds, and have some good seedlings, also superior strains of different vegetables. Hardy Primulas and Auriculas I have sought to improve, and for everyday wear and tear commend me to good strains even of florists' flowers from seed instead of from cuttings. Only the hardier fruits thrive here, we are so exposed; but I would like to match the Grapes I grow for quantity and quality against the best and the heaviest crop ever seen.

During all the years I have unwaveringly sought to acquire knowledge, and have studied all sorts of books. I have a passion for the study of animal and vegetable physiology and organic chemistry, and with poetry I am entranced and general literature. In six years I have bought fully £45 worth of books, mostly gardening, but science generally as well. I possess or have read most of Darwin's works, Burbidge's, Johnston's, Church's, and others too numerous to mention. This off 27*s.* a week; but I have gained some prize money at shows, and Mr. Thomson's and your own kindness in placing me on your staffs has helped much. A little money gained thus is of much assistance to one who is endeavouring hard—

> "To grasp the skirts of happy chance,
> And battle with his evil star."

I have sometimes, when fate has seemed against me, felt cast down, but have never once "abated one jot of heart or hope;" but when failing to gain "reinforcement from hope" have taken "resolution from despair."

Till lately I have not endeavoured to gain another situation, hoping that things here would improve. My master is very kind, and we are on the best of terms; but under the present circumstances I think I should not slave hopelessly on, and, though it will be a trial to leave my work behind to begin afresh, I have made up my mind to do so. I should very much like to try my fortune further south in a better climate. To my calling I am devoted, and I ought to be well qualified to fill most situations. In fact, though that is "blowing my horn," the birthright of "every Scotchman born," I think not many have given greater amount of study to their profession.

I do not know whether it will count for much in England, but I am a ten-year-old total abstainer, and a life anti-tobacconist. My connection with teetotal societies has been of benefit, besides that derived from temperance, for I have been trotted out as essayist and lecturer at all sorts of times and occasions. In this I hope I have done good, though it does not bear on gardening.

Such are the outlines of my career hitherto—a career only fairly begun I hope, as I am but thirty. They are the merest outlines, but more is scarcely necessary, as you have some chance of judging details from what I write otherwise. Before closing I ought to thank you for the interest you have shown in me, and to assure you that while life lasts I shall never fail to feel grateful for your kindness; and should you ever favour me with a visit I shall reckon it a great honour.—ALEXANDER HONEYMAN.

Shortly after receiving that letter we had the opportunity of visiting Mr. Honeyman and inspecting the garden in his charge. The wonderful crop of fine Grapes, vigorously grown Orchids, and other plants under glass, with the superior condition of the outdoor crops, afforded ample evidence of masterly care, and of hard labour also on the part of the cultivator. It was this too-hard work that it is to be feared led to the illness that followed, and which was expected to terminate fatally at the time. The best treatment in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, however, led to steady improvement, which it was thought and hoped would end in complete recovery. As Mr. Honeyman had decided to relinquish his charge, he resigned his situation during the early period of his illness, not deeming it right under the circumstances to receive wages when ill from a kind employer whom he intended leaving when well. He was not friendless during the long period of his convalescence, nor was he indulgent then. So much in earnest, and with a burning desire to impart and acquire knowledge, he could scarcely take the needed rest. When he could not lift the spade he could wield the pen, and we should not be surprised to learn that many of his best articles were written on a bed of sickness.

In October last, having regained much of his lost strength, he had a choice of situations, and decided to undertake a charge at Brighton, where, without having to engage in hard manual labour, scope for the exercise of his abilities would have been afforded him both in Grape-growing and ornamental gardening, while the recognised salubrity of the climate was not overlooked. As has been previously stated, after inspecting the estate that was placed in his keeping and estimating its resources he requested to be suspended for a short time, long and exhausting journeys having rendered, as he felt, a little rest needful. The sad result we know. After many weeks of suffering he died. He had looked forward confidently to success in his charge, and could see a wide field of usefulness before him, but eventually, and for some weeks prior to the end, resigned himself composedly and even cheerfully to the last sum-

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mons, his one regret being, as he has stated, the helpless condition of his family. Though in a strange place it is gratifying to know that kind friends ministered to his wants, Mr. Coxed the Secretary of the estate, with his wife, and Mr. Amory the Clerk of the Works, having been untiring in their attentions by day and night, and their names are recorded here in appreciation of their valued services; his employers, too, we are glad to be able to state, kindly and considerately defrayed the expenses of the funeral. The remains of Mr. Honeyman were interred on Thursday last in a befitting manner, the coffin being covered with flowers—beautiful wreaths, crosses, baskets, and bouquets, the offerings of friends from far and near, and was lowered into the grave, in accordance with tender Scottish sentiment, by friendly, not hired hands.

Testimony of the appreciation in which our coadjutor was held is so voluminous that we cannot even cite in the briefest manner from the letters, all of which will be sent to Mrs. Honeyman. One, as typical of the whole, we insert, selecting it because the writer of it has the honour of first introducing Mr. Honeyman to the public as a teacher in scientific and practical horticulture.

"I am sure," writes Mr. D. Thomson, "your readers and all who knew Mr. Honeyman will much regret his loss and sympathise with his widow and children. It has been my happiness to be connected with him as a horticultural writer for 'The Gardener' for many years, and I always considered him the most advanced student in chemistry as applied to horticulture of any practical gardener of the present time, and it is to be regretted that he has been called hence at a time when greater opportunities of practice seemed within his reach."

Unreservedly do we concur in the above estimate. Not a few gardeners have considerable scientific attainments, but not one that we are aware of is so advanced and so sound as was the subject of this notice. His writings have been closely examined by the highest authorities, and the author of them won the respect of the most learned, while he enjoyed to a remarkable extent the confidence of all students of garden literature. He was a writer in "Chambers' Journal," which is sufficient evidence of his literary ability; and just before his death he received an award of £3 3*s.* for the second-prize essay on "The Value of Rye Grass as a Herbage and Forage Plant, and its Suitability or otherwise for Sowing by itself or along with other Grasses and Clovers for Cutting and Grazing Purposes," offered by the Scottish Seed and Nursery Trade Association.

The measure of Mr. Honeyman's ability as a writer cannot, however, be adequately determined by what has been published The MSS he has left behind show the remarkable character of the man. Essays on almost every conceivable social and educational subject of current interest we have the mournful pleasure of inspecting; and he also found pleasure, as a relief from heavier subjects, in the composition of poetry. These manuscripts reflect alike the cultured mind and the extraordinary industry of one whom, as a gardener, one of the best of gardeners has remarked of him, "we shall not soon look upon his like again."

Fig. 29.—MR. ALEXANDER HONEYMAN.

SHOW AND FANCY PELARGONIUMS.

It is a matter of opinion whether spring-struck one-year-old plants or old cut-back specimens of the Pelargonium are preferable. Young plants have many points in their favour, as they strike early and late; and by regulating their pinching and potting can be had in bloom from early spring until autumn. This can be also done with old cut-back plants

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Birds have been exceedingly troublesome, the blackbirds eating the fruit when quite hard and green, and the smaller birds being also greater depredators than usual. I hear that many blackbirds have been found in the woods round about dead for want of food. The drought has deprived them of slugs and worms, and this has caused them to attack the Strawberries and Cherries with quite unaccustomed boldness. After protecting a bed with netting I was surprised to find my fruit eaten. I also covered a few plants with a frame, and shut it up. Then also I found the fruit eaten, and marks of a mole. I never heard of a mole eating Strawberries before, so hardly knew whether to impute the robbery to our underground friend or not, but on calling on my neighbour, the gardener who was removing the netting from his Strawberry bed remarked that he could not keep the rats from his Strawberries. I asked him if he had any moles about, when on removing some of the litter he found the hole of a mole. This was conclusive evidence against Mr. Mole, so for the future Strawberry growers must protect their fruit from enemies above ground and below.—H. S. Easty.

THE LATE MR. ALEXANDER HONEYMAN.

It will be remembered that the circumstances connected with the death of this estimable man were so distressing that they had only to be mentioned to evoke sympathetic aid. Mrs. Honeyman, acting on the advice of friends, having recently become settled, and with a fair prospect of procuring a comfortable livelihood, the time has arrived for me to return my earnest thanks to all who so generously assisted in this case. As in the great majority of letters a wish was expressed that no publicity should be given to the donors' names, I can only say that I have had the great pleasure of receiving for Mrs. Honeyman the sum of £144 5*s.* 4*d*, which amount is also recorded in the preface to the volume through which it was obtained. That what has been done was needed and is gratefully appreciated is sufficiently evident from the following letter from Mrs. Honeyman :—

"What can I say for all that has been done for me in this bitter trial? Words quite fail me to convey the gratitude I feel for the generous kindness of which I am the recipient. Helpless, almost pennyless, far from home and friends, friends have been raised up for me everywhere, and help, such as I never dared to hope for, has been given bountifully. I can only try to merit what I have received by striving assiduously to bring up my children in a manner worthy of such a father as they have lost, and who called forth in such a remarkable manner the respect and aid of so many noble-minded and Christian-hearted people through the Journal which he loved, and to which and its Editors I shall ever feel profoundly indebted. The strongest words I can utter are feeble thanks, and only He who knows the secrets of all hearts can know the measure of my gratitude. The beautiful letters that have been sent will cheer me on, and will be treasured as the most prized of my possessions as long as I live. A widow's deepest thanks to all.—Janet Honeyman."

Mrs. Honeyman, it may be said, is now residing in Grangemouth, where she has good friends and advisers, and her frugality, prudence, and industry will, if she is vouchsafed the blessing of health, enable her with the start that has been given to carry out her cherished wish of supporting and educating her family, so that they may become industrious members of society. That was their father's wish. His books he divided amongst them, a certain number being reserved as a small library accessible to them all during their youth. The residue, placed at my disposal, have been sold, and the small proceeds added to the sum above mentioned. Helpers in this case have been very numerous, assistance having been sent from every county in England, from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Wight, the Isle of Man, France, Belgium, America, and Australia. To the toilers who have sent their shillings and the affluent who have sent their pounds my thanks are equally due, and are hereby gratefully recorded.—J. Wright.

NICOTIANA AFFINIS.

It may not be generally known how easily this plant may be grown, and how fine it is for conservatory or greenhouse decoration in the summer and autumn months. It is also well adapted for culture in the open air during the same seasons, but the plants when exposed to the weather rarely produce such good results as when cultivated under glass. A rather serious drawback to the use of Nicotiana affinis for house decoration is that the flowers close for about eight hours in the daytime, usually opening again about 5 P.M. They are white, and when closed practically scentless; but as they open in the evening their agreeable perfume may be easily detected on entering the house. The plants grow from 2 to 3 feet high, and have a much finer appearance when arranged in small groups than when dotted about singly. If well grown a panicle with four or five branches will be produced on each plant, containing a dozen or more flowers in each, and if the plants are not tied beyond the point where the panicle branches the latter will depend gracefully with the weight of the flowers.

To obtain the best results the plants must be well treated in the early stages of growth, and not allowed to become starved. Those in flower with us for the past month or more, and are likely to remain attractive for a lengthened period, were sown in March. The seedlings of all the Tobaccos are very liable to damp off in the seed pans, consequently they should be carefully watched and pricked off as soon as large enough to handle. Grow them in heat and pot into 60's, transferring the plants again in due course into 32-sized pots, which are sufficiently large for any purpose. The soil should be rich and used broken up without sifting, as the stronger the plants become before showing the flower spikes the better. A situation in a house devoted to Fuchsias and similar plants will suit Nicotianas during the growing period, and they may be brought on a few at a time or retarded as may be required. Few plants in flower withstand the heat of midsummer for so long a time as the one under notice. The only requirements when flowering are plenty of air and water and a light shading from bright sunshine. A small quantity of seed may be sown occasionally for a succession, but as the plants remain in flower so long it is not necessary to sow often.—J. G.

FOSTER'S PATENT ROSE-HOLDER.

In the report of the Canterbury Rose Show in our issue of the 3rd inst. reference was made to the Rose-supports of Mr. C. Foster, instead of to Mr. R. Foster of Ashford, Kent. This extremely simple yet very efficient method of fixing Roses in tubes is shown in the engraving. The main wire, about the thickness of a knitting needle, is made to form three loops and a spring, the two former for supporting the

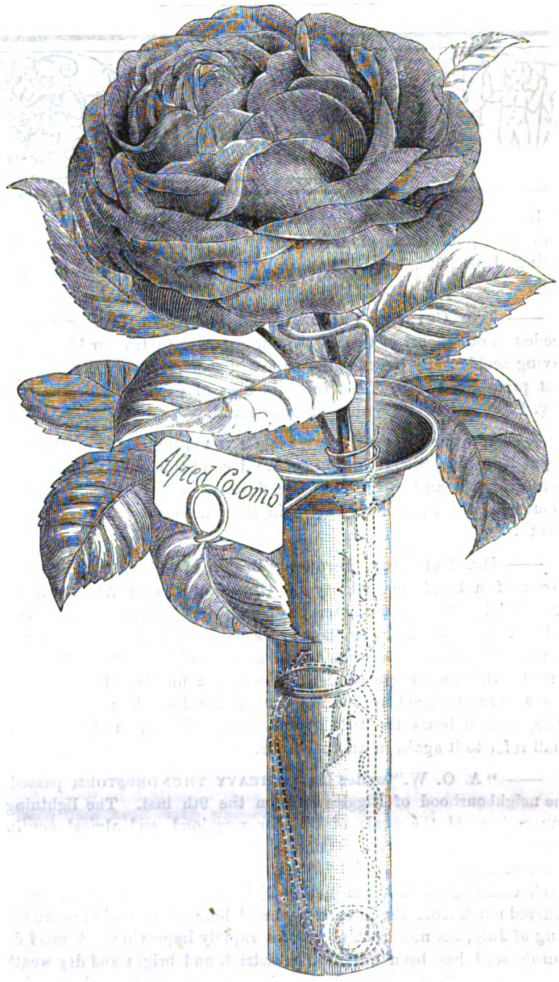

Fig. 8.—Foster's Rose-holder.

Rose, the latter for pressing against the side of the tube and holding the bloom of any required height. The name "holder" is fixed to the tube. The patentee describes this Rose exhibitor's aid as follows :—"The Rose-holders or supports are made so that the Rose with its name may be moved together. To put the Rose in, first put the top loop of the wire round the neck of the Rose; then put the stem in the loop in the middle or by the side; then put altogether in the inner tube, far enough for the lower end of the wire to come just below the tube. The Rose can then be set to the name by turning the lower end of the wire round to the right position. It can then be set the height required. The small wire can be used, if wanted, by just putting either end once round, which will hold the Rose quite firm."

We have only to add that we consider this the best appliance for the

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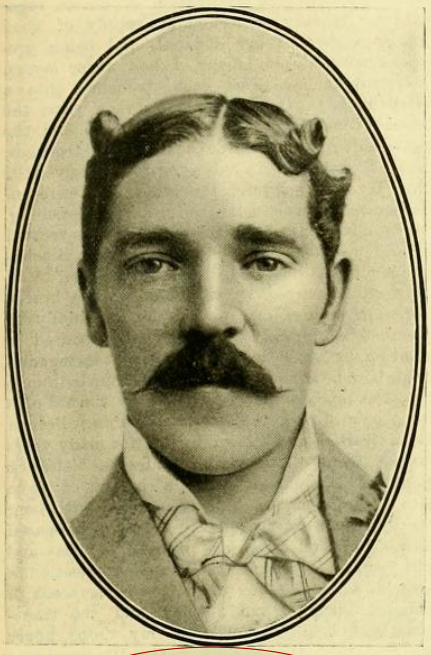
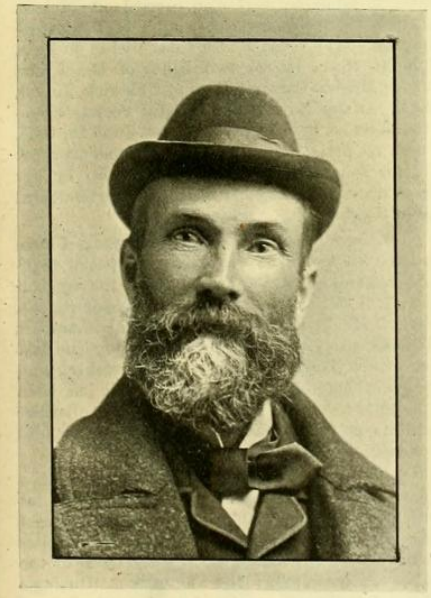
a gardener who could grow Peaches better than anyone else in the kingdom. I found on arriving there some very fine houses, and the largest private collection of Peaches and Nectarines in



Mr. R. A. Horspool,
Gr. to Richard Middleton, Esq.,
Chirk Castle, Denbighshire.

the country, but I had to lift the whole of the trees and remake the borders before they fruited satisfactorily. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hopwood often complimented me afterwards on the success I

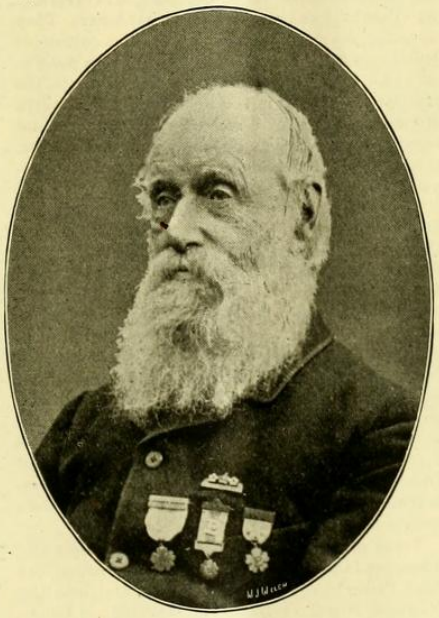


Mr William Pope,
Gr. to the Earl of Carnarvon,
Highclere Castle.

obtained eventually. I also found vegetables had been very scarce there, and that large quantities had been purchased, but after a few months more were grown than the family required. Hardy flowers and Carnations were in great demand, and good collections were established. In the winter of 1889-90 I went to Florida to inspect and report on an estate there belonging to Mr. Hopwood; this gave me a good insight into American life and methods of business, and proved most interesting and instructive. I collected, dried, and mounted all the wild flowers I could find, and took many notes on the cultivation of the various fruits. As a change of ownership was contemplated at Ketton Hall I resigned my appointment there in 1894, after staying nearly ten years, and commenced my duties at Belvoir Castle, as gardener to his Grace the Duke of Rutland, immediately afterwards."

Mr. Robert Fenn

is very well known as one of the first seriously to attempt to improve Potatos by cross-breeding. It was in 1837 that he first crossed the old "Red Regent" with an indigenous variety of America, given to him by a Mr. Pringle; and as the seedlings proved to be different from their parents, he continued the work and achieved



Mr. Robert Fenn,
A Celebrated Raiser of Potatos.

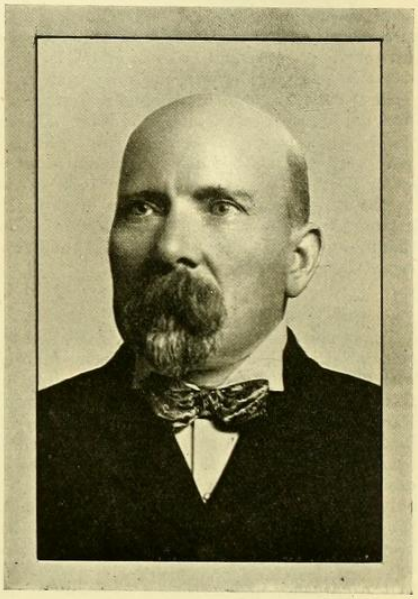
most gratifying success. He has raised very many excellent varieties, which have been distributed by the firm of Messrs. Sutton & Sons, Reading. Mr. Fenn was born in Suffolk in 1817, and he is therefore eighty-six years old, but in spite of his years he is enjoying excellent health and keenly interested in his garden at Sulhamstead.

Mr. R. A. Horspool,

the gardener at Chirk Castle, Ruabon, Denbighshire, is a young man who developed an interest in vegetable culture at the very outset of his career. He is rapidly making a reputation for himself in the Principality. The following notes afford further evidence that a garden is not necessarily useless or "worn out" merely because it is old:—

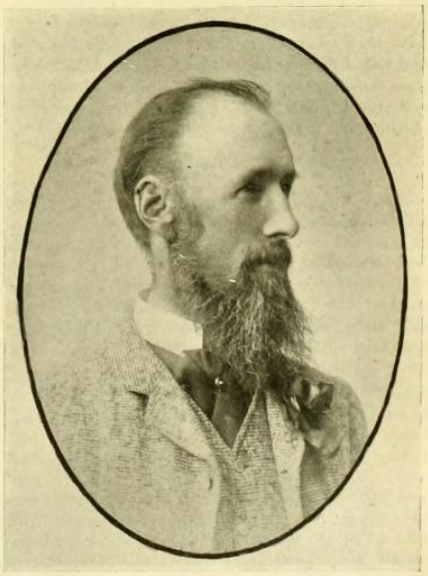
"I have always had much liking for growing good vegetables, but it was not until five years ago that I commenced to grow for exhibition. In the first year I was beaten at Chirk and Wrexham Pomological show, but it gave me greater energy for the next season, when I was placed first at both shows. After this success I showed also at Shrewsbury, Birmingham, &c., and have been fairly successful during the last three seasons.

"These gardens are very old, and the date 1651 is cut in freestone over a doorway in one of



Mr. S. Mortimer,
Raiser of Cucumbers and Tomatos,
Rowledge Nursery, Farnham.

the walls. Nevertheless there is a good vegetable and fruit garden of about 8 acres. It lies between three terraces of walls, there being a mile of walls covered with fruit-trees. The two uppermost gardens slope gently towards the



Mr H. W. Ward,
Market Nurseryman, Rayleigh, Essex.

south, so that the situation is all that can be desired, and there are soils in the different quarters to suit every kind of vegetable grown, for there are five or six different kinds. The lowest part of the garden used to be a fishing lake, about

3 acres in extent, but half a century ago it ceased to be a lake, and is now well drained, the water running into a well and the overflow into the woods. On this portion I have no difficulty in procuring first-rate vegetables for home consumption or exhibition, such crops as Cauliflowers, Peas, Runner Beans, Turnips, Celery, Leeks, &c., succeeding splendidly, but Carrots will not grow after the thinning stage. But I have not the slightest difficulty in growing Carrots in another part of the gardens, and I have a grand lot without the least sign of wireworm amongst them. That the soil has been cultivated so many years does not hinder the Carrot in the least, yet some people think that they require fresh soil each year. My greatest difficulty is that I am situated so far North. Crops are quite a fortnight earlier in the South than here. I have a difficulty in getting Ailsa Craig Onion and Autumn Giant Cauliflower up to exhibition standard, and more especially so the last two seasons."

Mr. S. Mortimer.

There must be very few visitors to the horticultural exhibitions who have not become familiar with the collections of Cucumbers, Tomatos, &c., from Mr. Mortimer, of the Rowledge Nurseries, Farnham. At the earliest shows in the year, including that held at the Temple, Mr. Mortimer usually shows produce that leaves nothing to be desired from the standpoint of cultivation. Not only this, but he has paid much attention to the raising of seedling varieties, and he has been successful. Tomato "Winter Beauty," raised by Mr. Mortimer, is an exceedingly useful variety to the gardener, and as shown by many of our correspondents during last winter, it comes into bearing very quickly. Mr. Mortimer writes:—

"'Purley Park Hero' was the first seedling variety of Cucumber I raised, and it is more than twenty years ago that this received a First-class Certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society, and it is still in cultivation. Since then I have raised some ten or twelve varieties, most of which have been Certificated by the Royal Horticultural Society's Fruit and Vegetable Committee, and all are in cultivation at the present time. Among the best of these are 'Matchless' and 'Sensation.' All my Cucumbers are pedigree varieties that have been worked down from an original strain, and this I find is the only way by which to keep a pure strain. One of the best things I have ever raised is Tomato 'Winter Beauty,' the pure stock of which has given great satisfaction to cultivators.

Mr. W. Pope.

Many an exhibitor of vegetables has found a formidable opponent in Mr. W. Pope, gardener to the Earl of Carnarvon, Highclere Castle, near Newbury; and readers of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* will remember him as a writer of one of the weekly calendars in these pages, to which he is still an occasional contributor. Mr. Pope is an excellent cultivator. He writes:—

"I do not know that I can say much about myself that would be of interest. I commenced to exhibit vegetables soon after taking my first head place at Harold Wood, in Essex, in 1875, taking a second prize for a collection at Brentwood in, I think, the following year. I next went to Bishops Waltham, in Hampshire, and exhibited pretty regularly at Southampton for several years with varying success until I entered on my present charge at Highclere in the autumn of 1883. There is no doubt that exhibits of vegetables attract more attention from the general public than was the case twenty years ago, for which the more attractive and tasteful methods of setting up are mainly responsible. But there has been possibly some advance in cultivation, and certainly there is a great improvement in many varieties, notably Potatos, Onions, Tomatos, Peas, and Beans. I am very glad to note the tendency is to discourage the 'setting up' of large, coarse vegetables, and that more attention is being paid to high quality."

Mr. David Thomson, Sr.

There is no gardener in this country, whether Scotsman or not, but respects the former gardener at Drumlanrig, now in his eightieth year, and living quietly near to Dalkeith, in perfect health, and as keenly fond of gardening as he ever was.

Mr. David Thomson was born in 1824, in the island of Mull, to which place Sir Walter Scott had sent his father in 1817. He left home for apprenticeship at Carstairs House in 1837, under the late Mr. Ross, who was a very smart man and an excellent cultivator; from there he went to Bothwell Castle in 1840, and was under the veteran Mr. Turnbull for four years. Bothwell Castle gardens were then among the best gardening establishments in Scotland, and certainly Mr. Turnbull was one of its best gardeners. They were famous more particularly for the culture of Heaths and for hybridising. In 1844 he went to be under that prince among horticulturists, the late Mr. Maruschi, in the Regent's Park, London. He next removed to Wrotham Park Gardens, and was two years foreman there under his brother, the late Mr. Wm. Thomson, "King of the Vineyard."

Mr. D. Thomson was head gardener first to Mr. Drummond, head of the banking firm at Charing Cross; then in 1850 he was gardener to the late Captain Trotter at Dyrham Park. He burnt all the heavy soil in the gardens at Dyrham Park, and grew the finest vegetables, after the burning, he ever produced. In 1858 he went to Archerfield, which gardens he rendered celebrated for flower gardening and fruit culture. His Pines and Grapes grown at Archerfield were often seen on the exhibition-tables, where they were usually successful in winning prizes. In 1868 he was appointed gardener to the famed gardens of Drumlanrig Castle, proving there in every department his skill and experience as a gardener; thence he retired in 1897.

From each of his situations he had tempting offers made to remain; he has been awarded the Niel Prize, the Veitch Memorial Medal, and the Victoria Medal of Honour. On leaving Drumlanrig he was presented with a magnificent silver casket and illuminated address by seventy-six of his foremen, all of whom he had placed in good situations scattered all over the world.

He was a writer for the *Journal of Horticulture*, and for several years wrote constantly for the *Scottish Gardener* (from 1854 till 1870), and edited it part of that time. He edited *The Gardener* from 1871 to 1882, when as the last of the monthlies it was discontinued. He was author of a treatise on *The Pine-apple, Fruit Culture under Glass*, and the *Handy Book of the Flower Garden*.

His only son, Mr. David W. Thomson, is a worthy representative of a notable horticultural family, and is highly esteemed and respected as a prominent nurseryman in Edinburgh.

Mr. H. W. Ward

needs no introduction to readers of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, although his portrait has never appeared hitherto in its pages. Mr. Ward was a frequent and valued contributor during the quarter of a century he was at Longford Castle, and since his removal from that place to Rayleigh, in Essex, where he has established a flourishing market nursery, has continued to do so. The following notes are interesting:—

"One of my specialities during the twenty-five years I was head gardener at Longford Castle, Salisbury, was the cultivation of choice vegetables. Having an abundant supply of good stable-manure at my disposal, and being provided with ample labour, I had three layers, about 6 inches thick each, trenched into a portion of the kitchen-garden every year, the trenches being from 2 to 3 feet deep and the same width; the bottom of the individual trenches, being broken up with a digging-fork, received the first layer of manure, the other two were incorporated with the soil in the process of trenching. No wonder, therefore, that ground thus treated should produce satisfactory results. Scarlet-runner Beans attained a height of from 15 to 25 feet, supported by stout Ash-stakes braced together with others placed longitudinally at about 6 feet from the ground and secured in position by cross-ties made of tarred string, and these bore heavy crops of fine Beans from bottom to top, the produce being gathered by the aid of a long pair of steps. Veitchs' climbing French Bean (raised and grown by me for many years before being distributed by Messrs. Veitch & Sons, of Exeter), attained a height of from 7 to 8 feet and was heavily cropped with long straight Beans of fine quality in ground prepared as above. The same may be said of Peas and other crops. Owing to the annual application of soot as a top-dressing prior to sowing seeds of Onions, Turnips, and Parsley, and the transplanting of Lettuce plants, my crops never suffered from the attacks of the Onion-maggot and other pests.

"During the years 1882 up to 1886 (inclusive) I was a frequent and successful exhibitor of collections and single dishes of vegetables at the Royal Horticultural Society's shows, then held at South Kensington Gardens. I secured 1st prize, offered by Messrs. Sutton & Sons, for four dishes of Peas two years in succession, the dates being May 23, 1882; and May 22, 1883, and June 26 same year. I also carried off Messrs. Suttons' 1st prize for a collection of Potatos on July 24, 1883; I was 1st for three dishes of Peas, June 24, 1884; 1st for two dishes of Beans, and 1st for Messrs. Carters' Peas at Chiswick, July 3, 1884. At the Royal Horticultural Society's Provincial Show, held in Liverpool on June 29, 1886, I took 1st prize offered by Messrs. James Carter & Co. for four dishes of their Peas; also 1st for three dishes of Peas in the Royal Horticultural Society's class.

"During a period of nearly twenty years I have assisted to make the awards in the special vegetable classes at Shrewsbury, having for my colleagues first the late Mr. Thomas Laxton (once), the late Mr. Pownall (several years), Mr. Lambert (Powis Castle) and Mr. A. Dean during the last five or six years, all being able, painstaking and conscientious judges, and with whom it has been a pleasure to work. The vegetables, like all other exhibits at the Shrewsbury Show, are splendid examples of good culture.

"Some twelve years ago I was present at a show held in Cheltenham in September, at which excellent vegetables were staged in great quantity in the individual classes, huge piles being artistically arranged, in some cases by the aid of a pair of steps; the number constituting a dish not having been stated in the schedule of prizes, dishes were made up thus: 250 Tomatos, 50 Cauliflowers, 30 Cucumbers, 100 Onions, and so on. A very imposing show they made!"

Bradbury, Agnew & Co., Ld., Printers, London and Tonbridge.

be made to look natural again. No matter how carefully the work may be done, the plants have a bunched-up appearance, and their beauty is spoiled. To avoid this, they should be tied up while they are still fairly short, and they may then, in the case of C. maximum, or Pæonies or others of a similar habit, be tied rather lightly, for the tops will afterwards grow and spread, but they cannot tumble. Two stout stakes and a strong piece of cord are generally sufficient. When a little growth has been made, they will be quite hidden by the foliage. For such plants as Phloxes, however, which have a looser habit, a different arrangement is better. Here, three stakes may be used. If a cord is first run round them so as to form a triangle enclosing the clump, and is then carried across from each angle to the middle of the opposite side, the triangle is divided into six parts, each capable of holding several shoots, which are thus kept apart from the others, and prevented from falling. If a few shoots are left outside the triangle, and attached to it loosely, the arrangement will be still more natural.

Work at Botanical Gardens.

June 25th.—The valuable work which English gardeners are doing, not only in our own country, but also all over the world, is illustrated by the following passage from a recent book on West Africa: "We passed the Botanical Garden on our way. Very few people who live in England realise the meaning of that name, and associate it with a pretty place where they see strange foreign trees, wonderful flowers, and would-be-picturesque tea-houses. In the Colonies, especially in one which, like the Gold Coast, is in course of development, the chief use of botanical gardens consists in agricultural experiments. They are formed in several places in the colony—some of them high up in the hills, others on the low-lying grounds; some where the annual rainfall is heavy, others where it is slight, and at all of them the Director of Agriculture, through his European curators, watches the results of cultivating plants, both those which are indigenous to the country, and those which are imported." As the result of these experiments, we are told, Cocoa and Para rubber are now largely grown, and the exportation of the former has risen from eighty pounds in 1891 to twenty millions in 1906, while the rubber industry is also in a very promising condition. These are surely results to be proud of, and they do not stand alone.

A Lawn Rockery.

June 26th.—The rockery is generally placed in a corner of the garden, but, if naturally arranged, it looks very well on the lawn—somewhere near the edge, and not in the centre, where it would be as much out of place as a bed would be. In this position, it should be made to resemble as nearly as possible an outcrop of rock. A mere pyramidical erection of stones would be purposeless and hideous.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Selsdon Park, Croydon.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. W. HOWARTH.

SITUATED between six and seven hundred feet above sea level, Selsdon Park, the residence of Mr. Wickham Noakes, is certainly one of the most beautiful places within twenty miles of the Metropolis. Not the least of its numerous attractions is the fact that even Croydon, which is not more than three miles distant, cannot be seen from the delightful gardens; and, indeed, from two aspects no houses whatever are visible. When I visited the gardens early in June, I was not less struck by the pleasant outlook than by the natural charms. But the latter are particularly pleasing, and embrace woodland scenery, shady dells, and upland slopes. Under the guidance of Mr. Howarth, the head gardener, I first inspected the west side of the mansion, and here at once I noticed a novel feature in the shape of the scarlet and white Thorn flowering on the same tree.

"How long have you had that lovely combination?" I asked.

"Four years ago the scarlet Thorn was grafted on to the white, and, though the former grows a little stronger than the latter, you can see that they do well together."

"The Laburnums in bloom make another good show, but you have a number of fine trees?"

An Informal Rockery.

"Yes; the best, I think, are the Beech, Copper Beech, Elms, Chestnuts, Thorns, the Cedars (deodara and atlantica glauca), and Wellingtonia gigantea. Yews and Hollies also do remarkably well; but Oaks only fairly. Here is our informal rockery, which was constructed three years ago."

"What is the principle of it?"

"We put down a quantity of rough roots and timber, planting them with Ferns, Alyssums, Aubrietias, and the like. The rockery is continuous under the trees, with cross-paths and arches."

"You seem to have transformed a wilderness into a picturesque retreat. Which Ferns thrive most in the soil?"

"Polypodiums, the Beech Fern, Hart's-tongue, and, generally speaking, all the hardy kinds, except the Oak Fern, which does not appreciate the chalk subsoil so much."

Passing a pleasant cricket ground, where, by the kindness of Mr. Noakes, many matches are played during the season, an ancient arch attracted my attention. It looks as if it had stood there for centuries, but Mr. Howarth pointed to the inscription, from which I learnt that it was removed from Blackfriars (where it was erected in the thirteenth century) in June, 1900, each stone being put in the same position it formerly occupied. Near this historic arch is the autumn garden, containing plants which flower in August and September. There are several Rose beds, and I enquired which varieties are found the most useful for the purpose.

"They are chiefly Tea Roses, which are planted in beds of one variety. The Erigerons, of which there are several beds, are chiefly speciosus, a late-flowering variety. Pampas Grass is also largely used, and in one bed there are some late Irises—pallida and Gracchus."

Not far away from the autumn garden, and right under the trees, is the spring garden.

"Here," continued Mr. Howarth, "we plant quantities of Narcissi in the grass, and in shady places. Pheasant-eye, Mrs. Langtry, Horsfieldii, Poeticus ornatus are amongst the best, but they take a year to acclimatise."

"Do they flower the second year?"

"Yes, and freely, so long as we are careful to leave the foliage alone until it begins to die down. In a corner of this garden is a small herbaceous border, consisting mainly of Phlox, Delphiniums, and Pæonies. Nooks and corners are quite common at Selsdon."

At this point, however, we emerged into the very charming garden and lawns on the south side of the house. Adjoining this is the winter garden, containing numerous Palms, Bamboos, and Aspidistras, with Cobæa scandens on the roof. I commented on the absence of flowers, and Mr. Howarth rejoined,

"Our practice with flowers is to grow them outside on the banks by themselves."

"Like the glorious masses of Rhododendrons."

"We have a good many Rhododendrons planted in masses, the colours represented being scarlet, crimson, pink, white, and striped. With respect to soil, we add a little peat and loam."

The Rose Garden and Bedding.

"What varieties are used at the entrance to the Rose garden?"

"Lady Gay and Crimson Rambler. Down below, one of the beds is filled with Mrs. John Laing, and the other three with A. K. Williams, Ulrich Brunner, and Killarney respectively, the centre bed consisting of La France. For groundwork, Violas, principally golden, blue, and white. The blue Violas show up well."

"I see that you are just starting the summer bedding. How were all these beds filled in spring?"

"Mostly with Polyanthus, intermixed with Tulips. There are twenty-four beds altogether, and in summer they are entirely composed of Geraniums, Amy Hogg, John Gibbons, Raspail Improved, Flower of Spring, and Crystal Palace Gem, arranged so as to harmonise in colour. We bed out about two thousand Geraniums. All along the lawn are standard Roses, at an interval of twelve feet, the varieties being Captain Christy, La France, Caroline Testout, Cheshunt Hybrid, John Hopper, Captain Hayward, and Mrs. John Laing."

"Near the mansion you have a very fine Cedar."

"But not so fine as the C. deodara below, which is feathered to the ground. The creepers on the house are Wistaria sinensis, Clematis montana, and Ampelopsis Veitchii. The Strawberry-tree, the Yuccas planted singly, and the bed of Kalmias (latifolia) may also be worth noting."

"Then, there is the Rose bower, with its thousands of buds?"

"The variety is a very old one, and I do not know the name. It is single, and very free-flowering. I have planted a few Crimson Ramblers to intermix with it."

The Kitchen Garden.

Next, having spent a little time in the fish-pond garden, with Lilies in the water, Roses on wire trellis, and beds with Liliums in variety, Delphiniums, Campanulas, and Eremurus, whose magnificent spikes of flower are augmented in effect by a centre of Roses, and an edging of Alyssums, we proceeded, along a winding path under trees, with Ferns and rock plants on the banks, to the kitchen garden. This is a garden which has been arranged to serve the twofold purpose of pleasing the eye and supplying fruit and vegetables. Instead of high walls, it is surrounded by Yew hedges and Thorns, and running round the whole of the paths are Box edges, in perfect order.

"The Box," I said, "gives a great finish to everything, but it must occupy a good deal of time to clip it."

"It takes four men a whole week, but I think the result is worth the trouble. The Box throughout is nine inches wide and one foot high."

"Have your Chrysanthemums been in their final pots many days?"

"No; I put them in during the first week in June, which is about the best time. They are

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a great feature, and we grow three hundred for large flowers, and a hundred and twenty as bush plants for cutting."

"Instead of exhausting the flowers, it would perhaps be more convenient to deal with notable features in the garden as we go along."

SELSDON PARK, CROYDON.

"Here, then, are the Asparagus beds. From the last week in April till June 20th, we usually cut nearly two hundred good heads daily. Celery is another big feature, of which we grow fifteen hundred heads. Standard Beater is grown for a supply during the shooting season. On the ridges of the Celery beds, Paris White and Lettuce All the Year Round are grown."

"How often do you change the ground for Strawberries?"

"After the second year, and we make a point of putting the Strawberries on ground where early Peas have been grown. They are planted in batches of one variety, the five varieties used being Royal Sovereign, Mentmore, Sir Charles Napier, Trafalgar, and Climax. The last is a Strawberry of exceedingly good flavour, juicy and sweet, but of not quite the richest colour."

"Which varieties of Apples and Pears do best on your pergola?"

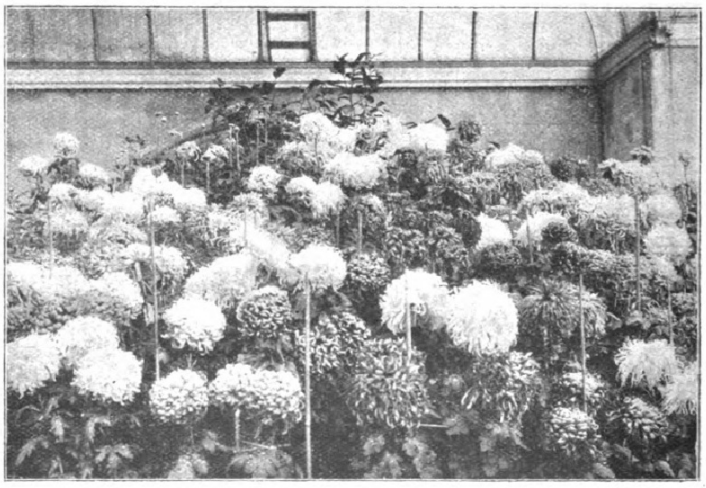
"The best Apples are Cox's Orange Pippin, Allington Pippin, Irish Peach, Sturmer Pippin, and Ribston Pippin; the best Pears, Jargonelle, Pitmaston Duchess, Beurre d'Amanlis, Beurre Diel, and Duchesse d'Angouleme."

"You devote a good deal of space to Peas?"

"Yes, we have a long season. The early varieties are William I., Bountiful, and Gradus, which are followed by Alderman, Duke of Albany, and Fortyfold, the late ones being Ne Plus Ultra and Autocrat. I may say that I sow three rows of Gradus about June 15th, and I pick them with Autocrat at about the end of August. It is absolutely essential, in the cultivation of Peas, to trench the ground well. Between the rows of Peas, Carrots, Spinach, and Turnips are grown, the Peas being six feet apart. I find that the further they are separated, the better the quality of the crops. The Spring Cabbage, opposite the Peas, is Sutton's Flower of Spring, and I started cutting at the end of April. But, speaking of planting Peas far apart, I will show you exactly how I should like to have them if space permitted."

We then strolled to a piece of ground just outside the kitchen garden, which is also adorned with Box hedges, but is mainly devoted to Potatoes, and here Mr. Howarth pointed out two rows of Duke of Albany Peas, planted at a still further distance apart.

"This is the distance I should prefer as securing the Peas the maximum of air and sunshine, which they most of all require. With the bed of Cabbage close to the Peas, I have been making an experiment. The usual time to plant is September. These six hundred Cabbages were planted on December 23rd, and have had three months of frost and snow upon them, yet every one has survived. I shall never again be afraid of planting Cabbages late."



CHRYSANTHEMUMS AT SELSDON PARK.

"But, what aspect, Mr. Howarth, is this piece of ground?"

"Like the kitchen garden, it is south, but that is the only advantage. The Potatoes here are Ashleaf, Ninetyfold (very good), Early Puritan, Sutton's Epicure, and Up-to-Date."

Returning to the kitchen garden, and noticing several rows of Runner Beans beautifully staked, I asked the varieties of the Pears and Apples on the espalier trees in the centre walk.

"The Pears are Conference and Jargonelle; the Apples, Cox's Orange Pippin and Allington Pippin. With almost the single exception of Chrysanthemums, we go in for very few varieties, preferring to grow largely those we are satisfied with. Onions are sown in spring and autumn, and there are breadths of Beetroot, Carrots, and Parsnips."

"You have still a nice show of Aquilegias in flower. How do you treat them?"

"We sow them towards the end of May, or early in June, prick them off, and transplant in the spring. They last in flower about six or seven weeks. These are all Californian hybrids, and the difference between them and the old varieties is certainly remarkable. Under the Apple trees we grow masses of Iris in clumps; and here is another herbaceous border, in which Phlox, Spiræas, Tradescantias, and Helianthus are conspicuous."

"And a breadth of Cactus Dahlias."

"Yes; they are planted there so that they may be seen on entering the garden from the pleasure grounds. The varieties are Jealousy, Lucius Imperatrix, Ajax, Lord Roberts, and Mrs. Langtry."

The Orchard House.

Then, noticing a well-filled herb border, with Chives, Tarragon, Thyme, Mint, Sorrel, Fennel, and Borage, we proceeded to the orchard-house, which faces the fishpond garden.

"Everything here," said Mr. Howarth, "is grown in pots or tubs. The plants are Fuchsias, Hydrangeas, Brugmansias, and Agapanthus. Of Peaches and Nectarines in pots, we grow Royal George, Grosse Mignonne, Early Rivers, and Lord Napier. We began picking Cherries at the end of April, and have had a very nice crop. The varieties are May Duke, Governor Wood, Elton, Bigarreau, Napoleon, and White Heart. Later in the year, this house is entirely given up to Chrysanthemums."

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Passing into the frame-ground, and before entering the houses, I was struck by a very high chimney, clothed to the very top with Ampelopsis Veitchii.

"How long ago was that planted?"

"Eight years since, and it finished growing last year. It successfully hides the electric light shaft."

A Wonderful Collection of Petunias.

"You have a remarkable collection here," I said, as we entered one of the plant houses.

"You mean the Petunias?' I cannot tell you the names, because they were here when I came, but, as you see, they are white and rose, and are notable not only for their colour, but also for their fragrance. The foliage is also very pretty. There are about eighty plants, and we are careful, of course, to keep the cuttings. We strike in the autumn, keep the frost out all the winter, start in February, and get a good show of flower in May. Zonal Pelargoniums are a big feature, and we find the best varieties are Mrs. Brown Potter, Olive Carr, Oliver, Mary Hamilton, Lady Warwick, Brilliantissima, and W. E. Gordon."

"When did you start cutting Melons?"

"On May 4th, in one house, the varieties being Windsor Castle, on one side, and Hero of Lockinge on the other. In another house, the varieties are Veitch's Eminence, Sutton's Ringleader, Royal Favourite, Best of All and Royal Jubilee. There are sixteen plants in this house, and fifty-one fruits, over an average of three. This is the second batch of Melons, and we have five more to follow. The Tomatoes are Sutton's Winter Beauty, which we began to cut on May 5th; and the Cucumbers, which we have been cutting since March 14th, are Rollison's Telegraph and Lockie's Perfection."

"Your Gloxinias are just beginning to open."

"They are Sutton's strain, spotted and self colours. Here are also a collection of Gloire de Lorraine, which we shall put next week into 'forty-eight' pots, and subsequently get a very fine show."

The Cultivation of Calceolarias.

The next house was a blaze of colour, and Mr. Howarth said,

"This is entirely devoted to Calceolarias, grown from seed, for which, as you probably know, we were awarded a Silver Flora medal at the Temple Show just held."

"How many do you grow?"

"A hundred and twenty. All shades of colour are represented, from light yellow to deep plum, which are very rich. Then there are the spotted varieties, some looking like great Strawberries."

"Have you shown at the Temple before?"

"Yes, last year I was awarded the silver medal. The plants which you see here do not now, of course, look their best, but they will last in bloom for some time yet. Some are quite three feet through."

"What is your system with them?"

"They were sown the first week in June, and grown as cold as possible, never allowed to get dry, and given plenty of air. I leave them in the frame until the first flowers appear, so that, if there is any frost, we can turn a little heat on them. Also, they like a little shade."

"Well, I congratulate you on their appearance now, even though I have not seen them at their best."

Heuchera sanguinea for Decoration.

Outside this range of plant-houses is fruit grown on walls, looking remarkably clean, and including Peaches, Nectarines, and Apricots. In the neighbourhood of the walls are clumps of Roses of one variety, and in a corner I came across a very useful plant for table decoration.

"These Heuchera sanguinea flower at a time when they are most needed. They are perennial, sown from seed in May, pricked off, and the frost kept from them during the winter. They are planted out the following spring, and the dark rose flowers are much appreciated."

"You grow cordon Pears on the wall, which look well set."

"They are chiefly the same varieties as those already mentioned, and, in addition, Doyenne d'Ete, Fondante de Thirriot, and Marie Benoist. We find the little coping very useful to keep the drip off the trees. There are many more Pears on the walls in the garden containing the principal houses. The flowers are chiefly standard Roses, there being an edging of Mrs. Sinkins Pinks right along the centre of the garden, and between the Pinks and Roses we grow Antirrhinums in variety—yellow, white, Sutton's Intermediate, Orange King, and Carmine-pink. They keep on flowering until the frost comes, and are largely used for decorative purposes. A point of importance with regard to the Pinks is that the old flower-spikes should be cut off immediately they have done blooming. It is fatal to wait a few days."

Orchids for Cutting.

Facing the gardener's pretty residence are the Vineries, Carnation, and Orchid houses. We started with the Carnations.

"Only Malmaisons are grown," said Mr. Howarth, "the varieties being Princess of Wales, Sir Charles Fremantle, Lady Grimstone, Sir Evelyn Wood, Soult, Thora, Churchwarden, Calypso, Nell Gwynne, Prime Minister, Uriah Pike, and Mrs. R. H. Measures. We do not disbud, but grow for quantity. The Carnations are at their best early in July. We do not force them, and like to layer about the beginning of August; they are kept quite cold all through the winter. Carnations should be grown by themselves."

"Do you go in considerably for Orchids?"

"The principal Orchid we grow is Odontoglossum Crispum. This house, which is entirely confined to them, contains about fourteen hundred plants, all imported stock, and no hybrids. They are quite cool here. The great advantage of the Crispums is that we have blooms all the year round. May and June are the best months, but a button-hole is obtainable at any time of the year. In the other Orchid houses, you see Dendrobiums superbum still in flower. Then there is a nice collection of Calanthes, Cattleyas, Lælio - Cattleyas, Cœlogynes, and Cymbidiums."

Vineries and Peach House.

"You have outside borders to the Vineries?"

"Yes, and for early Vineries they are certainly not so good as inside borders. But these Vineries are eighty years old, and we can only make the best of them. In the early house, Black Hamburgh, which cannot be beaten as an early Grape, is grown. Another house is devoted to Muscats, which should have the same temperature for the tops as for the roots, in order to get the maximum of vitality. In the late Vinery are Black Alicante, Golden Queen, and Lady Downe's Seedling, and we have just planted the stove with Black Hamburgh, to fruit in 1911. Here are Crotons, Dracænas, and Pandanus on the stage."

"When did your big show of Schizanthus in the flowering-house begin to bloom?"

"Two months ago. Facing these are Marguerites, Calceolarias, and Zonal Pelargoniums."

"The Peaches promise well?"

MR. HOWARTH AND HIS ASSISTANTS AT SELSDON PARK, CROYDON.

"They have the advantage of an inside border. The varieties are Waterloo, Royal George, Noblesse, and Bellegarde Peaches, with Lord Napier and Rivers' Early Nectarines. In the next house are Caladiums in variety, with Clerodendrons just beginning to flower; and in the house beyond are Crotons and Dracænas, with Stephanotis grandiflora on the roof."

"How long have you been head gardener at Selsdon?"

"Four years. I started my career as apprentice for five years at Enville House, Bolton; and then in succession I was for two years at Undercliff, Sunderland, eighteen months at Knowlton Court, Adisham, two years at Cobham Hall, Kent, three years at Knowsley, and foreman for three years at Woodland Park, Leatherhead. Then for three years I was with Messrs. Cheal, and helped to lay out the gardens at Bolnore, Hayward's Heath. I was next head gardener at Elderslie House, Redhill, for two years and a half. In 1905 I came here."

ALFRED WILCOX.

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better time than the end of August or the beginning of September for propagating them. The surest way is to layer them. Young shoots pegged down firmly, and kept moist, will root as readily as those of the Loganberry or the Blackberry. Nor do cuttings present any difficulty if they are shaded. Most of them should

MR. A. HUBBARD.

be well rooted before winter, and growth will commence in the following spring. In autumn they can be planted in their permanent positions. Roses on their own roots are generally supposed to be longer-lived than those which are budded or grafted. This is probably correct, because every bud which grows is part of the Rose itself, and not of an alien stock. If so, the effective life of a climber on its own roots must extend over an astonishing number of years, for even when budded they often attain a great age.

WINTERING PENTSTEMONS.

August 28th.—Though some of the Pentstemons are fairly hardy, those which are generally grown in gardens, mostly hybrids of P. Hartwegii, cannot be relied on to pass safely through the winter in the open air. They are such handsome plants that it is a pity to lose them, and the best way to proceed is to strike cuttings, and to keep them in a frame until spring. Seed can also be sown at the present time. Seedlings should be treated in the same way as plants from cuttings. By this means many different shades of colour can be obtained. There is a white variety which is comparatively new. In dry soil Pentstemons sometimes live for years outside; it is when frost is associated with damp that they are killed. Old plants, however, do not flower as well as young ones, so there is a distinct advantage in propagating the stock every year.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

When quicklime is obtained before the ground is quite ready to receive it, and there is no shed in which it can be stored, the best plan is to lay it in a heap on the ground, where it will not be in the way, and cover it with four to five inches of soil, beating it down firmly to throw off some of the rain. It will gradually get slaked under these conditions.

Famous British Gardens.

OAK HILL, IPSWICH.

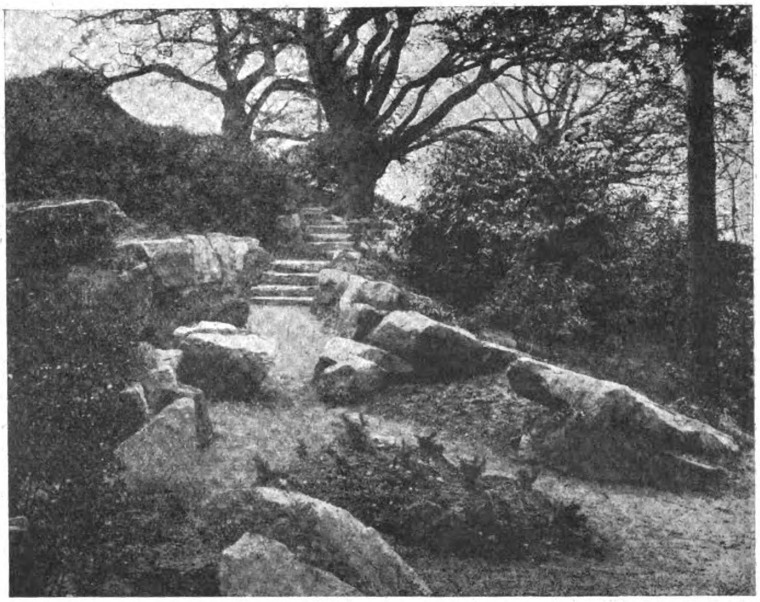
Interview with Mr. A. Hubbard.

HOW, by the introduction of stone and water, and with skilful planning, a steep and unpromising slope has been transformed into one of the most delightful of gardens, was demonstrated to me on a day towards the end of July, when I visited Oak Hill, Ipswich, and, after some of the principal features had been pointed out by the owner, Sir Daniel F. Goddard, was piloted round by his able head gardener, Mr. A. Hubbard.

One of the best known men in East Anglia, Sir Daniel has taken a prominent part in local affairs, and from 1895 to 1918 represented Ipswich in Parliament. But though a busy man, he has always been keenly interested in his gardens, and it is due to his initiative and encouragement that they have reached their present high state of development.

"When my father built the house in 1863," he said, "there was nothing but a few ancient Oaks. The place was so steep that no one else would look at it as the site of a house. But my father went ahead, and as the soil in some parts is brick earth, many of the bricks that were used were made on the spot. He had most of the trees planted; and I remember as a lad, planting a weeping Elm at the end of the terrace on the day that the Prince of Wales—afterwards King Edward VII.—was married. This tree is still flourishing, though not in the same place, for when the terrace and grounds were altered, thirty years later, I had it moved. Owing to the slope, it was impossible to get the ground level enough for a tennis court, so I had the soil taken from the top end and put to the bottom, hoping that would achieve the purpose. But there was no stability, and I realised that there was always a likelihood that it would fall away. Then, about that time, I met Mr. Pulham, who told me he thought it could be made secure, and the appearance of the place improved, by means of masses of stone; and he carried out the work very well indeed. Since then the rock gardens have been considerably extended, but this was the genesis of the idea."

Sir Daniel gave me various other details in the course of conversation, and these Mr. Hubbard amplified later. The attractions of the gardens are many, and in the space at command it is possible to refer but briefly to some of them. The house, as I have already indicated, is at the summit of a hill which drops away at a sharp angle, so that the kitchen gardens at the foot lie in a hollow. From the terrace, which faces south, some lovely views are obtained of the Orwell, meandering through a pleasant country; while nearer at hand the ornamental trees planted by Sir Daniel's father are now reaching their best, and lend beauty to the scene. Both to the right and the left stonework has been most skilfully employed, though from the top the effect is not visible.



ROCKERY PATHS LEADING TO THE HERBACEOUS BORDERS AT OAK HILL.

Our path lay first to the east, or right hand side, of the terrace, where three beds of Roses on a bank were very attractive. They are planted in blocks of five of each variety, mostly dark colours, these being Sir Daniel's favourites. Then a few steps brought us to a winding path, where trees meet overhead, and shrubs of many sorts are seen on either hand. The stones here are massed, and of great size, and convey the impression of a natural outcrop, though all have been put in position during the last eight or nine years, taking the place of a Laurel plantation. The planting is on a scale in keeping with the stones. Thus, sheltering in one enormous pocket, is a batch of Geranium sanguineum album; in another Sedums are naturalised; farther round, a huge clump of Aubrietia comes into view. Broad but

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rough stone steps make the descent easy, and these steps give shelter to Sempervivums, Saxifrages, alpine Phloxes, Ferns, and many other similar plants. Creeping plants such as Arenaria balearica cover some of the stones.

ATTRACTIVE BORDERS.

The path winds down, and further masses of stone jut out at various spots, while the trees—which include venerable Oaks, sole survivors of the original vegetation—give their welcome shade. Presently we come out to more open ground, where in front of us lies a gently sloping grass walk, with broad borders on either side, that on the left screening the orchard. The way leads to the kitchen garden, but for the moment the borders provide ample subjects for admiration. Pillars at the head, in the middle, and at the end, carry Gruss an Teplitz Roses, whose bright scarlet blooms exude a delicious fragrance. Hollyhocks, Carter's Perpetual-flowering, are dotted along the back, where they are especially effective, the blooms, though double, being less rigidly formal than the ordinary double type.

"From spring to frost there is always bloom in these borders," said Mr. Hubbard. "Delphiniums, Pæonies, Poppies, Irises, and other things are over, and yet there is no lack of colour now. Our Delphiniums are some of the best, such as Rev. E. Lascelles, Persimmon, and Mrs. Thompson. We do not restrict outselves to herbaceous perennials, as you see. Some of the Dahlias are already out; and there are also hardy and half-hardy annuals. The Zinnias are Carter's Mammoth strain."

These Zinnias call for particular notice, for their brilliant colours, and handsome shape rendered them very conspicuous in the mass. Massing is the rule, too, with the other plants. Thus a yard square clump of yellow Antirrhinums is succeeded by an equally liberal planting of pink Phloxes, and near these Gypsophila paniculata revels on the light soil. On the other side Phloxes of rosy shades are in juxtaposition with Chrysanthemum maximum The Speaker, a remarkably fine flower, possessing both size and quality, with Gaillardia grandiflora, and beyond this Carter's Antirrhinum Gold Crest, a dainty salmon-pink, with golden lip. Other plants I note as standing out distinctively are Artemisia lactiflora, some five feet high, with creamy-white Spiræa-like flowers; Aconitum Napellus bicolor, another tall bush, with blue and white flowers; and Alstrœmerias.

THE LILY PONDS.

At the bottom of this walk we turn to the left, the object being to come up on the west side of the gardens, working our way to the head of the waterfall. The lower of the pools, where we now find ourselves, is filled with Water Lilies, in many varieties.

"They are all in baskets," said Mr. Hubbard; "and there are some of the choicest sorts. Gladstoniana is a very fine white; Marliacea rosea is soft pink, becoming paler as it fades; Marliacea is that creamy-white flower. Like rosea, it is sweetly scented, and so is W. B. Shaw, the large rose-pink flower. These are just one or two good ones, though I would not say they are the best."

Water Lilies dot the surface of the next pool, while the delicate green of the trees on the farther side is reflected on the water, and clumps of Chrysanthemum maximum The Speaker and Fuchsia Riccartonii on the margin give back their colours.

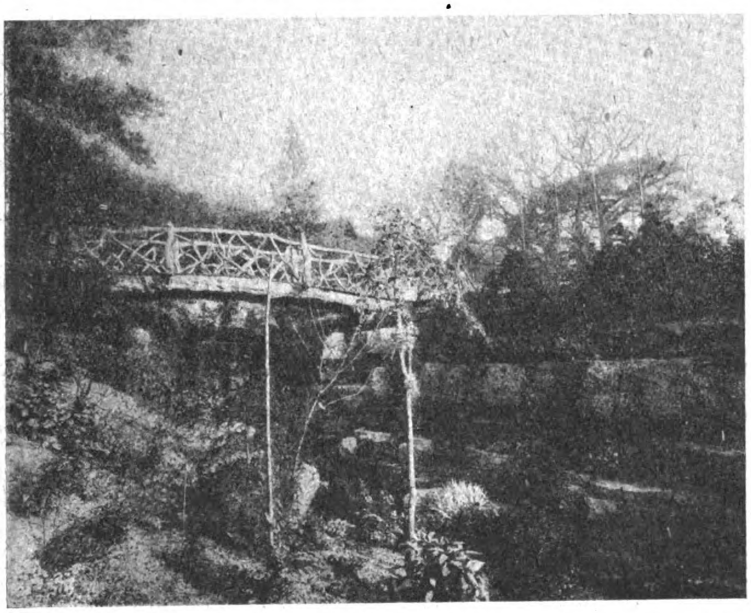
It is perhaps at this point that, looking up, the best view of the rocks and waterfall is obtained. From the glen at the head the water trickles down, and gathers into a tiny pool; then, falling a little way acquires greater force, and comes noisily to the foot in a series of cascades and eddies, broadening out until the lower pools are reached. All the way up, on the right-hand side, flowering and ornamental foliage shrubs skirt the water's edge, with dwarfer plants beneath them; on the left-hand side, where a concrete path makes progress easy, jutting rocks give shelter to suitable plants, while others find in the water the moist conditions most congenial to them. To name all the plants would be impossible; but a few that attract attention as we ascended may well be mentioned.

Funkias of various sorts do well on the banks, and a large clump of Spiræa venusta makes a good show. Codyline australis, with its noble foliage, seemed quite established, although, after flourishing for ten years it was killed to the base in the severe winter of 1918, broke up again, and now looks none the worse. This year, too, saw the death of a Eucalyptus globulus, which, planted at the same time, had reached a height of thirty feet. Then Rubus canadensis rosea makes a nice bush; near at hand, in the shelter of a huge boulder, Buddleia variabilis was blooming profusely; and facing this, Cotoneaster microphylla closely covers another rock.

Farther along, in the partial shade of the stone, Polygonium alpinus throws up its neat little spikes of pink, and makes a pretty patch of colour; and high up is seen another broad clump of pink, this provided by Geranium Endressi. Bamboos, of course, are present in many species, likewise Spiræas; and the variegated foliage of Eulalia zebrina is also noticeable on the opposite bank.

The path has been made so that the ascent is gradual, and similarly the water comes down as a winding stream, with a cascade at every few yards, with shallow pools at foot. New beauties are revealed as we go higher, for though there is plenty for the eye to see, each turn in the path brings something fresh. Across the stream tall Pines form a background, their long arms reflected in the water, in front of them are many different shrubs. Here Rosa rugosa, with its bright hips, was wonderfully effective. Berberis and Escallonia promise well for colour later. Rhus Cotinus justifies its name of the Smoke Plant, and is a neat foil to its neighbour, Acer Negundo; Ericas of sorts are blooming profusely. All the usual types of dwarf Alpines find their home, some snugly sheltering in pockets; others draping the stone. Rocks in the water make miniature islets, where moisture-lovers luxuriate.

Nearer the top, where the water runs sluggishly, the pools spread out, and Water Lilies float upon their surface. Nymphæa sauvissum, with rich crimson flowers, being very distinctive. Other Nymphæas are in the narrow stream which runs out from the glen made by the rocks which were used to support the tennis lawn. Before reaching this, we paused to notice a nice specimen of the Maidenhair-tree, Ginkgo biloba, and large clumps of Bamboos in several species—to say nothing of the grand old Oak which guards the top of the path. Here we turn, and still winding upwards, enter the glen, whose steep sides are made up with immense boulders of artificial rock. This, as well as the construction of the waterfall and the rock gardens, is the work of Pulham and Sons, and was completed eleven or twelve years ago. Ferns, native and exotic, spring from every crevice, or rise from the little stream—Osmunda regalis especially luxuriating in the conditions.



RUSTIC BRIDGE ACROSS THE HEAD OF THE GLEN AT OAK HILL.

A BANK OF ROSES.

Willingly we would have lingered here, but there was still much to be seen elsewhere, so we turned aside towards the Rose garden, which is under the terrace, and is partly a steep bank.

"This," said Mr. Hubbard, "was formerly a bank of Laurels, but these were all done with, and in their place we planted four hundred Wichuraiana and other Rambler Roses, some, as you see, on pillars, some as weeping standards, others draping the bank in their natural habit of growth. There are a good many varieties, but I think the best are Dorothy Perkins, Albéric Barbier, Lady Gay, Hiawatha, Minnehaha, Jersey Beauty, and Paul Transon."

Immediately below we get a view of what was intended to be the American garden, outlined by trees, of which the Wellingtonia, Araucaria imbricata, Taxodium distichum, and Pinus pungens glauca are prominent. Begonias and other bedding plants are now used, and I was particularly impressed with the vivid colours and fine form of a bed of Sutton's Zinnias, and another of Cannas, with an edging of variegated Veronicas.

THE TERRACE LAWN.

And now, passing up a few steps, we reach the terrace lawn, with a lovely Cedar at each end. Looking down, the gardens stretch out in a panorama before us; farther off the scene opens out, and the Orwell and the wooded country on its banks carries the eye for miles.

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In the centre of the lawn is a fountain, whose waters feed the cascades, and are returned again after reaching the bottom, machinery being employed for the purpose. There are also four small beds of fibrous-rooted Begonias, and two larger, star-shaped beds, with Heliotropes, Calceolaria amplexicaulis, and silver leaved Geraniums.

Further views across country are obtained from the rustic bridge (spanning the head of the waterfall) on the end of the lawn, which we cross to reach the two tree-embowered tennis courts, whose formation led ultimately to the making of the rock gardens. Then broad stone steps took us up to the terrace, and the climbers on the house came in for attention.

"We are very exposed up here, but for all that, some plants succeed that you would hardly expect," Mr. Hubbard remarked, "Clianthus puniceus does well, and has stood unharmed for three winters. Solanum jasminoides was killed off in the severe winter of 1918, and these are young plants which took its place. Ceanothus azureus does well, and so do the Magnolias, of which there are two forms, M. grandiflora and its variety, exoniensis, which is finer. But the best things of all are the Wistarias, which are a lovely sight in June. In one of the borders in front we have yellow Calceolarias, dark blue Lobelia, and an edging of Alyssum Carter's Snow Carpet; another section has Salvia patens behind, with white Tobacco plants, then Ageratums, and silver-leaved Geraniums."

At this end of the terrace, and at the side of the house, is a little Dutch garden, surrounded by a Yew hedge, and backed by tall trees. A fountain and small pond is in the middle, with Nymphæas Goliath and Escarboucle in the water, and yellow Irises at the side. The borders are filled with Antirrhinums Golden Queen and Gold Crest, edged with Ceratum tomentosum. On the site was formerly the conservatory, and when this was taken down Mrs. Hubbard laid out the present garden.

A GAY CONSERVATORY.

To the conservatory we next made our way, passing to the other end of the terrace. It is a bright and cheerful structure, and the tiers and staging were especially gay with Gloxinias, which for size and richness of colour left nothing to be desired. The pure whites and the violet coloured blooms were particularly choice, though it seemed invidious to make a distinction. Behind them arose the brilliant foliage of seedling Coleuses, with dainty Ferns interspersed between. From the roof hung baskets of Begonia President Carnot, Epidendrum prismatocarpum and E. vitellinum majus, and Odontoglossum cirrhosum and other Orchids. The centrepiece is a superb specimen of Seaforthia elegans, a graceful Palm which had grown till it reached the top of the conservatory; now, to make room, the immense tub in which it is growing is let through the floor to the chamber below. Less in size, but very imposing, is another Palm, Kentia Fosteriana. Fragrance was supplied by Humea elegans.

"We arrange to have a good display of flowers and foliage at all seasons," said Mr. Hubbard. "In the autumn we shall have Chrysanthemums, and I will show you—when we get to the kitchen garden—the plants standing out on ashes. There are a hundred and fifty large Japanese, and one hundred bush and singles. Poinsettias will come in for winter; and then will follow bulbs, and later Cinerarias, Primulas, and other plants."

So to the kitchen gardens we now proceeded, making a diversion, however, to see the shrubs and trees in the drive. A lovely Copper Beech occupies the post of honour here, and the borders are filled with Geranium Paul Crampel, Marguerites, and Ageratums, with an edging of variegated Box. In the spring these are gay with Arabis, Aubrietias, and bulbs.

One of the first things pointed out as we came to the kitchen garden was the batch of Poinsettias in frames.

"When well you house them?" I asked.

"Not till some time in September, depending on the weather. Till then they will remain here with the lights drawn off."

GOOD SWEET PEAS.

"You have some good rows of Sweet Peas."

"They are much liked for cutting, and we grow a good many. President is a fine orange-scarlet, and Tea Rose is a dainty thing, flushed with pale buff. Dobbie's Orange is very bright, and its only fault is it 'burns,' but Dobbie's Scarlet is better in this respect. A good maroon is Warrior; Constance Hinton and Etta Dyke are the best whites; and for table decoration Henry Ohn, cream pink, is really lovely, and so is Old Rose."

Dividing this garden in half is a pergola of Plums and Pears, and at right angles are Roses in chains, the point of intersection being marked by a large arbour of Roses, at this time in full beauty. On the south and west walls are Peaches, such as Crimson Galande, Diagonal, Royal George, Dymond, Violette Hâtive, Pine Apple, and Rivers' Early, also Greengage Plums. Morello Cherries are on the north wall. All the beds are edged with dwarf Box.

Noticing some nice rows of late Peas, I inquired as to the varieties grown.

"For early work," was the answer, "Little Marvel cannot be beaten, and this is followed by Gradus. The early Peas have been cleared off, and Celery is to be put in. For second earlies we have Sutton's Centenary, Duke of Albany, and Up-to-date; also Sutton's Prince of Peas, beautifully flavoured, and carrying plenty of well-filled pods. This is a Pea worth growing. Continuity is good as a late Pea, and these rows you are admiring are Sutton's Late Queen. Between the rows we grow Lettuce all the Year Round and Mammoth White."

Other good beds consisted of spring-sown Onions, Leeks—for which a hole is made and the plant dropped in—and winter greens. Three-quarters of an acre outside is under Potatoes, King Edward being the maincrop; while for earlies Sharpe's Express is favoured, with Sharpe's Victor for frame culture. Other varieties are Sutton's Harbinger, Midlothian, Eclipse, Golden Wonder, British Queen, and Arran Chief.

In the Orchid house the first division we entered contains a nice collection of Cattleyas, such as Schroderæ, Percivaliana, Mendelii, Trianæ, and labiata autumnalis; Lælia cinnabarina, purpurata, and albida; Vanda sauvis and cœrulea; Bifrenaria Harrisonæ; and varieties of Cypripedium Harefield Hall and insigne. Allamanda Hendersoni, with its yellow flowers, was very effective. The second division has Cœlogyne cristata and its variety alba, in quantity, also C. corrugata, several Cymbidiums, and Zygopetalum Mackayi.

There was an Allamanda, too, in the Cucumber house, to which we next proceeded. In the second division, devoted to Melons, some of the older ones were cut out, and young ones took their place. Several handsome Dracænas and a couple of the climbing Lily, Gloriosa superba, were also here.

Five good Black Hamburgh Vines fill the first Vinery; the second has the same number of Muscat of Alexandria, and on the staging beneath them a batch of Gloxinias. These will take the place of those in the conservatory, which had likewise been grown here. The third house has Alicante, Gros Maroc, and Gros Colmar, with Ferns beneath them for conservatory decoration.

Across the path is the Peach house. Bellegarde is the variety on the front, and at the back is Royal George, and Nectarines Pine Apple and Elruge. On Pine Apple there were fully two hundred fruits, and many, I was told, had already been gathered.

A glance at the Carnation and Rose houses brought my visit to a conclusion. Madame Jules Gravereux, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Niphetos, and Marechal Niel are the Roses; the best of the Perpetual Carnations are Mrs. C. W. Ward, Mary Allwood, Snowstorm (this strikes easily, and is a good doer), Carola, Benora, Destiny, Triumph, and Nora West.

Mr. Hubbard is a Norfolk man, and started his professional career at Moreton Hall, afterwards going to Harding Lodge, in the same county. Here he stayed eight years; and then moved into Suffolk, where for six years he was at Glavering Hall Park, and, following that, for five years at Tatterson Place, Bentley, and seven years with Mr. Fosdick at Park Road. For the last fourteen years he has been at Oak Hill.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

A WALK IN THE GROUNDS AT OAK HILL.

Wild British Brambles are so numerous that few are able to pick out the best for cultivation, and, strange to say, very few have set themselves the task. Rubus Schlechtendalii has been grown at Wisley since 1914, and has proved to be extraordinarily prolific, bearing large, black, and sweet fruits. The Blackberries sold in the shops are mostly gathered from R. rusticanus, which has small and very gritty fruits.

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on Gooseberry bushes if the fruit is to be picked green. Where nicotine is used, a fortnight should elapse before the crops are gathered.

Retirement of Mr. James Hudson, V.M.H. The retirement of Mr. James Hudson from the charge of Gunnersbury House Gardens, to which we referred briefly in last week's issue, takes effect at the end of May. Mr. Hudson has for a long period occupied a unique position in the world of horticulture, and the following account of his career will be read with interest. He was born on May 29, 1846, the youngest son of Samuel Hudson, who for forty-six years was head gardener and resident agent at Horsted Place, Sussex. James was educated at Doctor Saunder's grammar school at Uckfield, and became head scholar. In 1861 he entered upon a course of training in land surveying, timber measuring and general estate work. He had the opportunity of entering a solicitor's office at Lewes, but he preferred gardening to the law and after working under his father for some time he was appointed foreman at Deepdene, Dorking. In 1869 he sat for the R.H.S. examination and came out at the top (see *Gard. Chron.*, September 4, 1869, p. 940. "This is the only instance in which the whole number of marks has been obtained by any candidate since the commencement of these examinations.") His first position as head gardener was with Mr. J. C. im Thurn, at Champion Hill, and from thence he went to Gunnersbury House, in July, 1876, as head gardener to the late Mr. H. J. Atkinson, the then owner. After thirteen years in that position he was engaged by the late Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, who purchased the estate, and, being a keen gardener, gave Mr. Hudson every opportunity for the expression of his genius. Mr. Hudson has made his mark in all branches of gardening, but has excelled especially in the cultivation of indoor and hardy fruits, Water Lilies, Bamboos, and specimen plants. During his stay at Gunnersbury Mr. Hudson has frequently spent his holidays on the Continent, and has even gone so far afield as Palestine and Egypt, and in these countries, as at home, he has invariably acquired new horticultural knowledge during his travels. On four separate occasions he has judged at the Quinquennial Shows at Ghent; he has also acted as judge at Hamburg, Bruges, and in most of the principal cities of his native land. It is a matter of interest that one who headed the list in the R.H.S. examination of nearly fifty years ago should now be one of the Society's examiners, a position he has held since 1904. Further evidence of the high esteem in which he is held may be gathered from the facts that he has been a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Council for about twenty years; was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour in Horticulture when it was first instituted; was treasurer of the United Horticultural Benefit and Provident Society for twenty-five years; and has been more than twenty years a member of the Committee of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution. Everyone who visited the gardens at Gunnersbury House realised that an exceptionally clever cultivator was responsible for the splendid plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables met with on all sides To those anxious to know, Mr. Hudson has been always ready to give the benefit of his experience, and he wrote frequently in the horticultural Press on the methods that he employed; indeed, his writings in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* date back for a very long period. In the early 'eighties he wrote the weekly notes on Plants Under Glass in this publication for four years in succession, and since then he has contributed many times to our Week's Work columns, in addition to many original articles. Mr. Hudson, who is seventy-three years of age retires after a long, useful, and honourable career, with the best of good wishes and the generous regard of his employers. He will take with him into his retirement the good wishes of all who knew him either personally or through his writings. Those who frequent the meetings of the Royal Horticultural Society will be glad to know that Mr. Hudson will continue to reside at Acton and take part in the work of the premier horticultural society, with which he has been identified for so long a time.

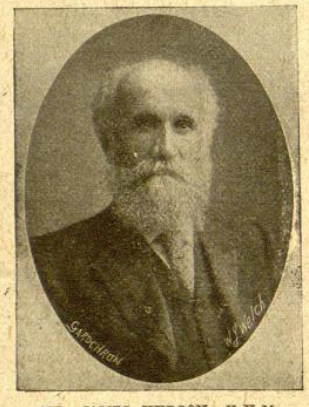
THE ALPINE GARDEN.

MAZUS PUMILIO.

Among the many attractive, though often deceptively coloured, plates in Wooster's *Alpine Plants*, one of Mazus pumilio is certain to interest lovers of Alpine plants. The illustration is a fairly faithful one of this little member of the Figwort family. The species hails from Tasmania, and, like several other Alpines from the same region, is not so easy to retain in gardens as its "book" reputation would indicate. It is a neat little creeping plant only some two or three inches high when in flower. The almost entire and obtuse leaves incline to lie close to the ground, and among them rise on short stems, little above the foliage, the small, pale purple or violet flowers with white centres, which make this plant attractive though by no means brilliant.

As already suggested, though M. pumilio is reputedly hardy, it may be lost in some severe winters, and it is safer to keep a spare plant or two under glass to replace losses. It is an ideal subject for the Alpine house.

There seem to be two other causes of its loss in gardens. One is the want of occasional top-dressing, which should consist of working among the foliage with the fingers in spring and autumn a little loam and sand. The other appears to be confinement in a small space until the soil becomes exhausted. Its



MR. JAMES HUDSON, V.H.M.

creeping habit suggests this, and where it cannot spread into "pastures new" it should be lifted and replanted in fresh soil. Wooster recommends "rich loam and sand," but I think it is benefited by adding fibrous peat or leafmould. The Mazus flowers in June and July.

PRIMULA SUFFRUTESCENS.

Numerous Primula lovers have attempted the cultivation of this sub-shrubby Primula, which is a most interesting plant, but have in most cases failed to retain it for long. This is little wonder, as we cannot give it anything like the natural conditions which prevail in its haunts. Here is an account of its home which makes us almost despair of supplying this Sierra Primrose with its wants. "If one takes his alpenstock in hand and climbs to the snow-line in late summer he is apt to be rewarded by the charming flowers of the Sierra Primrose. The little plants grow in the drip of the snow-banks, where the melting ice gradually liberates the tufts of evergreen leaves. The glowing flowers look as though they might have caught and held the last rosy reflection of the sunset upon the snow above them." Thus writes Miss Parsons, in her book, *The Wild Flowers of California*, and it is a matter for surprise and says much for the adaptability of this Primula that it does not at once disappear in our climate without its covering of snow in winter and its supply of icy water at flowering time. The serrated leaves are evergreen which increase their difficulties in this country, and the most successful growers I know have contented themselves with growing it under glass in winter and spring. It succeeds better in some districts than in others, especially where the climate is dry, and Dr. John MacWatt's experience at Duns is worth quoting. He says it is "quite hardy in light, well-drained soil if planted in a position sheltered from strong winds." But it is largely a question of winter treatment and shelter from our variable winters.

LYCHNIS ALPINA.

Is not this little Alpine scarcer than it was a dozen or more years ago? I think this is the case, and it seldom comes under one's ken in going through rock gardens, even of some note. It is a pretty, if not showy, little plant, growing only a very few inches high and partaking a good deal of the appearance of Lychnis Viscaria, but it is not viscid. The flowers are a shade of red purple, and the plant makes a neat little carpet of green leaves, in summer well relieved by the flowers. One of the ablest of writers tells us of the position it occupied in one of the few British habitats, and this is interesting and affords us useful hints as to dealing with L. alpina. It was observed on high cliffs, and in perfect health where not a drop of rain was likely to reach it, but seedlings, apparently from the above plants, were doing well on moist, crumbly rock. I have had no difficulty in growing it on almost level rockwork in crevices between stones and in a dry place facing east. It has been met with thriving in other exposures. Some of the best plants I have ever seen were growing on an almost level spot on a rockery facing south-west and in loam, sand, and leafmould, in a pocket of the rockery, and occasionally top-dressed with grit. This neat little plant may be raised from seeds or increased by division.

ANEMONE NEMOROSA BLUE BONNET.

This plant is one of the best of the blue varieties of Anemone nemorosa, the Wood Anemone. It has large flowers of a clear blue. In addition to its value because of its large blooms it is desirable on account of its blooming later than the others. It loves a shady spot, and is an excellent subject for planting in a thin shrubbery or under the shade of deciduous trees, although it is also very beautiful in the open. *S. Arnott.*

NOTES ON CULINARY PEAS.

Culinary Peas are generally regarded as a vegetable of first importance, so that in every garden strenuous efforts are made in order to maintain an adequate supply during the period of the year when they are in season. Difficulty is sometimes met with, at times local in character; it may be an error on the part of the cultivator, or we can trace the loss of a crop, at times, to that most insidious of foes, namely, mildew. The general conditions under which Peas succeed are fairly well recognised, consisting mainly in deep cultivation of the soil. They are deep rooting subjects, and, given the means for firmly establishing themselves, few plants are more free from inherited weakness or disease than standard varieties of garden Peas as they exist to-day.

Mere digging of the soil is not conducive to the best results, and every cultivator should aim at producing a working tilth at least 2 feet deep for this crop. This end is secured by a regular system of trenching the ground, at the same time working into the bottom spit all garden refuse capable of being converted into soil and placing under the top spit a liberal dressing of well-decayed manure. On land not previously trenched it is advisable to retain the bottom spit in position until this system is practised for several years, when it may with advantage come to the surface. Trenching is best performed before the New Year, allowing the surface to lie rough and be acted upon by weather.

In spring a dressing of soot and fresh slaked lime should be applied and forked in previous to planting or seed sowing.

In order to secure free, uninterrupted growth, it is necessary to retain the natural moisture in

HUDSON George of Church-street Shipston-on-Stour **Warwickshire** died 9 July 1932 Administration **London** 24 August to William Henry Hudson station master and Frederick William Hudson police constable. Effects £349 4s. 4d.

HUDSON George of 1 Priory-road Beverley **Yorkshire** died 9 August 1932 at the Royal Infirmary Kingston-upon-Hull Probate **York** 11 October to Alice Helena Hudson widow and Charles William Hudson railway employee.
Effects £416 9s.

HUDSON Gwynedd May of Wick Studio Holland-road Hove **Sussex** spinster died 19 May 1932 Probate **London** 4 August to Dorothy Cecil Hudson spinster. Effects £3938 9s. 11d.

HUDSON Harriett of 83 Hunger Hill-road **Nottingham** widow died 2 December 1931 Administration (with Will) **Nottingham** 27 May to Herbert Hudson french polisher.
Effects £357 13s. 4d.

HUDSON Harry of 11 Bloomfield-road Moseley **Birmingham** died 6 July 1932 Administration **Birmingham** 12 September to Annie Louise Hudson widow and Francis Harry Hudson insurance official. Effects £1732 17s. 3d.

HUDSON Henry of Rainbow Farm Old Malton **Yorkshire** died 28 December 1931 Administration **York** 27 February to Ann Hudson widow. Effects £411 14s. 11d.

HUDSON Henry of 12 Almeida-street Islington **Middlesex** died 16 November 1932 Probate **London** 30 December to The Public Trustee. Effects £10006 13s. 1d.

HUDSON Herbert of 26 Ripon-street Ashton-under-Lyne **Lancashire** died 17 April 1932 Administration **Manchester** 13 June to Annie Hudson widow. Effects £1290 0s. 3d.

HUDSON Herbert Walter of Mill End-road High Wycombe **Buckinghamshire** died 12 April 1932 Administration (with Will) **Oxford** 20 August to Beatrice Emma Hudson widow.
Effects £803 18s.

HUDSON Hilda May of The Bungalow Residential School Banstead **Surrey** spinster died 6 May 1932 at 72a East Dulwich-grove Dulwich Surrey Probate **London** 6 July to Douglas George William Theodore Smith assistant school superintendent. Effects £401 1s.

HUDSON Isaac of 5 Coquet-street Jarrow county **Durham** died 12 November 1931 Administration **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 12 January to Margaret Jane Hudson widow and Robert Maxwell Hudson insurance agent. Effects £1349 9s. 10d.

HUDSON Isaac of South Farm Nedderton Village Bedlington **Northumberland** died 12 April 1932 Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 13 May to Rowland Bland and Patrick Connolly miners. Effects £40 19s. 3d.

HUDSON James of Maythorne Greenbank-road Latchford Without **Cheshire** died 16 October 1931 at 5 Mosedale-road Aintree Liverpool Probate **Liverpool** 9 February to Emma Hudson widow William Hudson bank manager Mary Emma Fell (wife of William Henry Fell) and Clara Brough (wife of Walter Brough). Effects £18939 12s. 10d.

HUDSON James of 14 Stanhope-street Reddish **Lancashire** died 12 March 1932 Administration **Manchester** 7 April to Sarah Jane Ball (wife of Thomas Ball). Effects £685 12s. 1d.

HUDSON James of Pinchbeck **Lincolnshire** died 23 April 1932 Probate **Lincoln** 12 May to William James Hudson gate-house keeper. Effects £229 7s. 6d.

HUDSON James of Cliff Cottage Laneshawbridge Colne **Lancashire** died 26 April 1932 Administration **London** 27 May to Mary Jane Tillotson widow. Effects £2527 0s. 1d.

HUDSON James of 64 Creffield-road Acton **Middlesex** died 28 May 1932 Probate **London** 21 July to James Frank Hudson college principal. Effects £7108 3s. 8d.

HUDSON James of 4 Lower-crescent Harpfields **Stoke-on-Trent** died 13 September 1932 Administration **Birmingham** 17 October to Mary Hudson widow. Effects £1067 17s. 9d.

HUDSON James of Eldon-street Tuxford **Nottinghamshire** died 21 November 1932 Probate **Nottingham** 20 December to Alice Hudson widow. Effects £4122 14s.

HUDSON James Edward of 170 Columbia-road Grimsby **Lincolnshire** died 18 June 1932 Probate **Lincoln** 8 September to Maria Hudson widow. Effects £1445 14s. 7d.

HUDSON James Parry of Allithwaite 33 Poplar-road Merton Park **Surrey** died 28 February 1930 at University College Hospital Gower-street Middlesex Administration (with Will) **London** 26 October to George Stanley Hudson clerk. Effects £1250.
Former Grant P.R. 12 April 1930.

HUDSON Jane of Thackmire House Castlesowerby **Cumberland** widow died 31 July 1931 Probate **Carlisle** 28 September to Mary Matthews spinster. Effects £689 9s. 6d.

HUDSON John of 1 Paradise-gardens County Poor Law Institution Pontefract **Yorkshire** died 13 June 1931 Administration **London** 3 October to Lawrence Richmond Public Assistance Officer. Effects £48 1s.

HUDSON John of 87 High-street Easington-lane county **Durham** died 9 September 1932 Administration **Durham** 18 October to John Hudson fruiterer. Effects £177 13s.

HUDSON John of 73 Window-lane Garston **Liverpool** died 14 March 1932 Administration **Liverpool** 21 November to David Hudson grocer and Frederick Hudson baker.
Effects £1459 16s. 3d.

HUDSON John George of Glenholme Bromley Cross near Bolton **Lancashire** died 13 June 1932 Probate **London** 18 July to Humphry Davy Hudson retired manager.
Effects £32683 15s. 8d.

HUDSON John Masters of 6 Oaklands-road Bexley Heath **Kent** died 26 February 1914 Probate **London** 11 June to Bernard Hudson decorator and Edith Maddox (wife of Arthur Tom Maddox). Effects £712.

HUDSON John Parkinson of South-avenue Chellaston **Derbyshire** died 29 August 1932 at Chatsworth Hydro Matlock Derbyshire Probate **Nottingham** 27 September to the reverend Charles Hudson clerk. Effects £2151 17s. 3d.

HUDSON John William of 24 Worcester-drive Clubmoor **Liverpool** died 2 March 1932 Administration (with Will) **Liverpool** 29 April to William Baldwin Hudson dock board clerk and William John Baldwin railway foreman.
Effects £1251 1s. 5d.

HUDSON Joseph of Owlscot Yarmouth **Isle of Wight** died 28 October 1931 at Vectis Nursing Home Ryde Isle of Wight Probate **London** 13 January to Georgina Richenda Renee Hudson widow. Effects £1960 14s. 10d. Resworn £6255 2s. 5d.

HUDSON Joseph of 129 Mottram-road Stalybridge **Cheshire** died 26 December 1931 Probate **Manchester** 16 January to Harry Hudson motor engineer. Effects £75 2s. 9d.

HUDSON Kathleen Annie of Spencer House Nuttall **Nottinghamshire** (wife of Charles Greaves Hudson) died 14 June 1932 Probate **Nottingham** 20 September to the said Charles Greaves Hudson officer of customs and excise.
Effects £376 13s. 2d.

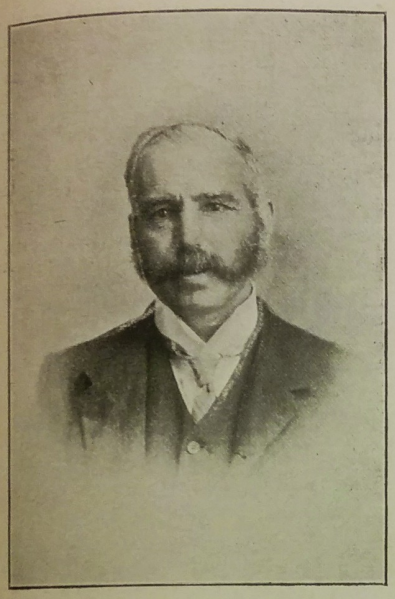
HUDSON Kezia of 77 Lower Richmond-road Putney **Surrey** widow died 4 August 1932 Administration **London** 11 November to Thomas Charles Hudson printer and Mabel Ellen Hudson widow. Effects £299 19s. 6d. Resworn £724 19s. 6d.

HUDSON Leslie of 52 Bonner-street Bethnal Green **Middlesex** died 21 July 1932 at the Marie Celeste Annexe Beech-road Reigate Surrey Administration **London** 6 October to Leah Norris Hudson widow. Effects £389 7s. 5d.

HUDSON Lizzie Welsteed of 5 Mayville-road Ilford **Essex** (wife of George Carr Hudson) died 30 March 1932 Administration **London** 29 April to the said George Carr Hudson retired engineer. Effects £450. Resworn £580.

to disappear under cultivation, as in the case of the Cabbage and the Turnip.

September 16th.—A pamphlet published by the United States' Agricultural Department gives some particulars about woolly aphis, or American blight. It appears in two forms—one above ground, usually attacking first a wounded limb, and often killed by severe frost, the other on the roots, on which it causes swellings. The former may be destroyed by the application of paraffin, or any good insecticide, but the latter is more



Mr. J. Hughes.

difficult to deal with, because of its position. Hot water, very nearly boiling, has been tried with success, and is said not to injure the roots of the tree. Tobacco powder is also recommended. If any suspicion is entertained of freshly-purchased young trees, the roots should be immersed in a strong solution of soap before planting. It is stated that strong, well-established trees are seldom, if ever, attacked, the danger period being the first year. The best preventive is good cultivation, and ladybirds should be encouraged, as they prey upon the aphides.

September 17th.—The weather of the last few years seems to have suited Yuccas; they have certainly been flowering with unusual freedom. They are exceedingly handsome objects when well grown, and in rich, light soil they make fairly rapid progress. They may be increased by taking off and planting the offsets, and pieces of the thick, fleshy roots, if placed in sandy soil in heat, will also grow. In a dry summer, Yuccas often suffer a good deal, for the common practice is to plant them on a lawn, and afterwards leave them to take their chance. They should be thoroughly watered occasionally, and the ground around them should be top-dressed in autumn.

H. C. Davidson.

Yucca recurvifolia.—Those who believe that the Yuccas require a hot and dry season to enable them to flower freely the following year must be surprised to see this plant throwing up such beautiful spikes after the cold and wet season of 1903. The Yuccas are really Lilies of sub-aboreal aspects and character, and their flowers have the habit of opening wider at night or during dull, moist days than they do in the hot sunshine. Y. recurvifolia is one of the largest-growing and best of all the hardy kinds, clumps of its stems often growing six or eight feet in height, with great spikes fully five feet in height, towering over their heads of drooping dark green leaves.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 155.—Mr. John Hughes, at the Gardens, Twyford Lodge, near Winchester.

The experiences of Mr. John Hughes, the head gardener at Twyford Lodge, are exceptionally interesting. Coming from Mid-Wales to Hampshire, in November, 1901, when Mr. A. P. Ralli bought his pretty estate in the old village of Twyford, near Winchester, he has practically, in less than three years, created the gardens as they now are. The nature of the great changes which have been carried out under his auspices will be seen from the account of my visit. It is rather remarkable that a man who had previously spent most of his time in the Principality should so speedily make a name in the South of England, not only as a gardener, but also as an exhibitor. For example, at the show of the Winchester Gardeners' Association, in August, Mr. Hughes took nine first prizes, three seconds, a third, and the silver medal. But he did not mention his success as an exhibitor until we had been round the gardens. It being a very hot afternoon, we commenced with the shady walk adjoining the side entrance, which leads to the new part of the lawns. Here there has been planted a rockery with such varieties of herbaceous favourites as Campanulas, Solomon's Seal, and large Periwinkles.

"This and the walk are amongst the additions made since I came," said Mr. Hughes, in reply to my inquiry.

"And the fine bed of Cactus Dahlias?"

"Yes. There are upwards of a hundred plants in the bed. The best are Allison, Ida, F. A. Wellesley, Manxman, Eva, Mary Farnsworth, Clarence Webb, Ella, Mrs. Duston, Mrs. Clinton, and H. J. Jones. The other varieties are Mrs. Frances Tell, Mrs. A. Peach, Countess of Lonsdale, Archie, Daffodil, Lady Penzance, Magnificent, Captain Broad, Mrs. Turner, Ruby, Cycle, Keynes' White, Bridesmaid, Exquisite, and Gloriosa. The herbaceous border on the lawns of the pleasure gardens was made at the same time as the Dahlia bed."

"Have you any idea of the dimensions of the Tulip tree?"

"It is fifty-seven feet through. The variegated Sycamore is about forty-seven feet through."

"What about the Wellingtonia gigantea?"

"The height is seventy-five feet, and it is sixteen feet round the stem."

Here we approached the flower garden, which is another addition since Mr. Ralli bought the property. It contains eighteen beds and four vases, and I asked for the names of some of the varieties.

"Geraniums, Begonias, Coleus, Abutilons, Heliotropes, Fuchsias, Lobelia cardinalis, and Alternantheras. All the creepers have been trained on the walls since the beds were planted."

"Have Begonias taken the place of Geraniums to any considerable extent?"

"They stand the rain better, and they are not so much trouble as Geraniums. The varieties of the latter include West Brighton Gem, Crystal Palace Gem, Mrs. Pollock, and Flower of Spring. The herbaceous border in the flower garden was formerly dead trees. It includes Hollyhocks, Phloxes, Marguerites, Helianthus, Gypsophilas, Poppies, Gladioli, and Michaelmas Daisies. We do not go in largely for Hollyhocks. A few of the mixed varieties were put in two years ago."

"You have a number of arches formed of Roses and Clematis at the end of this garden?"

"Half a score. The Roses are chiefly Crimson Rambler."

There is a descent down some steps from the flower garden to the house, which dates from 1664, but has been admirably renovated by the present owner. The bed at the east side of the house contains Geraniums, Lobelia cardinalis, blue Salvias, and a few Eucalyptus plants. Entering the handsome conservatory, the Plumbago in flower at once attracted my notice.

Twyford Lodge, Winchester, from the Lawn.

"You have some notable specimens of trees on the lawns?"

"That of the Judas tree is considered very fine; also the old Oaks and Beeches."

It is the great feature on the back wall, and was flowering luxuriantly.

"We are going to bed out Plumbago next year," said Mr. Hughes. "It is easy to grow,

and I think that it will prove a success. When we came here there were only the bare walls of the conservatory, and, of course, all the staging has been done since. As you see, Hydrangeas, Begonias, Asparagus Sprengeri, Palms, and Crotons—the Crotons are seedlings—are among the contents, and at the other end are Tropæolums and Heliotropes. There are also a number of Cannas, and several plants of Celsia cretica, with a small yellow flower."

"The walls of the house seem to be covered chiefly with Roses?"

"And Ivy. The Roses are Banksias (white and yellow), Crimson Rambler, and Globe d'Or."

"I conclude that the gardens have been considerably enlarged since you came?"

"They are about twice the original acreage, which was two and a-half acres. The herbaceous border at the end of the lawns is another addition. It includes Dahlias, Hollyhocks, Montbretias, Gladioli, Columbines, and the Poppy Victoria Cross, so-called because of the cross."

"Are the croquet and tennis lawns additions?"

"Yes. They are both full sized, sixty yards by forty."

"How did you manage to get such a beautiful sward in such a short time?"

"I relaid all the turf last winter, putting also a hundred and twenty cartloads of ashes and fine soil two inches thick on the top. Elm trees had to be cut down to make the lawns."

"Then, there is the Rosery?"

"The Rosery was Mr. Ralli's own design. There are standards in the centre, and bushes all round in the beds."

"You must have a great many varieties?"

"The best, I think, are Caroline Testout, Anna Olivier, Niphetos, Duchess of Albany, Merveille de Lyon, Marchioness of Downshire, Madame Lambard, Viscountess Folkestone, Lady Roberts, Souvenir de S. A. Prince, Mrs. Edward Mawley, Bessie Brown, Souvenir de Pierre Notting, Maman Cochet, Mildred Grant, and The Bride. The climbers include Gloire de Dijon, Thalia, Reve d'Or, and Bouquet d'Or."

The River Itchen, famous for trout, runs at the end of the garden; the new bridge over it and the new walk by the side are distinctly an improvement. On the way thither we passed another herbaceous border, of which a feature was the quantity of ornamental Thistles; and, subsequently, before we came to the first of the kitchen gardens, an outdoor Fernery; also a little garden sacred to Miss Ralli, a young lady of twelve, consisting of four little rockeries, an ornamental vase in the centre, and Roses, Geraniums, Lobelias, and Stocks in the beds. Close to the first kitchen garden is a small fruit garden, which was a swamp when Mr. Hughes took charge, but now contains Apple trees and Gooseberry bushes. On the right of the kitchen garden itself are about three hundred plants of Violets (Double White, Fred Palmer, and Marie Louise). Black Currants and Gooseberries (netted) are a feature.

"What are your varieties of Black Currants?"

"Ogden's, Baldwin, and Black Naples. The Red Currants are Red La Hative, Raby Castle, and Red Dutch. The White are White Transparent and White Dutch. We grow about ten varieties of Gooseberries—Crown Bob, Champagne, Lancashire Lad, Warrington, Whitesmith, Conquering Hero, Keepsake, Viper, Moreton Hero, and Golden Drop."

"I see that the Pear trees on the top walls are all horizontally trained."

"This is the first year we have had fruit on them. Our Pears include Marie Louise, Beurré Bosc, Colmar d'Ete, Chaumontel, Williams' Bon Chrétien, Bergamotte Heinsbourg, Conference, Doyenné du Comice, Jargonelle, Beurré Superfin, Pitmaston Duchess, Winter Nelis, and Marie Benoist."

"There are Plums and Cherries on the bottom wall," continued Mr. Hughes, "and some French Apples. The Cherries are Black Tartarian, Early Lyons, Monstreuse de Mezel, Early Rivers, Noir de Guban, and Morello; the Plums, Victoria, Kirke's, Jefferson, Reine Claude de Bavay, Early Transparent Gage, Denniston's Superb, Diamond, Elton, Greengage, Monarch, Grand Duke, and Magnum Bonum."

"I should like the names of the leading Apples."

"Here are a few:—American Mother, Newton Wonder, Lane's Prince Albert, Small's Admirable, Worcester Pearmain, Cox's Orange Pippin, Beauty of Hants, Allington Pippin, Bismarck, Norfolk Beaufin, Duchess of Oldenburg, Warner's King, Ecklinville Seedling, Stonehenge Castle, Charles Ross, Blenheim Orange, Lord Derby, and Tower of Glamis. The Apples have all been planted since 1902. Both Apples and Plums are grown on the north wall."

Passing a splendid bed of Lilies of the Valley, about five feet wide, and twenty-four long, we paused to look at some promising Onions.

"They are Toogood's Champion," said Mr. Hughes. "We have several of Clibran's Peas, including Captain Cuttle, Triumph (a Pea of which we boil the pod), Early Pod, and Prince Edward. Also, we grow Walker's Perpetual-Bearing Pea, and Peerless. There are good breadths of Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli, and Winter Kale."

"You have the Northern Star Potato?"

"Yes, two rows. Other varieties are Main Crop, Longworth, Red Nero, Sir John Llewellyn, Duchess of York, Cigarette, Sharpe's Victor, Ringleader, Sutton's Perfection, The Bruce and King Edward the Seventh. Sir John Llewellyn is, I think, the best."

We then proceeded along a pleasant walk to the second kitchen garden, passing the Chrysanthemum ground, which Mr. Hughes had to make.

"The plants in the pots look thriving," I observed. "How many do you grow?"

"About three hundred. The Japanese include George Penford, Lady Acland, Miss Mildred Ware, Mrs. A. R. Knight, Viscountess Cranborne, Charles Penfold, C. Jarvis, General Buller, General Hutton, Lady Roberts, Mrs. Ludlow, Mafeking Hero, Master C. Seymour, Miss Alice Byron, Miss Lily Mountford, Mrs. F. S. Vallis, Mrs. Barkly, Mr. F. S. Vallis, Mrs. G. Mileham, Mrs. T. W. Pockett, Mrs. J. C. Neville, Snowdrift, W. R. Church, and Mrs. Greenfield."

"What do you grow in the frames?"

"We have nine of the Salvia leucantha, puce colour, with a pure white lip. The splendens variety is grown in pots. Also in the frames there are between twenty and thirty pots of Cyclamen; and four lights full of Primulas and Cinerarias."

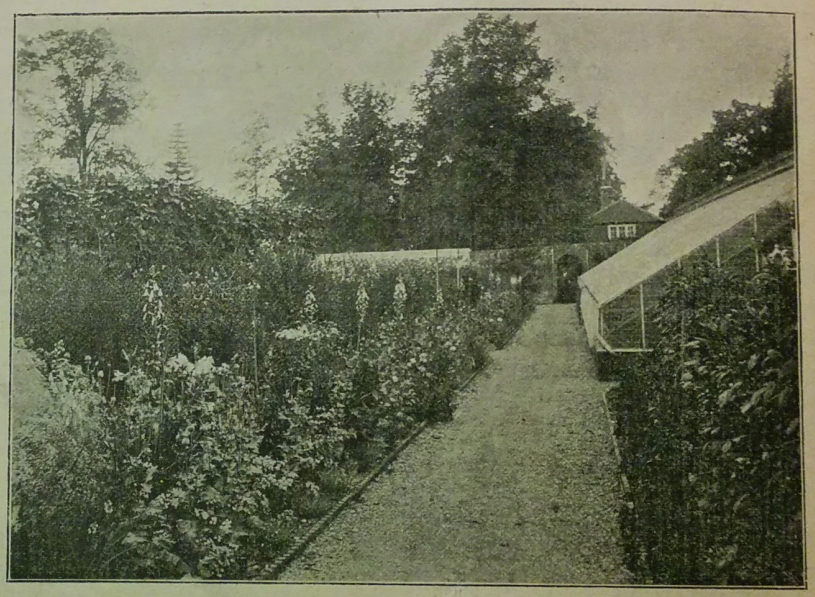
In the first of the two new greenhouses, which are in the kitchen garden, Palms, Crotons, Ferns, Acalypha Sanderii, Coleus thrysoideus (about a dozen plants), Strobilanthes, and Dracænas (in four varieties) are on the stage, while on the back wall are Geraniums, Clerodendron Balfourii, Asparagus Sprengeri, and Bougainvillea Sanderii.

"When was the new Vinery planted?" I inquired.

"Twelve months ago last March. The Vines here include Bowood Muscat, Muscat of Alexandria, Black Hamburgh, and Diamond Jubilee. On the wall are Foster's Seedling and Madresfield Court. In the late Vinery we also grow Alicante, Lady Downe's, Black Hamburgh, Mrs. Pearson, Muscat of Alexandria, and Mrs. Pince."

"You have Melons in the stove?"

"The varieties are Windsor Castle, Ringleader, and W. Tillery. The Crotons include Mrs. Clibran, Reidii, and Warrenii. There are upwards of a dozen Caladiums on the lower stage, and Calanthes on the shelf above. Only a few Orchids are grown."



A WALK IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN AT TWYFORD LODGE, WINCHESTER.

"What is your favourite Cucumber?"

"I prefer Telegraph. This season I have cut as many as six or seven in a day. In the frames adjoining this house we have seedling Gloxinias, double Primulas, Bamboos, Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, and about forty Poinsettias."

"When did you begin to grow Kalanchoe flammea?"

"We bought it last spring. I had one little plant only, and propagated it. There are now ten plants. Quite a new plant, of which you see one in bloom, is Rheymania acalatur. It was in flower for the first time at the Temple show, in May. I should describe it as between a Foxglove and Gloxinia. We have nine in pots. It is easy to grow. I put it in the frame in May."

"How many Carnations do you go in for?"

"There are about two hundred. The best for inside are Raby Castle, Reynolds Hole, Annie Laurie, Helene Lacey, Mrs. Flight, Countess Verulam, Magdalen, and Bertha Nuttall. Outside we grow Lord Justice, Rayon d'Or, Bendigo, Blushing Bride, Bomba, Don Juan, Hidalgo, Lady Hindlip, Mrs. C. Baring, Mrs. Prinsep, Sappho, Daniel Defoe, Erasmus, and Glee Maiden."

"Has this garden been recently altered?"

"It has been remodelled since Mr. Ralli came here. The herbaceous border facing the Peach house, with Sweet Peas at the back, is quite new. Poppies have been a great feature of the border. There are six beds of splendid Asparagus."

"What varieties do you grow in the Peach house?"

"Hale's Early, Early Alexander, Bellegarde, Dr. Hogg, Gros Mignonne, Royal George, Early Alfred, and Noblesse. The Nectarines are Lord Napier, Early Rivers, and Violette Hative. Plumbago is grown on the top of the house for show. There are also two or three Peach trees on the wall."

"How about Strawberries?"

"We have only put in four rows, Royal Sovereign, President, Dr. Hogg, Mentmore, St. Antoine de Padoue, and The Laxton. The Raspberries are Baumforth Seedling, Superlative, Antwerp Red, and Antwerp Yellow."

From the second kitchen garden we proceeded to the drive to the lodge, which is planted with various shrubs on either side. There are trees on the right, including a fine Copper Beech; and then, having inspected a pleasant, shady walk, planted with rockwork, Ferns, Nasturtiums, Campanula major and compacta, and Aubrietias, we finished our chat in the cottage where Mr. Hughes himself resides.

"I should like to know a little about your Welsh experience," I said.

"It has all been gained in the employment of two families. I was at Glandwr, Llanidloes, from 1878 to 1887, and afterwards at Tynygraig, Builth Wells, from 1887 to November, 1901, first with the father, and then with the son. I made the gardens at Tynygraig."

"Did you show much before you came South?"

"Yes, a good deal, particularly at Llanidloes, in fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Here I commenced showing in 1902, and won first at Twyford for Grapes and table plants. Subsequently, I was awarded first for groups of plants, and for Sweet Peas. I have also taken firsts at Southampton, Hursley, and Winchester."

"Do you find that the conditions of gardening differ materially in the South of England from those in Mid-Wales?"

"Roses and Peas were better in Wales than they are here, though they were later in coming. Apples thrive more at Twyford, but they must be kept off the chalk. I was with Mr. Ralli when he rented Tynygraig, and came with him here when he bought this estate."

Alfred Wilcox.

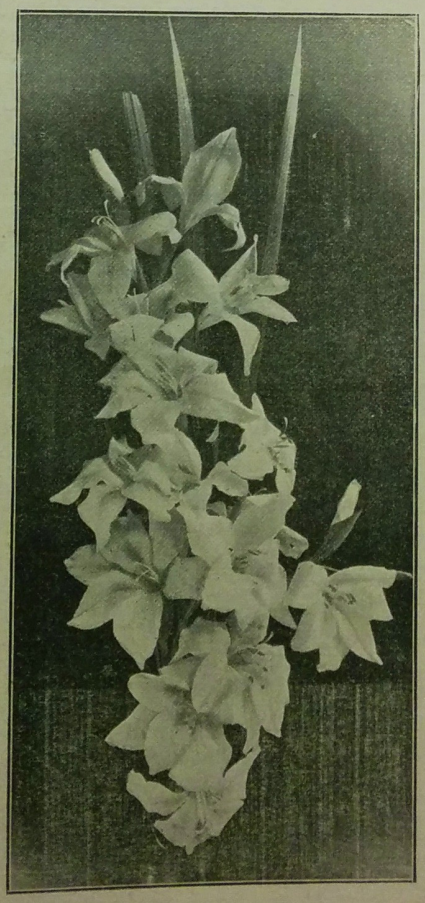
Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 112.—GLADIOLI IN WINTER AND SPRING.

Dear Kate,—Do you grow plenty of Gladioli? If not, why not? as the advertisements say. No other flower is more desirable at this time of the year, for their tall spikes of colour quite light up the garden, especially those of the Brenchleyensis Gladiolus, which is so inexpensive as to be within the reach of all. This is the late-flowering, bright scarlet one, which is quite hardy, and may be trusted to increase and multiply itself in a fairly dry, sunny border; only needing to be taken up and replanted once in two or three years, when the bulbs become too thick in the soil.

Then, there are the exquisite shades of all manner of salmon-pink, rose-colour, scarlet, apricot, and deep crimson to be found in the Kelwayi Gladioli, which seem to get more magnificent every year. Eugene Sandow is the name of one of the finest, in rich salmon-pink, with an enormous double spike of bloom. This is the flower in the centre of the group on page 457, Christine Kelway, on the right, in pale pink, flaked with carmine, having a delicate creamy-yellow blotch; and Dovedale, in blush-rose, blotched with rose-colour on the left, three beauties which can scarcely be surpassed. Quite a novelty is the apricot Gladiolus, Grandeur, a beautiful tall spike, containing a large number of flowers; and Beatrice Kelway, in salmon-pink and white, most delicately shaded, is one of the very best. I prefer these exquisite tints to the deep reds and maroons, but if you like to have these as a contrast, get Vanburgh, an enormous flower in pure scarlet; and Ard Patrick, in crimson-maroon.

We grow Gladioli in pots for conservatory and room decoration, as well as in the garden, for one can't have too many of them, and they are so useful at this time of year, wherever they are. For a balcony, or a verandah, their splendid flaming spikes of colour make a grand show, each set off by greenery and Ferns, when grown separately, each bulb in a 6-in. pot; and, if one had a box full of them, the best way is to cut the flowering spike (not the foliage) as soon as the first bud is open, to adorn the fireplace, or other part of the drawing-room, in a large majolica vase (or even a common jar), with plenty of fronds of the great hardy Ferns, the Male Fern, and the Lady Fern, which, fortunately, abound here in the hedges. If you grow the Kelwayi Gladioli in the garden, you should plant them in March, and after they have bloomed cut off their blossoms, but allow their foliage to ripen off gradually, or you will not get flowers the following season, for it is at that time (*i.e.*, directly after blossoming) that all bulbs set to work to make their fresh buds for the following season, and they must have the use of their lungs (for they breathe through their leaves) in order to do this. When they have quite finished this operation, the bulb is dormant for awhile (tired out, so it goes to sleep), and you can then take it up (at the end of November), hang it up by the dead foliage to dry for a few days in a shed, and then clear the bulbs from the leaves, and put them in a dry, frost-proof place till March comes round again, when they should be planted. Here, as the situation is very sheltered and dry, with a gravel soil, we leave ours in the border when convenient, and they do very well there, forming great groups; but then they are covered in November with a conical heap of fine coal-ashes over their roots, to keep them dry, and we take this off in March, substituting for it a flat mulch of rich soil.



The Bride Gladioli.

We have just been putting in boxes of the early Gladioli for forcing next spring, both of The Bride (pure white) and of Queen of Pinks, in pale pink, and Salmon Queen, a shade darker, all of which are simply perfect for cutting in April, with very little forcing. The Bride Gladioli grow like weeds in my garden, and the corms increase so fast that we are obliged to dig them up every third year, to divide them, as they are then too close to do so well as when planted four inches apart, in a broad patch, making a broad and deep hole, and filling this to within four inches of the surface with rich loam and old hotbed stuff, for they like to have their roots in this. On the top of this we put more gravelly soil, with a little soot intermixed, to receive the bulbs (which might rot if placed in contact with manurial soil), and if they were growing in a colder place, with heavier soil, we should cover them with piles of ashes, in the same way we do the Kelwayi Gladioli; but I find it is unnecessary here, as groups which were accidentally left uncovered one winter, came through it just as well as the rest. They start growth at once, but the foliage becomes dormant in winter, and does not grow after December begins until the spring comes. In a cold district it is better to protect it with a little light covering of bracken Fern, I believe, but here it appears to be hardy.

Many people put in their early-flowering Gladioli too late (even sometimes in the spring!), and then they wonder why the poor things look sad, and fail to produce fine flowers! I expect they feel something like we do when we have been kept out of bed, and have had no sleep for a week. Early Gladioli begin to grow about the middle of September (if left in the ground), directly after the last of their foliage has died away, and it must be terrible to have to exist on a dry shelf for months when you feel you ought to be growing properly. Hyacinths, Tulips and Narcissi suffer in the same way, poor things; and should be planted as soon as they can be procured. We plant our early Gladioli for forcing in boxes about a foot deep and eighteen inches long, with three inches of ashes and crocks at the bottom for drainage, rich soil and manure over these, and purer soil at the top, with charcoal in it, to receive the bulbs, which are put three inches apart, and two inches below the soil. The boxes stand out of doors in the full sunshine until the heavy rains of October threaten to fall, and are then lifted into the cool Vinery; after Christmas they are moved into the warm Vinery, and top-dressed with rich soil, when they grow quickly, and need a lot of water and liquid manure. Before Christmas they have to be kept fairly dry, however.

The Melons are now ripe in the frame, and very good they are. Earl's Favourite is also our favourite, and Hero of Lockinge is an excellent variety. It is odd that so few people grow their own Melons. I think they fancy that it is a more difficult thing to do than it is. Of course, everything depends upon the *petits soins* the plants receive, but anyone who cares to take a little thought about it, and look after the opening and shutting of the frames, the watering with warm water, and the top-dressing, pinching, and fertilising, themselves, will find it very interesting and satisfactory to cut their own Melons for dessert. Though not often so large

directions, and the paths in many places were thickly covered with moss. I have, therefore, just had it applied a second time, and now weeds and moss have disappeared. I should not hesitate to apply it, if necessary, in the depth of winter, of course provided that the weather at the time was fairly fine. If used during a torrent of rain, it might as well be poured down the drain at once, for that is the destination for which it would make at all speed. There is, indeed, one independent argument in favour of applying weed-killer in winter. Although plants are then using less

MR. W. E. HUMPHREYS.

moisture than in spring, and, therefore, not so likely in the same time to absorb the same amount of the poison, they are enfeebled by severe weather, and are consequently much more likely to be killed by a smaller dose. At any rate, the result in my own case has been quite satisfactory.

December 4th.—Now that water-gardening is becoming so fashionable—chiefly, I fancy, in consequence of the introduction of the very beautiful Nymphæas raised by M. Marliac—there seems to be a danger of overdoing it. I have noticed several ponds which would have been charming had it been possible to "see the trees for the wood." In each case the same mistake was made—far too many things in a small space. It is the old mistake of the old-fashioned posy, which was an attempt to bring together as many flowers as possible, the result being that not one could be seen—that is, seen as it ought to be. There, as here, the endeavour to produce a number of different effects within a small compass ended in producing none, unless confusion can be called an effect. In "Lawns and Gardens," an excellent book by an American landscape gardener, there is a passage referring to this danger. "As a special and important feature of water scenery," he says, "the exquisitely beautiful flowers of pond and stream should be grown in suitable places. But"—and this is my point—"they must never be allowed to cover up the surface, or to form too thick and crowded masses." And then he goes on to mention those that are suitable for the bank, for shallow water, and for the deeper parts beyond. These, of course, should be kept distinct, or only just merging at their edges. They should be selected with care, and, above all, there should not be too many different kinds.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 114.—MR. W. E. HUMPHREYS, AT THE GARDENS, BLENDON HALL, BEXLEY, KENT.

IT was the privilege of Mr. Humphreys to fill for several years the post of head gardener to Dr. Smee, of Carshalton, son of the famous author of "My Garden." As this delightful book indicates, "My Garden" was a most interesting place, almost everything being done in an experimental way, either to find out something fresh, or to prove or disprove fresh theories of Dr. Smee's own, or those of other people. The collection of Orchids, especially of Cattleyas, was very fine, and there were eight hundred varieties of Apples and Pears. The rare and curious in plant life always attracted Dr. Smee's attention, and, as Mr. Humphreys himself said, when I saw him, the other day, at Blendon Hall Gardens, with the courteous assent of Mrs. Jay, the owner, "How could I help being benefited by being always connected with this sort of thing?" The relations between the two men were not those of an ordinary employer and gardener, and it is the interesting testimony of Mr. Humphreys that Dr. Smee told him many things about gardening not generally known, and taught him how to pursue inquiries on scientific lines.

"And how long have you been at Blendon Hall," I inquired, as we started for a stroll round the houses and gardens attached to one of the most charming mansions in Kent.

"I succeeded the late Mr. Moore, who had been here for thirty-three years, twelve months ago, and I felt that, though taking a very onerous post, I was fairly equipped with all-round knowledge. At one time I was in danger of becoming a specialist, but wider experience proved to me the advantage of knowing something of a great variety of subjects."

"I should be glad if you would tell me something of your career before you went to Carshalton?"

"Not liking engineering, for which I was intended, I was apprenticed to gardening, at Firley Park Gardens, Sussex. I left there for Handcross Park, where I worked one year in the Forest and Pinetum, and three years among a grand collection of specimen exhibition plants, first under Mr. Charles Rann, and subsequently under Mr. Offer. Then I had a short spell at Malvern House, Sydenham, among economic plants, subsequently acting as foreman for two years at Elmstead, Streatham, among Orchids and furnishing plants; and, before I went to 'My Garden,' as foreman, under Mr. G. W. Cummins, I spent some time in Messrs. Sanders' establishment at St. Albans."

"Were you foreman at Dr. Smee's for a considerable period?"

"For eight years. When Mr. Cummins left, I became head, and continued to fill that post until the death of Dr. Smee."

"I gather that now you have no special love of any particular class or part of gardening?"

"That is so; but I am very fond of hardy fruit growing, herbaceous plants, and vegetables. Exhibiting I am not fond of, though I have staged exhibits from all parts of the garden, and table decorations. But, beyond a certificate or two, and one or two medals, I have nothing to show for a great deal of effort. At Blendon I find that quality is the chief consideration, though quantity is also important, as for nine or ten months in the year the family are in residence, and, while only three in number, visitors are numerous."

"What is the extent of the park and gardens?"

"The park is ninety acres, and the estate one

AN EFFECTIVE GROUP OF CAMPANULA PYRAMIDALIS.

hundred and twenty. We employ from fourteen to fifteen men in the gardens, some of whom are housed in the bothy. In addition to the gardens here, I have charge of the estate."

Here we paused where potting operations were progressing, and Mr. Humphreys said:—

"We grow about five hundred Strawberry plants, all Royal Sovereign, which, I think, is at once the best early and the best late forcing variety."

"Violets I see you go in for considerably?"

"Yes; our chief wants are something to cut, something to look at, and something to eat; and anything useful in either of these directions has every care and attention. We are giving up The Czar, and almost confining ourselves to the Princess of Wales, because of the length of the stem and the superiority of the colour. Also the Princess of Wales is the best spring-growing Violet. We make rather a feature of the Polyanthus."

"Which do you consider the finest strain?"

"I get the seed from William Laing, of Sutton. We always sow the Polyanthus in autumn, instead of in spring, and we have flowers more or less all through the winter. It is true that sowing in August means that it takes sixteen months to get flowers, instead of twelve. But by this system we get much finer plants, and they are more established to make big spikes of flowers. I adopted it originally because the Polyanthus germinates better in the autumn than in the spring. The dark varieties are the best in this strain. My own opinion is that there is not enough made of the Polyanthus. We have between five and six hundred plants, and get a big patch of colour in the spring."

Entering the houses devoted to Melons, Cucumbers, and Tomatoes, in the summer, I noticed a quantity of Primulas, and Mr. Humphreys remarked:—

"We grow the Primula that stings—P. obconica; but none of our people have been stung by it, and it is a very useful plant. We used to have one colour only, but now there are different shades of the same variety. The other varieties of Primula grown are P. alba plena, Williams' single mixed, and Stellata, which is known, because of its gracefulness, as the Lady Primula. We grow about two hundred Primulas. All our table plants, as you will perceive, are in bowl-shaped pans. This is done in order to keep them as dwarf as possible, as we are limited to a height of nine or ten inches."

"Like a good many others, you grow Humea elegans?"

"It has become popular again during the last three or four years. I once showed eight plants of Humea elegans, fourteen feet high, the stems being clothed down to the ground. They were grown almost in a cool house. A temperature of fifty degrees in the winter is plenty for them, but they must not be stinted for pot-room. These large plants were finished in 14-in. pots."

"How many Poinsettias do you grow?"

"Between a hundred and fifty and two hundred. We depend upon Poinsettias for colour at Christmas, but not upon young plants only. Half of our collection are saved from last year. Poinsettias are not difficult to grow, if they are neither over-fed nor over-watered. Our variety is pulcherrima."

"And your variety of Amaryllis?"

"Reticulata. We grow about fifty of these. Some have thrown up four spikes from a bulb, each spike carrying eight flowers. As some of the pots have three or four bulbs in, they are a grand sight. I do not know of anything to beat Amaryllis reticulata in the bulb line, during September, October, and November. Our treatment is to pot them in February, and grow them until they have finished flowering, in November. Then we rest them till February again. We have had some four hundred flowers from our plants this year. I fancy that the variety is rather scarce."

"Which variety of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine do you prefer?"

"I like the pink better than the white. We grow about two hundred pots. Also we have Begonia Haageana and Madame Carnot. The former, with its pink buds among the whitish flowers, is a very striking plant. We grow about twenty-five varieties of Zonal Pelargoniums, in 'thirty-two' pots—a hundred in all. The best varieties are Improved Raspail (a good double scarlet), Lady Curzon (pink), Snowstorm (snow-white), Golden Rain (indian red), Ben Hope (pink and white), Mary Pelton (very pale pink), Coronation (scarlet and white centre)."

Passing through the kitchen garden, I observed a collection of Cactus Dahlias, and Mr. Humphreys said:—

"We grow the green Dahlia, Viridiflora. It throws up, occasionally, a crimson petal. Other varieties are Hohenzollern (the best buff), Mrs. Crowe (yellow), Red Rover (scarlet), Lord Brassey (pink), and Lord Roberts (white). Lord Roberts is very free-flowering, and whiter than any of the other whites."

"You use the Vineries for Chrysanthemums?"

"At present, and then, when the Vines are started, for forcing all the spring-flowering plants. We grow about a thousand Chrysanthemums, including, of decorative varieties, fifty bushes of W. H. Lincoln, fifty of Mrs. Filkins, fifty of Souveuir d'une Petit Amie, fifty of Mary Anderson (the best white to stand up well), and fifty of Ryecroft Glory. Of the Japanese and Incurved, the bronzes and the yellows are the most useful. Freesias have just come into this house. We keep them out through October. There are about a thousand bulbs. Also in here, for bedding, are about two thousand Geraniums. We try to arrange, when bedding out, so that there are pinks on one side of the house and scarlets on the other, so that both colours cannot be seen at the same time."

"What Grapes do you go in for, chiefly?"

"Alicantes, Muscats, and Black Hamburghs."

"You have two remarkable Fig trees?"

"These two trees have given us a thousand fruit. St. John's fruits in July, and Negro Largo in September. The latter is a very good variety. The trees have been in this mixed house for seven or eight years. They are not trained, but open out. Originally, they were in pots, and they were planted here on a mound of brick. It is necessary to dig a trench round the base of the bricks every year, to check exuberant growth, and put a little mortar-rubbish in the trench."

In the early Peach house were a number of Pompon and single Chrysanthemums, and Mr. Humphreys expressed his regret that Pompons seem to be going out of fashion. In one of the greenhouses there were about two hundred Carnations (Marguerite), and a number of the Tree varieties. I asked which were the best of the Tree.

"The American Tree Carnations have more constitution than any other, and three best of the American varieties are President Roosevelt, Queen Louise, and Mrs. T. W. Lawson."

"Nasturtiums," continued Mr. Humphreys, "grow on the roof. Spitfire is an exceptionally good climber. We cut quantities of the flower; the colour is very good, and they are very welcome occasionally for the table in winter. In the stove we have about forty plants of Calanthe Veitchii, which I hope to increase to a hundred. There are also about a hundred Euphorbia jacquiniæflora, with Crotons, Dracænas, and small Palms, among the other contents of the stove."

"You have more than one herbaceous border, I observe?"

"Yes; we have one about a hundred yards by fourteen, and another, in front of the house, eighty by five. You see that we have some Iris stylosa. It thrives in mild weather in winter, and a little touch of blue at this season of the year in the pleasure grounds is very acceptable. This Iris Mrs. Jay saw in Germany last winter, and liked it so much that I procured a few."

"Which species of shrubs do you find flourish most?"

"Hollies and Laurels. There are a number of big trees of great age in the park, including Sweet Chestnuts, Elms, and Oaks."

"When was the house erected?"

"The original mansion was built about four hundred years ago, and I suppose that the gardens date from that time. The Ampelopsis Veitchii, on the west front, and the Wistaria sinensis on the south front of the house, are very fine. The French Honeysuckle also grows on the walls."

"You have a wide expanse of lawn, and plenty of water?"

"The undulating lawns are four acres in extent, and there are four lakes. We have only the common yellow Lily in the water. It is indigenous. I am trying to get rid of it, in order to make room for good varieties. But, so long as the yellow Lily remains, it is useless to try to grow others."

In the conservatory the feature is a circular ladder stage at the end, and I congratulated Mr. Humphreys upon its imposing appearance.

"That stage has always to be filled," he rejoined. "It is now entirely occupied by the Chrysanthemum Mary Anderson, and its yellow sport, Miss Annie Holden. The latter is not known much yet, but the white and yellow—from fifty to sixty bushes—make a fine mixture of colour. In addition to the contents of the conservatory, there are about a hundred and twenty plants in the hall; also the numerous vases outside have to be filled."

"What are your usual spring-bedding plants?"

"Yellow Alyssums, white Arabis, pink Silenes, and Forget-me-nots, all bedded under Tulips of the shades that suit the flowers. There are also two large beds of Wallflowers, containing about nine hundred plants. The varieties are Belvoir Castle and Vulcan. Rhododendrons, by the way, grow here without artificial aid. The loamy soil, which is absolutely without lime, suits them."

"Then you have a sub-tropical bed. What do you grow in it?"

"Solanum Balbisii, mixed with Perilla Nankinensis. The former has a good flower attached to it. Here we have also Castor-oil plants, various Solanums, Nicotianas, and Cannas."

"We have not said anything about Roses and Border Carnations."

"Roses are quite a feature. We are introducing Hybrid Teas in preference to Hybrid Perpetuals, for continuous flowering. Ramblers will be planted in all directions on old trees, etc. We have about a thousand plants of Border Carnations in seven or eight varieties only."

Among other features is a north avenue of Limes, planted nearly two hundred years ago, and the autumn tints of a fine collection of Azalea rustica, seven or eight feet high, caught my fancy.

"My efforts here," observed Mr. Humphreys, "are highly appreciated, and work is made most pleasant for me. Mrs. Jay is fond of all flowers, but her own particular little garden she likes best to have full of Daffodils and grass, bedged in with Sweet Brier."

"Now, as to the features of the kitchen garden."

"First, I should explain that we are fortunate in having a ploughed field for Potatoes, Cauliflowers, and Broccoli. The latter, especially, do much better than in a garden, owing to more air. As to the kitchen garden proper, we go in for everything that can be used for salads, even for Dandelions. Lettuces are cut every day in the year, a great deal by the aid of frames and shelters. The chief variety is All the Year Round. Of Celery, I prefer Veitch's Solid White. For summer salads we grow Rampion, an Austrian form of Cress. We have also the Italian Corn salad, and Chives, a mild kind of Garlic. Maize is largely grown as a vegetable, the seed always being procured from America."

"I suppose that you had a poor crop of Apples and Pears?"

"The Pears were very thin, but the Apple crop was quite up to the average. I attribute our good fortune to shelter afforded to the trees when they were in bloom. Our best varieties include Bramley's Seedling, Peasgood's Nonsuch

such, King of Pippins, Warner's King, Ecklinville Seedling, Blenheim Orange, King Pippin, and Baumann's Red Winter Russet, the best all-round Apple."

"How were your other crops in the kitchen garden?"

"Strawberries and Gooseberries were fair, but the frost cut the Black and Red Currants when they were in bloom. Of Peas we had an astonishing crop, and were picking in November. Among other varieties grown are Gradus and English Wonder. We picked a nice dish of

SPARMANNIA AFRICANA.

Runner Beans on November 13th. The variety is Sutton's Prize Winner."

"Have you, in spite of your responsibilities here, any time to spare for outside work?"

"I join in discussions at the meetings of gardeners' mutual societies, and have read papers. My idea is that such gatherings do a lot of good. I thoroughly believe in ventilating questions of interest and importance to those employed in horticulture. Finally, I may say, as to systems, that there is no straight line to follow. Adaptability to circumstances ensures success."

ALFRED WILCOX.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 71.—POINSETTIA PULCHERRIMA, AND WINTER-BLOOMING PLANTS.

DEAR KATE,—The Dahlias have blossomed late this year, but they are now quite over, and we have stored them in an airy, dry cellar, covered with sand, for the winter. They can be left in the beds safely here, so far as the dangers from the cold and wet are concerned, if covered with a conical pile of ashes; but their blossoms are poor the next season, and also later than those which we take in, as these are started in the greenhouse in March, keeping the roots half-covered with rich soil, and rather damp, until the shoots are two or three inches long, when we divide the roots into two or three sections, each one having a strong shoot, and several tubers attached to it. The tubers alone will not form shoots, if cut off from the original stem; I have tried them over a hotbed, and, with rich soil, warmth and moisture, they will throw out long rootlets, but they can't manage a real, live shoot, poor things! and it it really sad to have to throw them away after months of endeavour to throw up a green stem. After dividing the roots (in April), we pot up each separately, and grow them on in the Vinery (and then in a frame, to harden them) until the end of May, when each is a fine plant on one stem, with the lower shoots (to the height of eight inches) pinched out. Such Dahlias will bloom all the summer, and the flowers should be of exhibition size, if they are given good loam to grow in, and a mulch of old hotbed stuff in June.

Poinsettias are now very useful—their brilliant bracts come in so nicely in the conservatory just as the Chrysanthemums are dwindling down to only a few late-flowering kinds. They (the Poinsettias) are not difficult to grow if you have enough heat in October and November to make them unfurl their rich carmine floral leaves; but without this they are no use, as the weeks from the end of September till the end of November are their crucial time. They can be bought now, and although they need warmth to blossom they will stand in a warm room for some weeks when once expanded; about the end of January they will drop their leaves, and become dormant, when the plants can be kept stacked (in their pots) on the side, in a warm greenhouse, until the end of April. Then they are taken out, soaked in lukewarm water, and placed in a temperature of sixty degrees and upwards, when they soon throw out little shoots all up their stems. As soon as these are three inches long we cut off as many of them as we want for young plants, each with a little "heel" of the older wood attached, and plant them thickly in small pots of light soil, a mixture of leaf-mould, sand, and charcoal-dust. The pots of cuttings are then plunged to the rim in a hotbed, and shaded from strong sunshine, and they soon begin to throw out roots, when they are potted up singly in "thumb" pots; after a few days of warmth and shading they are put on the top shelf of the warm house, just under the glass, and there they grow very fast, and have to be potted on rapidly, first into 3-in. or 4-in. pots, and later into 6-in. or 7-in. sizes, in which they bloom. Turfy loam, Oak leaf-mould, sand, and some small lumps of charcoal suits them well, and they should have plenty of drainage, firm potting, and careful watering, all through. Every time they are potted on the plants must be kept close and shaded for a few days, but after that they should have all the light and sunshine possible. They do well in a cold frame until the weather gets chilly in September, when they must be brought in at once, and given the warmest position, close under the glass roof, in the warmest house, as I said before. They must always be kept sturdy and dwarf—this is the reason that they want so much light—and we syringe our plants daily, and give them soot-water and Clay's fertiliser twice a week (besides plenty of warm water every day) when they are making their flowers, and certainly they are worth the trouble, for nothing can be more brilliant than they are at present, and it will be easy to decorate the dinner-tables at Christmas with these lovely things. Some of the old plants we cut down to within a foot of the soil, in April, and leave all their sideshoots to grow. These make fine specimens in 10-in. pots, and are treated in the same way as the young plants. One thing I must add—always avoid any injury to the stem of a Poinsettia, as the milky, poisonous juice which exudes is not desirable to touch, and, besides, it weakens your plants to part with it; always sprinkle a pinch of powdered charcoal on the cut when you have to cut them.

This is the time in all the year when the gardener finds it most difficult to keep the conservatory bright. Salvias (especially the bright crimson variety, rutilans, and the lovely sky-blue Salvia Pitcheri) are very useful now, Libonias are covered with their fire-coloured blossoms, Cyclamens are coming on fast, and Arum Lilies are open; so we are not left without anything but Poinsettias. Then, that handsome tree—which will bloom in a small state—the Sparmannia, from South Africa, is covered with white blossoms, each with a bright tuft of crimson and gold anthers in the centre, and it will go on producing its flowers till the end of next March. It has been standing out of doors in a sunny place all the summer, and, as it blooms best when tight in its pot, it only had a shift in the spring. Now we give it quantities of water, and liquid manure twice a week, and in March we shall put in cuttings which take root readily in a moist, shady place, and make good plants, if potted on through the summer, for next season.

A very different, but particularly distinct and pretty plant, which is now in full bloom, is Tremandra ericifolia. At first sight you might take it for a Heath, with bright mauve flowers, but it does not belong to the same order, and is a dwarf shrub from Australia. It needs peat, though, and should be strongly cut back after flowering, leaving only the new growths which start from the base of the plant at that time; it can be potted on at the same time, and should be kept in the greenhouse, to make its fresh growth, all the summer. It is fairly hardy, and should be more often seen than it is, for it is not every flower that is so obliging as to open its buds at the beginning of December, just in time for Christmas. Besides these things, we have quantities of Justicias (carnea) in a lovely shade of pink, which make a good show; then the carmine sprays of Sericographis Gheisbrightii are everywhere, and Heliotrope, Jasmine (grandiflorum), and Freesias (the first bloom of which opened on November 23rd), fill the place with fragrance. Roman Hyacinths, too, are in bloom, adding to the sweet scent of the rest.

Your friend,

I.L.R.

P.S.—I hope you planted out fresh "whips" of Seakale, as I mentioned should be done, on March 7th. If so, you will now have plenty of good crowns for forcing, and the outside row,

TREMANDRA ERICIFOLIA.

with alternate rows in the middle of the Seakale bed, can now be taken up, and packed into loam thickly, in boxes which will go under the staging of the Vinery. Some can be put on the pipes, and some under them; those on the top will come in first, and the lower ones after them. I hope you will remember that they must be kept quite dark, and also moist; a double piece of brown paper over the boxes will be enough, or pieces of wood, so placed as to allow a little air at the sides. You must mind that the roots on the pipes do not get

deserve that epithet if it comes up to the description given by its raiser:—"A new and distinct of Asters, similar to the manner of Cactus-flowered Dahlias, that come true from seeds. The florets are perfectly rolled up, not rolled together, as we can notice this with Ray or Needle Asters. These long and rolled up florets are sitting in a regular manner, fine imbricated to the centre of the flowers." Decidedly a curious plant. In view of the fact that the planting out of Pansies is often deferred until February or March, if not later, some remarks on the subject in the same catalogue are worthy of notice. "To produce a grand display of the giant Pansies," we are told, "and to grow the flowers to full size, sow the seeds from the end of June to the end of August. Prick out the young plants as soon as large enough to handle, on well-manured beds, where they remain to flower. Do not replant in spring; this always causes a shortening of the flowering season and prejudices the development of the single flowers. The plants need no protection in winter. If sown in spring, the flowers will not reach the full size before the end of September, because the hot sunbeams burn the petals before they are grown to full size." The sun's rays are not as powerful in England as they are in Germany, the country from which this catalogue emanates, but the advice is sound, though the conditions are slightly different. I have had self-sown Pansies growing side by side with others which had been planted in spring, and they continued flowering long after the latter were over.

A Hollyhock Disease.

July 27th.—Last autumn I ordered some Hollyhocks, and when they arrived I found them to be rather badly diseased. The affected leaves were picked off, and this was repeated as often as they were noticed when growth recommenced in spring. At intervals, too, a dressing of artificial fertiliser was worked in around the plants, and this produced such a dense mat of roots that it soon became impossible to move even the surface of the soil without injuring them. The result has been very satisfactory, for the plants are almost entirely free from disease.

July 28th.—An avenue of Conifers is a charming approach to a house, but rather difficult to manage. The best way is to plant young trees rather thickly, and to thin out as they grow. Unfortunately, people are usually very reluctant to sacrifice a vigorous tree, and the result is that eventually the plantation becomes a dense jungle in which not a single specimen has a chance of doing well.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Earl of Chesterfield's Gardens.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. W. HUMPHRIES, AT HOLME LACY, HEREFORD.

AMONGST the famous gardens in England, those at Holme Lacy have for many years occupied a foremost position, and, under the auspices of the present Earl and Countess of Chesterfield, they have not merely maintained their charming characteristics, but comparatively recent developments have added to their beauty. I had the advantage of seeing them early in June, when the weather was magnificent, though, as Mr. Humphries, the head gardener, told me on my arrival, it was badly needed in consequence of the cold, sunless spring.

The Stately Yews.

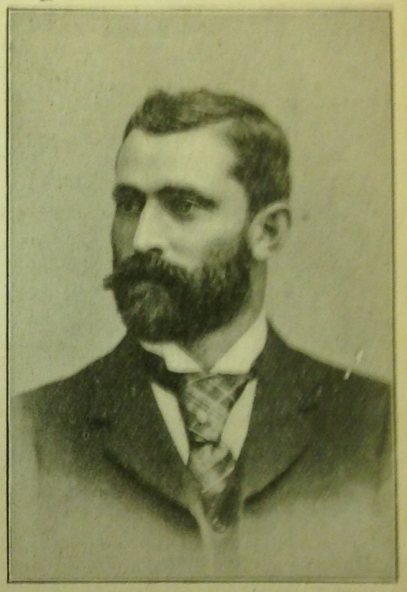
The gardens are about forty acres in extent, and among their numerous features, one which immediately strikes the visitor is the amazing number of stately English Yews, and the admirable manner in which they are turned to account. As we proceeded, first, to the north side of the mansion, I noticed some charming recesses amongst colonies of Yews, and several extremely fine specimens.

"Have you any idea as to their age?" I inquired.

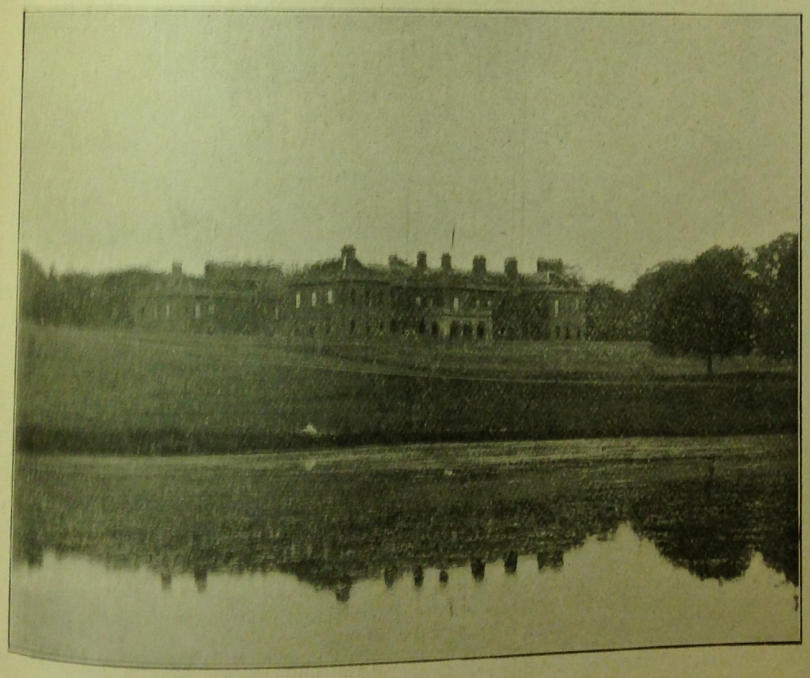
"They may be almost anything from three to seven hundred years old," rejoined Mr. Humphries, "but I believe that, taking the collection as a whole—the Yews on the walls, and the Yew hedges, as well as the noble trees—there is none to surpass it in this country. Holme Lacy has always been celebrated for its Yews, and the utmost care is taken to keep them in the best possible order."

"With the most excellent results. You have also a number of splendid Elms."

"Yes, Elms do remarkably well here. With regard to our lawns, the two acres on the north side are entirely grass, and on the east are the tennis courts."



MR. W. HUMPHRIES.



HOLME LACY, HEREFORD.

"How about water?" I said, as we approached one very large piece.

"We have three lakes, and this is the largest of them. Carp is the principal fish caught in the water."

"What is the length of the Rose hedge in front of the big lake?"

"About a hundred and fifty yards. The single variety is Fellenberg. We think that one colour by the water looks better. This variety will keep on flowering until the frost comes. In the border below the Roses are Irises (Spanish and English). The proper place for Irises is close to the water."

"You have a number of Lilies in the water?"

The Water-Lilies.

"They include the best Marliac varieties, notably the yellow and the rosy-pink. On one side of the lake there are herbaceous plants, and, later on, the reflection of these in the water is very pleasing. You see that, in a shady corner, we have also Arum Lilies in the water."

"Is that a recent experiment?"

"Yes; I have put in three or four, but as they are doing well I shall try two or three dozen. I have also lately started a wall garden here. The plants include a collection of Iberis, Lithospermum, Cerastiums, Aubrietias in variety, and Centranthus. Plants on the wall, I think, brighten the place, and although they require a good deal of attention, they pay for cultivation. In fact, I wonder that wall gardens are not more general. This walk by the lake is called the Sundial Walk, having, on the

other side, the Big Wilderness, while we go through what is called the Little Wilderness on our way back to the terrace. On the banks of the latter, at intervals, is Pampas Grass, planted in clumps."

The Geranium Pyramids.

"On the terrace, which embraces the croquet lawn, I see that you have pyramids of Henry Jacoby Geraniums on each side."

"It may interest you to know that it takes five hundred plants to make up each of the six pyramids. The beds here include Irises, and one of Acers in variety, the groundwork of the latter being filled up with Nicotianas, for the sake of their fragrance."

"What is your system of planting in the Rose garden?"

"We plant for colour and effect, in batches of five dozen. The Yew hedges all round the Rose garden are about eight feet through, and quite one of the sights of the garden. In order to clip the Yew at the entrance, a man has to stand on a platform; it must be quite twenty feet high. Speaking of height, the hedge of Yews close to the Orangery is also nearly twenty feet high. I think they look their best when they are tipped with snow."

"What do you grow on the walls of the Orangery?"

"Gloire de Dijon Roses, Myrtles, the Lemon-scented Verbena, and a very fine piece of Magnolia, which flowers well. The Orangery is now used for storing plants, such as Bays, Pomegranates, and Acacias. The Pomegranates fruit and do well. These, with Agapanthus, are placed in tubs on the terrace in front of the house. Near the Orangery is a fine belt of Scotch Firs and Pines. There are also some notable specimens of Tulip-trees."

The Bedding-out Garden.

Then we entered the bedding-out garden, and Mr. Humphries said,

"We have here about forty thousand plants of different varieties, the object in view being, as in other parts of the garden, to secure a striking effect in colour. For instance, we do not use variegated Geraniums, but go in for special colours, such as pink and scarlet. In the same way, Cannas, Humeas, standard Heliotropes and Fuchsias, Ageratums, and Lobelias are chosen for colour. If we mix the varieties in a bed, we only put in another shade to relieve the dominant colour. There are several beds of Lord Roberts' Heliotropes, and several of scarlet, crimson, and pink Begonias."

"How many Begonias do you put in?"

"Quite three thousand. As you may have gathered by this time, we do not bed white flowers of any kind. In following the principle of growing masses of colour, we keep to pink, scarlet, blue, mauve, crimson, and yellow. One of our features in bedding is the standard Calceolarias. This is my fourth year of growing them."

The Standard Calceolarias.

"They look uncommonly well, and I should like to know your system."

"I strike them in the autumn, and pot them up in the spring, planting fourteen or fifteen in the beds subsequently. They involve a good deal of trouble, but when they are full in flower they are very effective. Round the beds of standards are four beds of dwarf Calceolarias. When we put borders to the beds of standards, we use Beetroot, which is better than Perillas, both because the colour is good, and the Beet requires less attention."

"You use a considerable quantity of Fuchsias. What are the principal varieties?"

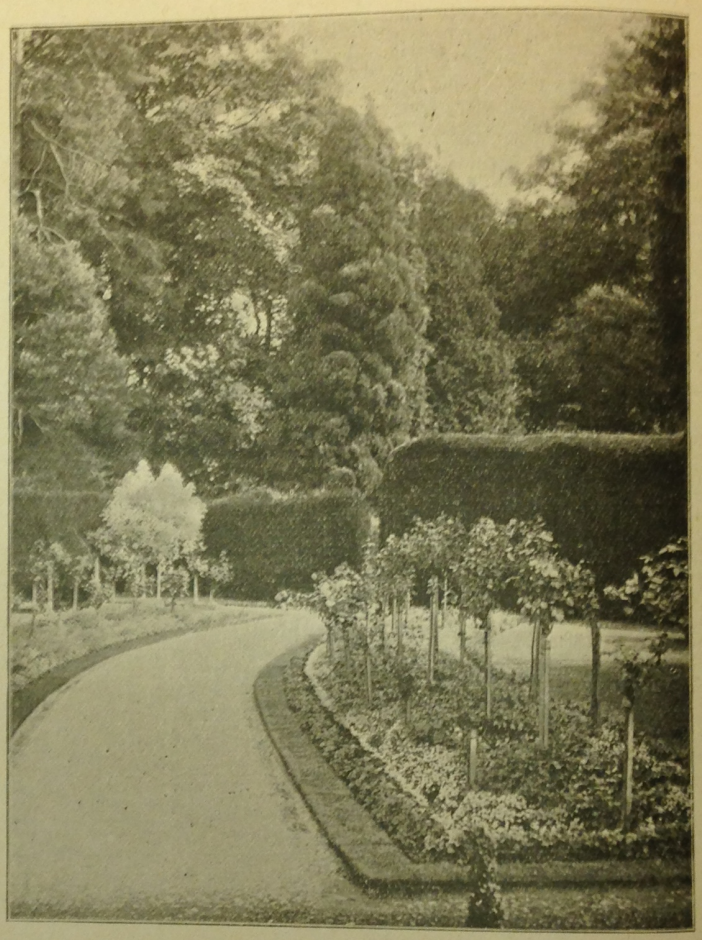
"The three I like best are Tower of London, Mrs. Marshall, and General Gordon; we use the same varieties for dwarf work, and the effect is good. I strike the cuttings of the Fuchsias every autumn."

"Then," continued Mr. Humphries, "we have a reserve garden for perennials, and beyond the reserve garden is the orchard, where we get our best fruit. In the reserve garden we have a collection of Pæonies, embracing all the best singles and semi-doubles."

"How long are your herbaceous borders?"

"The same length as the bedding-out garden—two hundred yards long—with grass down the centre. In the spring there are thousands of bulbs in these borders, and, later in the season, we follow on with Hollyhocks, Sunflowers, Delphiniums, and Lilium tigrinum, filling up with the annuals. We aim to grow the plants six feet high."

We next proceeded to a charming raised bank, approached by grass steps, with a grass path below. There are, on the bank, seven pretty archways and four vases of flowers, and, on one side, a long bank of lovely flowering shrubs, with a path behind, and a Yew hedge.



The Araucaria Garden at Holme Lacy.

The Flowering Shrubs.

"Which of the flowering shrubs do best," I asked.

"Among the best are standard Wistarias, standard weeping Roses, standard Laburnums, standard Brooms, clumps of Rosemary, Grevilleas, Pyruses, Irises, Rhododendrons (Pink Pearl, Mrs. Gladstone, and the Queen), Japanese Pæonies (Queen Alexandra and Baden Powell), three of the best Lilacs (Charles X., Marie Lemoine, and Marie de Grey), Clematis (montana and montana rubra, and several of the large-flowering varieties), a few of the newest varieties of Philadelphus, and a good collection of hardy Ericas."

"You have a very fine specimen Araucaria in your Rose garden."

"We call this the Araucaria garden, because it is a great ornament, although Roses are the principal feature. The latter are chiefly grown as standards in the side beds, and the varieties embrace Boule de Neige, Mrs. Paul, Bridesmaid, Leuchstern, Killarney, Abel Carriere, Souvenir de S. A. Prince, Gloire de Dijon, Clio, Marie Baumann, Helen Keller, Duke of Wellington, Alfred Colomb, General Jacqueminot, and Caroline Testout. Of the last, we plant about two hundred, a similar number of Frau Karl Druschki, and about five hundred China sorts. In addition to the Roses grown here, we have a number of standards in the kitchen garden, including Gloire des Polyanthas, Earl of Dufferin, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, Baron Rothschild, Georges Pernet, Duchesse de Vallombrosa, Merveille de Lyon, Paul Neron, and Princess of Wales."

"With regard to white, you make an exception in the case of Roses?"

"Yes, in the round beds of bushes we have a certain number of white, though pinks predominate; but, to strengthen the colour, we have blue Violas in the borders of these beds. Roses are also trained right along the wire fence facing the Yew hedge. The Rose beds face a mighty English Yew, which forms a companion to the Araucaria. On the high wall in this garden the creepers are chiefly Jasminum, Cratægus pyracantha, Dutch Honeysuckle, Golden Hop, Escallonias, and Myrtles, the garden itself being well sheltered by evergreen Oaks."

"You have Roses also on the gates of the kitchen garden?"

"The varieties are Olga de Wurtemburg,

which grows fourteen feet high, and Climbing Dorothy Perkins, Dundee Siebrecht, Dundee, etc. Before we go into the kitchen garden itself, we might look round outside. On the west wall our Apricots include Moor Park, Hemskirk, and The Kaisha, and we usually get good crops. Plums are grown on the north-east and north-west walls, the principal varieties being Coe's Golden Drop (which is planted strongly), Greengage, Angelina Burdett, Washington, Autumn Compote, Kirke's, and Goliath. After the Plums, I should say Morella Cherries do best on the north wall."

The "Caged" Fruit.

"You find it necessary to grow your bush fruit in a cage."

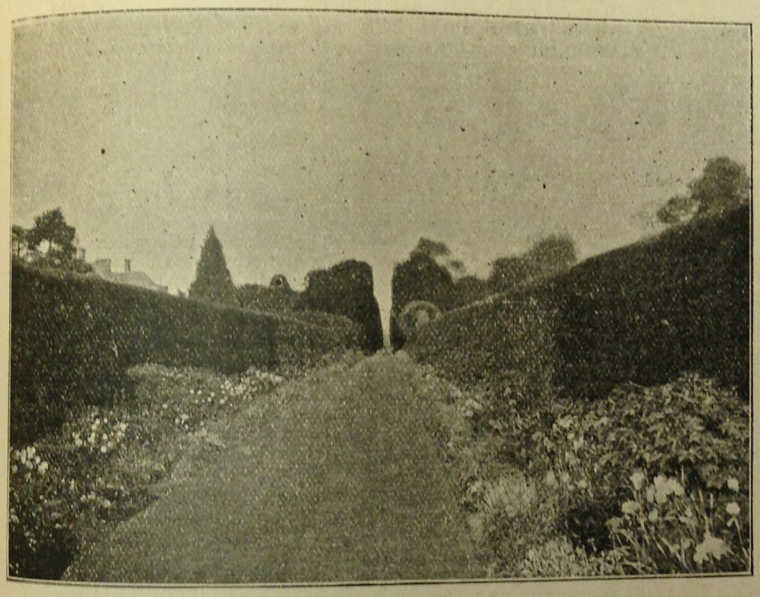
"Very necessary—a cage is much better than netting. We grow here Black Currants (which do not suffer from mite), Red Currants in rows, Raspberries in variety (grown in lines thirty-five yards long), dwarf Cherries, dwarf and standard Gooseberries (the latter being very easy to pick), the Loganberry, and the Japanese Wineberry."

"Pears are, I believe, one of your great pleasures in fruit?"

more than twenty-four. Among the flowers now coming on are Gladioli and Lilium longiflorum giganteum. There are several breaks of Sweet Peas, which are grown in pots and transplanted, each colour being kept separate. We do not grow any mixed, but are careful, in arrangement, to blend the colours. Of the autumn-sown varieties now coming into flower, I think the best are Miss Willmott, Dorothy Eckford, King Edward VII., Salopian, and Lovely. Violets are grown extensively, Princess of Wales taking the lead, and the other varieties include La France, Marie Louise, Luxonne, and Lady Hume Campbell."

"Before we go into the houses, you might, please, indicate the leading vegetables."

"We grow about five hundred yards of Peas, starting with Daisy, The Sherwood, William Hurst, and American Wonder. We follow on with William I., Gradus, Success, Duchess, Fertility, Gladstone, and Autocrat. The early spring-transplanted Onions are Ailsa Craig and Excelsior, and there is a large bed of Leeks in three stages—some planted out, others just sown, and others in use. Speaking generally, however, we have a large quantity of various vegetables of autumn and spring cultivation."



THE HERBACEOUS BORDER AT HOLME LACY.

"We grow nearly one hundred varieties, largely on cordons, planted in pairs of each variety. I suppose our collection is the best in the county."

"Which, then, of your numerous varieties do you specially recommend for quality?"

"Doyenné du Comice, Durondeau, Thompson's, Seckle, Glou Morceau, Madame Treyve, Souvenir Nelis, Marie Louise, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Beurré d'Amanlis, Beurré Superfin, and Bergamotte. On the south-west wall we have a few of the big Pears, such as Duchesse d'Angouleme, Beurré Clairgeau, and Pitmaston Duchess."

"How about Apples?"

"A belt of orchard trees, chiefly Apples, surrounds this garden, and the best dessert varieties grown include Cox's Orange Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Allington Pippin, Washington, and Cornish Gillyflower."

"You have a fine display of Poppies in the kitchen garden."

Flowers in the Kitchen Garden.

"Yes, they are very showy. Our system of planting flowers in the kitchen garden borders is to have batches of not less than eighteen or

As we went into the plant houses, I inquired if the Strawberries are forced, and Mr. Humphries replied,

"No, we only grow them outside, the varieties being Royal Sovereign, Dr. Hogg, and Waterloo. They are grown on the three-years' system. Figs fruit out of doors without any cover, Brown Turkey being the best variety."

"When did you begin cutting your Malmaisons?"

"Early in May. This house is entirely devoted to them, and I think it is absolutely essential to exclude other plants; they want all the air they can get, and they need a temperature of fifty to fifty-five degrees. The varieties include Maggie Hodson, Mrs. Trelawney, Soulte, Monk, Sir Charles Freemantle, and Mary Measures; Princess of Wales is also grown in large quantities, as we use it very much for decoration, and other varieties are Mrs. Torreys and President McKinley."

"In the other plant house you have a number of standard Geraniums."

"Yes, scarlet and pink, also Amaryllis and Gladioli (The Bride, Peach Blossom, insignis, and cardinalis). Peach Blossom is the newest variety, and exceptionally lovely. Then we grow standard Azaleas in quantity, Clerodendron fallax, from four to five hundred Poinsettias, and Begonias Gloire de Lorraine and Gloire de Sceaux. We get bigger blooms of the latter from young plants."

"As we passed along, I noticed a blaze of scarlet in one of the houses."

"You mean the Cannas, which I grow to stand out on the terrace. The variety is Alphonse Rouvier."

"I should like to know how you grow them in order to gain such magnificent spikes of flowers, and such beautiful foliage."

"They are grown in tubs, and planted in loam, with leaf-mould sprinkled on. I do them well, and give them a good rest in the winter. They are put out on the terrace in June, and will stand there till October. I suppose they are seven feet high. I grow twelve of this variety, and I also grow some of Cannell's varieties. But the crimson-scarlet colour of Alphonse Rouvier always excites the admiration of visitors."

The Fruit Houses.

"There remain the fruit houses."

"In the early Peach house we have Royal George and Violet Native, with Lord Napier Nectarines. These trees are from ten to twelve years old, and we get a wonderful colour on the fruit. In the orchard house we have Barrington, Hale's Early, Noblesse, and Amsden June. The Vineries consist of two houses, in one of which we grow Madresfield Court, Black Hamburgh, Duke of Buccleuch, and Foster's Seedling, and, in the other, Muscats of Alexandria and Cannon Hall Muscats. There are no outside borders."

"Do you get Cucumbers all the year round?"

"Yes; the only variety we grow is Telegraph. The Melons are Hero of Lockinge, Blenheim Orange, Earl's Favourite, and a green-fleshed seedling of our own of very good flavour. We grow several varieties of Tomatoes, including Ham Green Favourite, The Polegate, Frogmore Selected, Perfection, and Dickson's Golden King."

"With regard to showing, I think you have gone in rather strongly for Roses and Pears?"

"I have shown Roses at the Hereford and West of England Rose Society's Show at Hereford for four years in succession; and, as to fruit, I took the challenge cup given for a collection of hardy fruit at Birmingham. I have also shown fruit at the Hereford Autumn Show, and five years out of six I have obtained the champion prize for a collection of twenty-four varieties of Pears."

"Where did you gain your gardening experience?"

"I commenced gardening under Mr. Braund—a friend of my father's—at the Earl of Courtown's, for a period of three years. I then went to the Earl of Wicklow's for three years as journeyman. I was also at Dickson's, of Chester, for three years, in the glass department, besides Sir John Hardy's, Lord Newborough's, Mr. Albert Wood's, and Mr. Thomas Pilkington's, Knowsley Cottage, Lancashire, from which latter place I came here."

"And that was some time ago?" I queried.

"Nine years. You may like to add that Lord Chesterfield opens the gardens to the public every Thursday in July and August, but Americans come here to see them at various times, and are always welcome." ALFRED WILCOX.

IN most parts of the country, Shallots, where planted fairly early, will now be ready for harvesting. Pull them up, let them lie in the sun for a day or two (if the weather is fine), and then store them in a cool, dry place indoors.

WHEN giving liquid manure to plants of any kind, whether in pots or the open ground, always vary the character of it as much as possible, and do not omit to give at least one dose of pure water between each two of the other. The soil should be moist—not dry—when the liquid is given.

The Gardens of the Duke of Marlborough.

INTERVIEW WITH

MR. G. HUNTER,

BLENHEIM PALACE.

THANKS to the liberality of the Duke of Marlborough, tens of thousands of English people, and people of other nationalities, are familiar with the beauties of Blenheim Park, which is freely thrown open to the public at all periods of the year. Its vast size and its splendid trees impress it on the memory of all who have been inside the gates. Blenheim gardens, which I visited before the dawn of spring, cover nearly a hundred and seventy acres, and possess many natural charms, which have been enhanced by the care and attention given to them at different periods. Just now, under the charge of Mr. George Hunter, they are in admirable order, and recent important additions, under his auspices, have increased their attractions. The first of the features which claimed my notice was, of course, the historic French garden east of the magnificent palace.

Bedding in the French Garden.

"This garden," said Mr. Hunter, as we stood on the terrace above, in order to obtain a full view, "must be in flower in July. Practically it will be a sheet of white and blue this summer. That is to say, all the four large beds will consist of single white Begonias and blue Violas. In the side borders are blue Heliotropes, mixed Cannas, Gladiolus, Hydrangeas, and Liliums in variety, edged by white Alyssums, while at the corners are clumps of Lilium longiflorum—ten clumps in each of the four pieces of the setting.

"You must use an enormous number of Begonias and Violas?"

"About six thousand of the former, and five thousand of the Violas, of which the variety is Sir Robert Puller, sky blue."

"Are there Lilies in the pond with the fountain in the centre?"

"Yes, all the newest, namely Nymphæa zanzibariensis (dark blue), N. alba candidissima, N. capensis, N. gracilis, and N. macrantha. The twelve pots on the terrace are filled with Hydrangeas and Lemon trees, and in the box on the terrace stairs are Hydrangeas, Lilium giganteum, and Campanulas carpathica alba."

"The Golden Yews are a great feature?"

"There are seventeen in various shapes, chiefly peacocks, dogs, and hens. In the conservatory, where the Hydrangeas, to come outside in June, are resting, are also Orange trees, and Bays, which stand round the north front of the Palace on the verandah."

The Wild Flower Garden.

"What is the extent of the vast lawn in front of the Palace?"

"Twenty-five acres. As you see, there is no bedding to be seen on the south side, but a new feature beyond the French garden is a wild flower garden which was made out of the grass in the spring of 1909. There are thirty beds of different sizes and shapes, and they are so planted and arranged that in the flowering season, from the middle of July to the end of September, the ground appears to be covered by them. The grass is allowed to grow full length, and to remain until the end of the season."

The Varieties.

"Are the beds limited to one variety in each?"

"They were last year. But this year I purpose adding herbaceous plants, such as Phloxes in variety, putting each two feet apart, and sowing between them Shirley and Cardinal Poppies. They are very effective. Other beds will be planted with Delphiniums, but care will be taken not to use tall-growing varieties. Two fine varieties for the purpose are D. sulphureum (light blue, three feet high), and Sutton's Queen of the Blues (eighteen inches). These will be

Mr. George Hunter.

seen just above the grass in one of the second line of beds. For the front beds, which I make of one distinct colour, Godetias are marvellously good. All varieties are from a foot to eighteen inches high. One bed will be filled with Duchess of Albany (white, one foot high), the next bed in the same line rising to eighteen inches, and falling to a foot in the centre. This looks more like Nature's work, especially at a distance. Double Rose is a splendid variety, and grows two feet high. Gypsophila elegans, eighteen inches high, planted throughout the beds with Godetias, greatly helps to improve the effect."

For the Background.

"Do you use any Larkspurs?"

"They are most valuable for the large beds. The Stock-flowering grow three feet high, and Emperor two feet. Linum grandiflorum rubrum is nice for a front bed, one foot high, and Lupinus mutabilis, blue and white, three feet high, is also useful. Other particularly useful plants are Lychnis chalcedonica (three feet high), Malopes (white and red), and Nigella Miss Jekyll, which gives abundance of flower, and stands well throughout the season. For the background, Sunflowers, Sutton's Giant and Earliest of All, varying in height from four to six feet, are really effective—the large yellow, clustering heads are dazzling in the distance."

"What about Sweet Peas?"

"I have beds of Sweet Peas in front of the Sunflowers, including King Edward VII. and Gladys Unwin. The varieties are never mixed. I have a bold clump of white, another of scarlet, a third of pink. Between each is a bed of blue flowers, such as Anchusa italica (Dropmore variety); and by this method the natural appearance is obtained. For the same reason, neither tall Sweet Peas nor Sunflowers are staked."

"It is impossible," continued Mr. Hunter, "to have too many Poppies in the grass, so long as separate colours are adhered to. I mean in this instance the grass between the beds. As to the grass itself, after we cut it at the end of the flowering season, we do not cut it again until it has exhausted its growth. This is all we do to the wild garden, and last year it was pronounced a great success."

The Rosery.

From the wild flower garden we proceeded to the Rosery, passing on our way along the side of the famous lake, two miles long, whose banks are clothed with Hypericum and summer-flowering Tulips, of which ten thousand were bedded; a Rose pergola about one hundred yards long, with Roses, Clematis, and Lonicera, while in the distance may be seen the memorial to the first Duke.

"How large is the Rosery?" I enquired.

"About half an acre. There are a dozen beds with three hundred Roses of one variety in each. The varieties used are Captain Hayward, Frau Karl Druschki, Lady Battersea, Anna Olivier, Gruss an Teplitz, Betty, Marie van Houtte, Caroline Testout, Ulrich Brunner, and Baroness Rothschild; there are two beds of some of the varieties. In the centre is a fountain. The Roses on the arch all round are Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Lady Gay, and others of the best. The fencing consists entirely of Ivy and Golden Privet. All the soil for the Rose beds is made up, a quantity of farmyard manure being added to the clay loam."

The Rock Garden.

As we resumed our walk, Mr. Hunter pointed out many grand specimens of Oaks, Beeches, Cedars, Golden Elders, Tulip trees, Cupressus, and Wellingtonias; while, of shrubs, the Portugal Laurels, which grow down to the water near the pretty rustic bridges over the lake, are very prominent. Above one of these is the rock garden.

"This has a very natural appearance," I observed.

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"It has been left as natural as possible. Some of the best varieties are Asters, which are used in quantity; among the Alpines are Asperula nitida, Campanulas in variety, Cyclamen europæum, Gentiana, Erica, Gaultheria, Saxifrages in variety, and Sedums. Ferns thrive here, especially Adiantum capillus veneris, A. pedatum, A. allosorus Crispus, Lastrea filix-mas, and Polypodium vulgare, the evergreen variety."

From another rustic bridge the glorious waterfall can be watched, but this and other charms of the gardens I could only glance at, because I had still so much to see and hear.

Clumps in Herbaceous Borders.

"Herbaceous plants are a great feature," said Mr. Hunter, as we looked in the commodious bothy provided for the unmarried members of the gardening staff.

"What is the length of the principal border?" I inquired, as we approached the kitchen garden.

"A quarter of a mile, and you can imagine that it is no easy task to keep in mind the varieties which are most effective from one end to the other. The clump system is clearly followed, and for back clumps we use Delphiniums, Hollyhocks, Cimicifuga racemosa, Bocconia cordata, Galega officinalis, Hemerocallis disticha, Lathyrus latifolia rosea, and the white variety, tall Asters, tall Sunflowers, Phlox, Thalictrum aquilegifolium, T. glaucescens, and T. Rogersii. These, with Sweet Peas in colours, are most effective. Then there are Roses, which we run up the posts, nine feet high, using the best of the Ramblers. The clumps are planted twelve feet apart, and are most effective."

"Then there are the varieties for the centre of the border and other places?"

"They comprise Potentillas, including Willmottiana, which flowers from July to September; Rudbeckia purpurea (four feet high), and R. speciosa (two and a half feet high); Lythrum in variety, varying in height; Inula glandulosa, and ensifolia (yellow, and very effective); three varieties of Heuchera, two feet high; Helianthus multiflorus (six feet), for back line; Gypsophilas; three varieties of Gaillardias, golden, carmine and yellow, with red centre; Eupatorium purpureum, five feet high and one of the best; Echinops in two varieties, and Pentstemons of the Forbes' strain, which cannot be beaten for border work. Speaking of Pentstemons, we grow hundreds of seedlings, and nothing gives a finer result in the borders."

Favourite Annuals.

"Which are your favourite annuals for borders?"

"Asters, which we keep distinct to colour, white, rose, and blue; the Comet section are prominent. Then there are the Ostrich, with their large, loose, feathery heads; the branching habit makes them conspicuous border plants, and they are unrivalled for table decoration. The dwarf Chrysanthemums, height one foot, are very graceful, and we use a quantity of Zinnias, which ought to be grown more in borders than they are."

"Do you go in largely for Stocks?"

"The Ten-week varieties are very fine, but we find the East Lothian the best, as long as we can get the seed true in colour. Other useful varieties are Alonsoas (twelve inches high), Petunias, Campanulas, Canterbury Bells, Lobelia cardinalis Firefly (most effective), Chrysanthemum maximum (mixed colours, and indispensable), and yellow Sweet Sultans, one to two feet high."

Hardy Fruit.

"How large is the kitchen garden?"

"Eight acres inside the walls, eight acres outside, and an orchard of four acres."

"I should like to have the names of some of your most choice varieties of fruit."

"The best Apples on espaliers are Tower of Glamis, Golden Noble, Cox's Orange Pippin, Lane's Prince Albert, Emperor Alexander; the best Pears, Pitmaston Duchess, Josephine de Malines, Le Lectier, Comte de Lamy, Clapp's Favourite, Beurre Diel, and Beurre Bosc. You see that we have a plantation of Cox's Pippin, which makes an ornamental entrance at one point. It was formerly grass, but I thought that it was worth cultivating, and the sixteen trees I planted last March are doing well."

"Do you root-prune?"

"When necessary. I am a great believer in root-pruning when the growth is getting away too strongly This applies not only to Apples and Pears, but to Peaches and all kinds of hardy fruits"

"You might mention the principal varieties on your walls."

"The Pears are Clapp's Favourite, Williams's Bon Chretien, Thompson, Duchess d'Angouleme, Doyenne du Comice, General Todleben, Glou Morceau, Jargonelle, and Louise Bonne of Jersey I have just planted, on the south outside wall, twenty single cordon Pears; the wall is twenty feet high. The Peaches are Amsden June, Alexander, Noblesse, Gross Mignonne, and Bellegarde; the Apricots, Moor Park, Hemskirk, Large Early, and Royal. The Plums, River's Early Prolific, Belle de Louvaine, Jeffersons, Coe's Golden Drop, Kirke's, McLaughlin, Reine Claude de Bavay, Victoria, and White Magnum Bonum; the Cherries, Arch Duke, Bigarreau, Black Eagle, Black Heart, Late Duke, Morello, Waterloo, Emperor Francis Governor Wood, Knight's Early Black, and Empress Eugenie."

Raspberry Cultivation.

"I notice you have a fine plantation of Raspberries. Any hints on cultivation would be useful."

"I trench the ground well in the autumn, manure heavily, and plant eighteen inches to five feet between the rows. I believe in the espalier system for tying the canes. In November I mulch with farmyard manure, and in the summer plenty of liquid manure is given after the young plants are thoroughly established. Digging between the rows is done before the winter mulch is put on. All suckers that come in summer should be pulled up with the hand; this gives strength to the young canes for the next fruiting season. The old fruiting canes should be cut out as soon as the fruit is gathered and the young canes tied up so that they will get well ripened before winter sets in. After the winter is over, the tops of the canes should be pruned a foot or eighteen inches, according to the growth they have made. By this means the canes break more evenly, and the fruit is much finer. In fact, it is necessary to do this in order to check the sap from running to the top of the shoot, with the result that there are only a few fruiting growths on the top."

"How long does your Strawberry season last?"

"We begin by forcing Royal Sovereign on January 2nd, and outside we follow with the same variety, with Givon's Late Prolific, Keen's Seedling, and British Queen. Our system is to put in young plants as soon as layers can be procured from old plants. The ground is well trenched and enriched with farmyard manure. We plant two feet apart, and I believe in putting out the winter-forced plants to fruit the next season; they yield an abundance of fruit. But now we had better go into the orchard house."

Fruit Under Glass.

"What are your varieties here?"

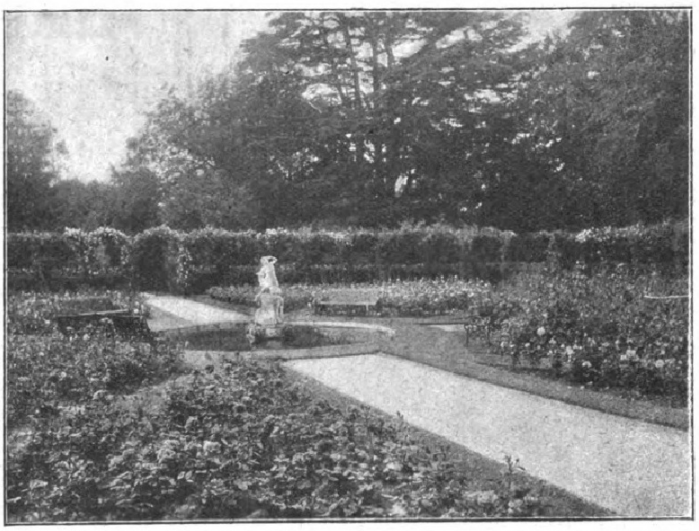
"The Peaches are Lady Palmerston, Royal George, Early Admiral, Early Mignonne, Hale's Early, Stanwick Elruge, and Hunt's Tawney; the Nectarines, Cardinal, Lord Napier, Pine Apple, and Milton."

"Then there are the Vineries, which, I see, have outside and inside borders."

"In one house are Lady Downe's Seedling and Hamburgh; in another, Late Hamburgh; in a third, Muscats; in a fourth, Early Hamburgh; in a fifth, Madresfield Court. No, I have never had any trouble with Madresfield Court, and I am sure that the cracking can be avoided by taking care that the Vinery has plenty of air in favourable weather. Airing is the secret in doing them well. The Figs in pots are Brown Turkey, White Marseilles, Brown Ischia, and Negro Largo. By the way, in the next house you will see a number of French Beans in pots. We have about four hundred, and I hope to gather all the year round."

"What is the variety?"

"Ne Plus Ultra. I only tried it in November, when the outside supply finished. I have been able to cut from six to eight pounds a week in January. We also grow Potatoes in pots in this house. Sharpe's Victor is the earliest, and May Queen the next. We are able to use them at Easter."



THE ROSERY, BLENHEIM GARDENS.

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"Of course, you have large breadths of vegetables of every kind?"

"Yes, all through the year, but I think you will prefer to devote the rest of your time to the plant houses, beginning with Carnations."

How to Grow Tree Carnations.

"You have a great quantity."

"The most satisfactory perpetual-flowering varieties are Britannia, Beacon, Robert Craig, Enchantress, Winsor, Mrs. T. W. Lawson (pink), White Perfection, Lady Bountiful Mrs. S. J. Brooks (white), Harlowarden, and Gwladys (one of the finest crimsons). I take cuttings in December for a batch that flowers early the following November, and in January and February for later flowering. I strike cuttings in silver sand, and keep in a close frame with a temperature of sixty to seventy degrees. Under this process I never lose a cutting. When the cuttings are struck, I pot into small 3-in. pots, and remove forward according to the growths the plants are making. The compost used for the first potting is good fibrous loam, silver sand, and leaf-soil in equal parts. When the plants are removed into 5-in. pots, more loam, according to the strength of the plants, is used. At this stage the plants should be pinched back, and in July they should be removed into 7-in. or 8-in. pots for flowering. We grow under glass all the season, and allow plenty of air to harden the plants up for the autumn. They are moved into the flowering house in September. We cut freely in November, and have a good supply during the winter. The later-struck cuttings come in later, and maintain the general supply through the season. We have no rust here, but during the summer months the plants are sprayed overhead with soft water, and fed with sheep manure and soot-water."

Roses for Forcing.

"You have a fine show of Malmaisons coming into flower?"

"They are chiefly Princess of Wales, and are very good indeed for January. I am striving to have a big patch of Malmaisons to flower this month and in February, and I hope next year to succeed. There are upwards of two thousand Malmaisons grown, and the same number of Trees."

"When do your Roses begin to flower?"

"We start such varieties as General Jacqueminot, Captain Hayward, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, Caroline Testout, Mrs. John Laing, La France, Pharisaer, and Madame Hoste in December, to flower in February; but, owing to so much rain, it has been difficult to ripen the wood of 1909. Of course, we do all our own bedding, and we force about fifteen hundred Roses in pots in this house. To the varieties named, I should add Liberty, which is one of the best for early work. Plants that were budding, and we force about fifteen hundred and promise large quantities of blooms."

"Are there any special points to be observed in forcing Roses?"

"In starting a house, the plants should be examined and top-dressed before putting in pots, if they have not been potted after the flowering season. Another vital point is to keep the temperature, when first started, about forty-five degrees. Weather permitting, it can be advanced after the first fortnight to fifty degrees, and in the second month to fifty-five or sixty degrees. No opportunity of giving plenty of air in bright weather should be neglected."

A Fine Collection of Nerines.

"What sections of Chrysanthemums do you prefer?"

The Rock Garden at Blenheim.

"Singles and large Japanese. A few of the best of the former are Mary Richardson, Miss Emily Wells, Ladysmith, Ruby, Kitty Bonner, and F W. Smith. Some of the favourite Japanese varieties are Edith Jameson, Reginald Vallis, Rose Pockett, George Mileham, Governor McKinley, and Lady Talbot. Before we go into the Orchid house, you might like to hear about our Nerines. They are done well, and we realise from ten to sixteen spikes each pot."

"Do you grow many varieties?"

"Only one scarlet, which is the finest colour, and is used largely in the Palace in pots, banked up with Ferns, for decoration. Nerines begin to flower in August. We have about two hundred plants, and in October and November they are a gorgeous sight. With regard to cultivation after flowering, we keep them in a temperature of about sixty-five degrees, to allow the plants to make growth. In January they are removed to a cool house, and stood up well to the glass, plenty of air being allowed, to ripen the bulbs for next season's flowering. The main secret of success is to let the plants dry up well. We give no water after March, until we require to bring them on again, and in July only sufficient should be given them to plump the buds."

The Orchids.

We next visited the Orchid houses, which are a very great feature at Blenheim, the collection embracing about thirteen thousand plants.

"The collection," said Mr. Hunter, embraces Cattleyas, Lælia-Cattleyas, Odontoglossums, Oncidiums, Miltonias, Cypripediums, Sophronites, Dendrobiums, Vandas, and, above all, the seedling Cattleyas, Cypripediums and Odontoglossums. Good varieties have been purchased of Cypripediums for the purpose of producing fine hybrids, and I suppose there are nearly a thousand seedlings about a year old."

"And all looking remarkably well. Which do you consider the finest varieties in the collection?"

"C. Thalia, Lord Ashtown, Troilus, Lord Nelson variety, Mr. E. V. Low, Earl of Tankerville, Harefield Hall, Mrs. Herbert Druce, Baron Schroeder, Helen II., Rolfæ, insigne Sanderæ (nearly one hundred very fine plants), and many others equally good."

"Then you have a large number of Odontoglossums?"

"There are quite seven thousand Odontoglossum crispums in one house; two or three Xantholes have been flowered, and are very fine varieties. The collection also embraces a number of seedling Odontoglossums. Then there is the house of Vanda cœrulea, which we have in flower during November and December. The cultivation is very difficult, and it requires the utmost care to keep them healthy. This house, with a fountain at each end to make it beautiful, is one of the shows of the place when the Vandas are in bloom."

"Altogether, Mr. Hunter, I must congratulate you on the appearance of the gardens and houses at Blenheim, but, in particular, in respect to the Orchids, which suggest that you have been here a long time, but I believe that you came quite recently."

"I have only been here eighteen months. Previously I was for five years at Gosford Castle, the seat of Lord Wemyss, and for five years afterwards I was foreman to Mr. Cookson, who died recently, but whose collection of Orchids is famous all over the world. I was also five years gardener and Orchid grower to Lord Tankerville, at Chillingham Castle."

"Of course, you have not had much time for showing, but I know that you have already carried off honours with Orchids."

"I have taken several R.H.S. Awards of Merit, and in 1908 I won the Veitch's Memorial Medal at The Temple for a group of Orchids, covering a hundred and fifty square feet. Last year I put up groups at Woodstock, and was awarded a medal for Orchids and miscellaneous plants and fruit. At the Temple Show the same year I showed a group of Tree Carnations with twenty blooms in a 10-in. pot. I hope to show a good deal this year."

Alfred Wilcox.

A new and very distinct species of the popular Begonia is B. dichroa, a Brazilian plant, of which the first leaves produced are blotched with white, while the later ones are dark green. The flowers, of a salmon-orange colour, are produced in large terminal trusses, and are very handsome. This will doubtless prove a valuable addition to the existing list of Begonias. B. "Rose Queen" is a fine form of B. gracilis, and bears a considerable resemblance to the well-known Gloire de Lorraine. Its flowers are of a brilliant rose colour, and the habit of the plant is most pleasing. The third is B. semperflorens "Double Red," which produces fine double blossoms of a cherry-red colour, and is decidedly superior to the old double forms of this plant. Seed of any of the above may be obtained of Messrs. Barr and Sons, King Street, Covent Garden

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Hutchinson, John (1884–1972), *botanist and writer*
by P. S. Green, *rev.*
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Hutchinson, John (1884–1972), botanist and writer, was born at Blindburn Cottage, Wark-on-Tyne, Northumberland, on 7 April 1884, the second in the family of four sons and three daughters of Michael Hutchinson, head gardener at nearby Blindburn Hall, and his wife, Annie Willey. On leaving the village school in 1900 Hutchinson first worked under his father as a garden boy and a year later, to gain further experience, he moved to Callerton Hall, near Ponteland, and then to Axwell Park, Blaydon-on-Tyne, where he attended evening classes in botany at Rutherford College. Later, he attended evening classes at Chelsea and Regent Street polytechnics in London. His abilities as an artist had been noted and encouraged in childhood and he continued to practise drawing and watercolour painting.

In April 1904 Hutchinson moved to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and worked in the arboretum as a gardener. His abilities caught the attention of his superiors and, after about a year, he was offered a post in the herbarium as a preparer. Between 1907 and 1916 he was appointed assistant, first for India and then Africa. In 1910 he married Lilian Florence, daughter of James Firman Cook, decorator, of Richmond, Surrey. They had two sons and three daughters. In 1917 Hutchinson joined the permanent staff taking charge of the African section, a responsibility he retained until, in 1936, he became keeper of the museums at Kew, a post he held until he retired in April 1948. However, he continued to work daily in the herbarium up to and including the Saturday on which he died.

Work on the African flora dominated Hutchinson's earlier years and his first major contributions were to the *Flora of Tropical Africa* (1912, 1915) and the *Flora Capensis* (1915). In 1923 he began work on a *Flora of West Tropical Africa* which, with the assistance of J. M. Dalziel, he completed in 1937. This flora set a new pattern of conciseness for such works. Hutchinson contributed greatly to knowledge of the horticulturally important genus *Rhododendron*, on which he wrote large parts of several major works. The Royal Horticultural Society in 1945 awarded him their Victoria medal of honour. The work for which Hutchinson is most noted is on the classification of flowering plants. Although that set out in his *Families of Flowering Plants* (2 vols., 1926 and 1934) has not been generally followed, this work, together with his *Evolution and Phylogeny of Flowering Plants* (1969)—each fully illustrated by his own line drawings—provided a powerful stimulus to others, while his keys and descriptions have been widely used.

In 1949 Hutchinson began a major revision of all genera and families of flowering plants. The first volume of *The Genera of Flowering Plants* was published in 1964, the second three years later, and at the time of his death he was working hard on the third (of a projected seven volumes). Hutchinson's record of publications is incomplete, however, without mention of his popular books. In 1945 Penguin published his *Common Wild Flowers* which sold 250,000 copies in the first year. This was followed by *More Common Wild Flowers* (1948) and *Uncommon Wild Flowers* (1950) which, together, were revised and expanded into the two-volume

British Wild Flowers (1955), in all of which the text was complemented by his own illustrations. With Ronald Melville he also wrote *The Story of Plants and their Uses to Man* (1948).

Hutchinson travelled widely, collecting plants and making observations. His journeys in southern Africa in particular are noteworthy, especially that in 1930, accompanied by his friend General J. C. Smuts, to Lake Tanganyika, experiences described in his book, *A Botanist in Southern Africa* (1946). In 1934 the University of St Andrews conferred on Hutchinson an honorary LLD. The Linnean Society, of which he had become a fellow in 1918, presented him with their Darwin–Wallace centenary medal in 1958 and their highest award, the Linnean gold medal, in 1965. In 1947 he was elected FRS and in 1972 appointed OBE. He was very proud of his humble origins and wrote an unpublished autobiography, *From Potting Shed to FRS*, a copy of which is deposited in the library at Kew. He died at his home, 12 Kenmore Close, Kent Road, Kew, on 2 September 1972; his wife died a week later. His remains were cremated at Mortlake.

P. S. GREEN*, rev.*

Sources J. P. M. Brown, 'Dr. John Hutchinson, 1884–1972', *Kew Bulletin*, 29 (1974), 1–14 · C. E. Hubbard, *Memoirs FRS*, 21 (1975), 345–65 · personal knowledge (1986) · private information (1986)
Archives RBG Kew, corresp. and papers
Likenesses portrait, repro. in Hubbard, *Memoirs FRS*
Wealth at death £10,393: probate, 12 Oct 1972, *CGPLA Eng. & Wales*

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William Hutchison

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1875 n.s. 4

Mr. Hutchison, the subject of our present portrait, writes as follows of his horticultural career:—

“I was born at Spittalfield, in the parish of Caputh, Perthshire, on February 8, 1815. The parish school was in the same village, and there I got the rudiments of my education. In after life, when I began to work, I at all times attended the night school if an opportunity occurred. I first felt a great desire for gardening when about eleven years of age, when I began to bud Roses, and succeeded in growing several varieties on an Ayrshire that was rambling over the west end of my father’s cottage; and two years after, with no little pride and pleasure, I pointed out my success to my schoolfellows. The following year I began to graft the Apple on the Whitethorns that were growing in the adjacent plantations. In this I did not succeed so well the first year, being too impatient, for if I could perceive a bud of the scion swelling, I could not resist removing the ligature to ascertain if a union had taken place, the consequence of which was death; however, I determined to try again the following spring, and this time, after waiting more patiently, I had the satisfaction to see that one* third were growing, and some ten years after I had the pleasure of seeing them flourishing in a cottager's garden, to which they had been transplanted. Fortunately, I took great delight in learning architectural drawing, which I continued to practise for many years after, and which I have found to be of inestimable value. At the age of thirteen I was apprenticed to Mr. Henderson, Delvine, the splendid seat of Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie, Bart. Mr. Henderson was an excellent gardener, and an old practitioner, who was looked up to as one of the most eminent in Perthshire. I was first placed in the office of kitchen boy, which I continued to fill for two years. This is a good practice for a youth, as it enables him to learn the names and characters of the different varieties of vegetables, herbs, &c., and to know when they are in season. After this I was placed at the usual routine work with the men. The kitchen and flower gardens and pleasure grounds were extensive, and kept well stocked. Mr. Henderson was second to few in the culture of the heath, which at that time was considered a more difficult task than it is now. Such a selection of stage Auriculas, Pinks, and Carnations I have never since had the pleasure of seeing. I was very much interested with the herbaceous and alpine plants, which were all named — a grand chance for those who felt inclined to embrace the opportunity of studying them.

In January, 1835, I went as journeyman to Kinfauns Castle, the seat of Lord Gray, the gardens being under the management of Mr. Robinson. There I found a good and useful kitchen and fruit garden; the most fruitful Peach wall I had seen, producing annually fine crops of fruit; Grapes and Pines moderate, the latter similar to what were grown at Delvine, for in those days gardeners were too fond of shaking out, root-pruning, potting, and plunging into a bottom-heat much too high for the well-being of the plants. Mr. Robertson was a good British botanist, and by his help and the advantage of a long border of herbaceous and alpine plants, already alluded to by Mr. Cramb, I added considerably to my previous knowledge of hardy plants.

My next change was in January, 1836, to Oxenford, then the seat of Sir John Dalrymple, now the Earl of Stair’s, the gardens there being under the superintendence of Mr. W. Henderson, who improved the flower garden and walks in the pleasure grounds. There the Pines were in a more satisfactory condition than any that I had previously seen; Vines not so, their bad state being attributable to carrion having been placed in the borders. Mr. James Dodds succeeded Mr. Henderson in November, 1836, and again left in November, 1837, to go to Scone Palace, while I went to the Glasgow Botanic Gardens, where Mr. Murray gave me the charge of the houses. We passed the ordeal of the most severe winter (1837-38) I ever remember — a continuous frost of six weeks' duration, and to keep up the temperature with a steam boiler to near the required degree was not an enviable task. While here 1 had the privilege of attending Sir William Hooker's

botanical lectures in the College and in the gardens, as well as other advantages in the way of learning.

About this time Mr. Murray was applied to for a young man to go to the Cape of Good Hope to collect plants and seeds, and decided to recommend me for the situation; but the sad death of David Douglas was too sensibly felt to permit me to take that or any similar engagement. Later in the same year Mr. Henderson of Delvine recommended me to this situation, and as a matter of course I consulted Mr. Murray, who demurred, and said it would be more to my advantage to follow the botanical branch of gardening. However, I did not take quite the same view of it as Mr. Murray, and made up my mind to engage with A. L. Gower, Esq., the proprietor of this place. I had, previous to my engagement, been made acquainted with the then state of the place, and that great alterations and improvements were about to be carried out, but when I arrived on August 22, 1838, and found everything so different from what I had been accustomed to, I began to fear I had made a mistake in not following Mr. Murray's advice; but, after I had had an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Gower, I found that I had got a generous-hearted gentleman and an amiable lady of a very refined taste for my employers. Every requisite as to men and means was freely granted, so that the work of improvement progressed rapidly,

Before proceeding with a description of the place which must be brief, it is necessary that I should indicate the whereabouts of this locality. The grounds of Castle Malgwyn border the River Tivy, which forms the boundary line between Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire. The house is a modern building pleasantly situated, 3 miles from Cardigan, and 7 from New Castle Emlyn, on a beautiful projecting slope, lying between the River Tivy and a retired pastoral stream, the Morgeneau, that runs murmuring through a naturally most romantic glen which has been much improved by art. The River Tivy forms one of the chief features of interest; this has its rise at the Teife Lakes in the north of Cardiganshire, and flowing through a beautiful country passes by New Castle Emlyn to Cenarth, where it fails turbulently over the rocks, continuing its course through delightful meadows to the old picturesque bridge of Llechryd, the latter about three-quarters of a mile from the west end of Castle Malgwyn, Here the meadows disappear, and on both sides steep hills rise from the river bed, which entirely fill the opening, leaving only space for a walk at the base of the south or Castle Malgy side of the stream. The banks on either side are clothed with trees feathering down to and overhanging the water. The walk above alluded to was in course of construction when I came to Wales, and extends for about a mile towards the town of Cilgerran, all the while following the course and natural curves of the river — a charming and cool retreat from the mid-day sun, and presenting to view a series of the most fascinating landscapes imaginable.

Having followed the course of the river to the farther side or west end of the town, I must retrace my steps to Llechryd Bridge; and in doing so inform your readers that towards the close of the last century, and during the earlier part of the present, this place was the residence and property of Sir Benjamin Hammet, who formed the plantations with judgment. Llechryd Bridge unites the two counties, Cardigan and Pembroke. At the south end and west side of the bridge is the entrance gate and lodge. From the latter to within 100 yards of the mansion the river and road run side by side, the river being on the north, and the park on the south. The park is fenced off at a considerable distance from the drive by a wire fence placed at the foot of a sloping bank, and which is not visible to the eye from the road. This approach is of a most pleasing description, being overshaded by trees and graceful in line; it crosses a bridge over the Morgenau brook, and takes a sharp turn to the south, then to the west, and ascends to the front of the mansion, which faces the east, commanding a fine view of the park and the lovely vale of the Tivy. The lawn on the east side extends to the brook Morgenau,

which forms the boundary line between it and the park. On the south it skirts the plantation on the tipper bank of the glen; the undulations on this side are delightful. A lawn more favourably disposed and from which all appearance of art is banished is rarely to be seen.

Advancing from the front of the mansion we ascend a series of stairs, first to the south and again to the north, where a walk leads past a small flower-garden on the north side. Here is a picture for the admirer of Nature in all her forms — a delightful and picturesque composition and captivating landscape of rock, wood, and water. Here the noble Tivy makes a bold sweep to the south, as if to show her magnitude and supremacy over the scene — flowing along deep and silent, apparently loth to leave her lovely surroundings. From this spot the lawn and walk descends to the water's edge, and here stand out prominently the Purple Beech and the Birch, there the Lime and the Oak. Yonder in the far distance, on the south bank, where the river turns to the north and is about to bid a last farewell, high on the bank, the Oak is capped with a group of Scotch Fir, and another, a crown of the same still higher in the horizon, terminates the picture. Leaving the position and advancing on the same walk a little further, past a knoll of Rhododendrons on the right, then turning to the left and ascending to a level walk near the top of the bank, fine views of the lower grounds and rock on the other side of the river, picturesque in the extreme, are obtained. A little further on, among a thicket of shrubs and trees, we approach all of a sudden on a very secluded spot, an arch erected with large boulder stones. This arch is known as the Dry Arch, and was built in the time of Sir Benjamin Hammet, no doubt for a twofold purpose — the one to obviate the necessity for crossing a public road, which at that time led to Cilgerran, and the other to diminish the descent by a walk to the Morgenau brook. This interesting brook enters the glen at about a hundred yards from the bridge over which the drive is carried on its way to the mansion. The glen extends in a southerly direction for about three-quarters of a mile. The course of the stream is wild, rugged, and rocky; the rocks rising abruptly to a considerable height, but so well clothed with wood and Ferns that their points are only now and then visible. The bank on the west side is so very steep that a walk was built up from the bed of the stream, and follows its course to the top of the glen. This is a very interesting walk, of unrivalled beauty and variety, the light and shade every moment producing the most astonishing changes. High up on the east bank of the stream there is another walk, and where practicable, at convenient intervals, the two walks are united by four rustic bridges of as many different designs, and by a romantic stone bridge. On the sides of this bridge and at top the builder, at my request, introduced a spadeful of loam in different parts in which to plant Ivy and the smaller varieties of Ferns, such as the Asplenium, Adiantumnigrum, &c. It is only nine years since this bridge was built, and, by this mode of garnishing it has for some years past attained the apparent age of ninety-and-nine, the Ivy having grown down to the surface of the water, on which it floats as if fishing for trout. Altogether this is a very beautiful and picturesque feature. Here, and for some 20 yards higher up, the course of the stream is very impetuous over precipitous rocks, A few coniferous trees have been planted at various times where fitting situations could be found for them, as well as two groups of the Cedrus Deodara— the latter high up on the bank, and having a very striking effect, giving a light and charm to the dark regions below. This part is very secluded, and would form a suitable abode for a hermit. There are Ferns innumerable; on the rocks Polypodium vulgare, bifidum, serratum, &c., and on the margin of the stream varieties of Athyrium Filix-femina, and Lastrea dilatata gracefully drooping over the water's edge, I while the noble Osmunda regalis takes up a conspicuous position; and higher up are the varieties of Polystichum angulare. Mrs. Gower is a sister of the celebrated geologist. Sir William Logan, Knt., whose death we have had recently to deplore, and who, ever mindful of his sister's love for the Fern race, on his return visits from Canada brought a great variety, that were planted in groups among our natives, one of which, the Adianium pedatum, I will especially notice. It was planted in a sheltered nook, between two rocks near the

stone bridge, where it prospered as if in its native home. This plant was never passed unobserved by Mr. Gower; but no later than the beginning of last July some night owl or dawning hawk carried off this long-loved treasure, and, in order to facilitate his flight, and more easily conceal it under his wing, divested it of its fronds. As this is not the first or second time such depredations have been committed, I should be very glad to get this night marauder under safe keeping. To walk through this glen on a calm summer's morning, when foliage and frond, drooping with dew, blend in interminable variety, is a picture of stillness and repose, the beauty so enchanting as to induce one to imagine himself in fairyland.

The garden is situated in the south-east comer of the park, and three-quarters of a mile distant from the mansion. On my arrival here it only comprised within its walls 1½ acre. Plans were prepared for making an addition of 4½ acres, part to be devoted to flowers margined with shrubs. Owing to the very unequal state of the ground, which had to be worked into several different levels, this was the work of several years, and for the present, at least, I will defer giving a description of its parts. Suffice it to say that the ground is of a most unusual form, being that of an inverted arch, consisting of inclines, levels, and terraces, more agreeable to the eye than to the backs of the men who do the work of wheeling manure, &c. During the time the garden was being made the work of improvement was going on all over the grounds; hedge banks were levelled, and wire fences substituted where necessary; new roads and new walks were made and the lines of the old ones improved, clumps of trees were planted in the park, and banks and belts wherever an improvement could he devised.

In 1842 a range of new houses was constructed, and the garden was completed the following year. I must say nothing about the produce, seeing that the monster bunches of Grapes which have been exhibited of late years cast our productions in the shade; but our Grapes were such as the late Dr. Lindley highly approved in 1847-48. The following year death took from us, at a comparatively early age, a most kind master, who thought of other's comfort before his own, and who was missed and mourned by those amongst whom he lived. This sad event naturally enough stayed our improvements for some years, and having been all my life a lover of Ferns, and being placed in a Fern country, I occupied my spare time in collecting all the varieties that were to be found for many miles round. Of rarities I found the Blechnum Spicant imbricatum on a hedge bank near Pontyderrie, six miles to the south of this place, Polypodium Dryopteris on the Priscelly hills, Polypodium vulgare var. bifidum and var. semilacerum on a wall near Cilgerran, the var. serratum in the glen, Lastrea asmula near Nivern, Scolopendrium vulgare var. multifidum and var. ramosum near Cilgerran, and var. variabile near Nivern. These with many more were treasured and potted, and their wants duly attended to, in the hope that at some future and not very distant day I might have the pleasure of designing and making a hardy fernery. Long ere this Mrs. Gower had taken great delight in Ferns and Fern collecting, and could readily name at sight three-fourths of the British Ferns. On a journey to Cardigan she was one day fortunate enough to find a beautiful plant of the Scolopendrium vulgare crispum latum; this has been grown under glass, and has attained the noble size of a specimen 7 feet In circumference — the admiration of all who have seen it. The locality has been searched in vain for another plant.

About this period the Tivyside Horticultural Society sprung up, at which we became constant exhibitors, and for many years carried off the leading prizes for collections of fruit — Pines, Grapes, stove and greenhouse plants, Ferns, &c., to the number of twenty or thirty annually; but as a feeling of jealousy began to spring up, and the journeyings did not improve the appearance of the plants, exhibiting was discontinued at Cardigan. I, however, possess a 1st prize medal for a Pine-apple, awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society, bearing date June 17, 1863, and subsequently obtained another 1st prize at Carmarthen for a Pine- apple, and have not since exhibited.

What I consider to be my greatest achievement was the devising and constructing a new road, which had been in contemplation before I came to Wales, and was intended to lead through a plantation on the upper and west side of the lawn, then through a field of some 60 acres of pasture land on the heights of the south bank of the River Tivy, and to take a south-westerly direction towards Cilgerran. On those heights there could be no cause for much diversity of opinion, the only apparent difficulty being how to bring the road from the plantation just mentioned to the front of the mansion — whether down the side of the glen or skirting the south-west side of the lawn, one or the other of which courses must be adopted. The latter I objected to for this reason — that the lawn being beautifully undulating and picturesque, rising from the mansion at an angle of from 3° to 5° every yard of the road would be seen from the house, while the breaking up of the lawn would be most objection- able. Many opinions were asked, and the general conclusion was, that the only way was down the lawn, the route through the glen being impracticable. I vigorously protested against such a course, and the result was that no road at all was made. About the same period a number of small plants of Cedrus Deodara were procured and planted in the garden; they grew fast: in the course of a few years they were again transplanted, and in a short time they attained the height of from 7 to 8 feet, quite large enough to be planted in their final resting-place. The question now arose where to plant them, and this brought the long-talked-of new road into farther consideration, and I was instructed to stake it out through the plantation, to cut and root out the old trees, and to form the road, and at the same time to bring the line into such a position as to permit of its being continued through either lawn or glen. This done, the Deodars were planted so as to form an avenue. The trees prospered amazingly, and towards the end of July following I met Mrs. Gower at the Deodar avenue, which was greatly admired. When speaking again of the line of road and its difficulties I said that if she would find me the means I would make the road down the side of the glen, to her satisfaction and that of every one else. Her response was, "Go on." The route was marked out the next day, so that no striking feature or object of interest should be passed unobserved through the whole line, great care being at the same time taken that the course should be as pleasing and natural as possible. Commencing near the bridge that crosses the Morgenau, the line was made to follow the course of the brook just low enough to keep the road out of view from the front lawn and the park, to where it enters the glen. Here there is an artificial waterfall, and the bank takes a serpentine direction, leaving the walk on the margin of the brook to follow its course. This point rising from the walk at an angle of 55° was fixed for the beginning of the ascent. A number of quarrymen were employed to cut and quarry the stones on the right-hand side of the line, while masons were engaged to build it up on the left. This continued for about a hundred yards, one half the width of solid masonry; and the line constantly winding and changing, brought us to the south-east side of the dry arch, built of boulders, previously alluded to, and on the same level as the walk that passes through it. Here the angle of the bank was only 35° the curvature of line less, and no more building was required at this part. Mrs. Gower was a daily visitor, very frequently remaining from mid-day till dark, and taking the greatest interest in all and every operation performed. Though there was no more building required, there remained on the higher side rock to the depth of 15 feet to be cut and carried away. Of course as we advanced the depth decreased, and, the men being placed in three companies, the progress was great, so that early in November we arrived safe and sound on the heights in the avenue of Deodars. Thus far two companies of the men advanced, while the third was retained to complete the marginal lines.

During the progress of the work I had been considering what sort of a fence would be the best to erect on the precipitous side, there being a margin varying in width from 3 to 7 feet. I considered a wall would be heavy looking, an iron or wooden fence too artificial in appearance, and not in unison with the surrounding scenery; and it occurred to me that the upturned roots of trees would form the best fence, and, these being plentiful,

they were placed at intervals of from 3 to 5 yards, the small and fibry portion cut off, some of the most prominent mossed over, and Polypodium vulgare and its varieties, with other small-growing Ferns, planted. Loam to the required width and depth was laid over the stones, and the intervening space planted with Polystichum aculeatum, P. angulare and its varieties, such as subtripinnatum, Lastrea dilatata and Lastrea Filix-mas paleacea, &c. — all noble Ferns, the latter giving the place quite a tropical appearance. The marginal line, and all open spaces between roots and Ferns, were planted with the Glow-worm-grass, Luzula sylvatica, brought from the reels on the banks of the River Tivy — a beautiful evergreen, quite hardy, and one which will flourish on any rock or wall where other plants would perish, claiming no more than from 1 to 2 inches of soil. This plant is quite a gem for the margins of wilderness drives or walks, the edges requiring to be capped only once every spring. On either side of the walk leading from the arch to the road was formed a hardy fernery, planted with a most interesting collection of British Ferns, one side being interspersed with Yucca gloriosa — a most striking feature. On the summit and base of the rocky side, Ivy, Lonicera aureo reticulata, and the common Woodbine were planted and interwoven with each other; and to complete all a few rustic seats were placed on the margins at convenient intervals. Thus ends this portion of a most romantic and interesting drive.

Advancing to the summit of the southern bank of the Tivy the view commands one of the loveliest and most varied landscapes on which the eye can feast. Looking to the north the first recognisable feature is Cilbronne, the lovely seat of R. D. Jenkins, Esq., and of which his ancestors have been residents from time immemorial. It is beautifully situated, nestling and towering among trees as if grown up from amongst their midst, and in the remote distance is seen the fine conical bank of Warren, which, from whatever point, is always a principal object among the undulating forms of the adjacent hills. On the above bank Warron Gruffydd, son of Rhysap Tewdur, soon after death of King Henry I., by a furious onset gained a signal victory over the English army in the year 1135. There is a small farm near there, now called "Cuwch Saeson," which evidently derives its name from its association with the English who were so defeated there— the word "Saeson" signifying "English." To the east, and next in succession, is the villa of Mrs. Phillips, of Glenorberth, prettily situated on an eminence overlooking Castle Malgwyn Park and the bridge and village of Llechryd. Further to the north-east, and higher up, is Penlan, the noble mansion of Morgan Jones, Esq. In the distance, and still higher, the picturesque and wooded knolls of Blaenpant, the seat of Mr. Brigstock. To the south a delightful picture opens out, in view of the wooded banks and lovely valley of Rhosygilwen, interspersed with trees. Turning to the west is the magnificent remains of Cilgerran Castle, a fortress supposed to have been erected by Roger Montgomery about the year 1094, and here displayed in a very picturesque and favourable point of view, occupying the crown of a lofty and precipitous rocky promontory, standing boldly out into the River Tivy. From this point the road descends, and terminates with a rustic entrance adjacent to the public road which leads to Cilgerran.

I have omitted to state that all through the line rustic seats mark the chief points of view.

At the expiration of my thirty years' servitude Mrs. Gower presented me with many valuable articles, among which were a purse of money, a beautifully-bound large album, containing a portrait of my late esteemed master, together with one of herself and those of Sir William and Mr. Edmond Logan; also views taken from the new road and the rustic bridges in the glen, &c. On the frontispiece, written with, her own hand, is recorded the date of presentation and time of service. More substantial testimony was not wanting. These are a few among the many tokens of kindness I have received from the hands of this most amiable lady. May she long be spared the blessings of health to enjoy the fruits of her labour."

Alexander Ingram

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1876 n.s. 5

The name of Mr. Alexander Ingram, whose portrait we publish to-day, is by no means unfamiliar in the records of our metropolitan exhibitions, inasmuch as some years since, when living at Reading with the late J. J. Blandy, Esq., he was known as a clever cultivator and successful exhibitor of choice plants. "I was born," he writes, "in the parish of Chaple of Garioch, Aberdeenshire, on December 10, 1821. At an early age I took a great fancy for gardening, but having no friends or relatives connected with the profession I had to pave the way for myself. About the age of 16 I got into the gardens of Hugh Lumsden, Esq., Pitcaple Castle, as garden boy, and continued there and in other small gardens for some few years. For some time I had been most anxious to serve an apprenticeship under some first-class gardener, and at last an opportunity turned up, and I went to serve a three years' apprenticeship under Mr. Dallachy, head gardener at Haddo House, the seat of the Earl of Aberdeen, entering on my duties in November, 1843.

"At that time Haddo House was said to be one of the finest and best kept places in the kingdom, Mr. Dallachy was an excellent gardener and botanist, also a good and kind master. The old Earl took a great interest in his gardens, and the welfare of all employed in them. At that time there were never less than a dozen under-gardeners, all comfortably lodged in the garden, besides a staff of labouring men and boys. Through the kindness and liberality of the Earl we had a very useful collection of books placed for our use in the garden rooms, on condition that we paid a nominal sum of a few pence monthly, for the use of the books and papers. At the end of the year the subscriptions were collected, and went to buy some new work on horticulture. If the money in hand was not sufficient to purchase the selected book, I believe the Earl made it up, which I suspect he often had to do. During the winter months we had evening classes in the garden rooms; botany, drawing, and other branches of education were taught, and I have ever found the information I then gained of most essential service. It has justly been said that Haddo House was a good school for learning the art of gardening. Work was always plentiful, and it had to be well done. It mattered not whether it was mowing from four to seven in the morning, which were the hours then, or any other sort of work—all had to be done in a neat and orderly manner. The herbaceous ground was amongst the first objects that attracted my attention—the collection of herbaceous plants being the largest I have ever seen in any private garden, and all correctly numbered. Many a pleasant hour I spent in collecting, naming, and drying specimens, a great many of which I retain to this day. The pleasure-grounds being extensive and well wooded, the art of forestry was taught in the same precise manner as gardening. The planting, pruning, thinning, and felling, had all to be done by the gardeners. Conifers being a favourite class of plants with his lordship, they were well represented, and at that time there were some nice specimens, but I regret to say the memorable winter of 1860-61 destroyed the greater part of them. From that time coniferous plants have been favourites with me.

"During the greater part of my time at Haddo alterations and improvements were going on, and such indeed has been the case in every situation I have held since. A very elaborate conservatory was built, divided into three compartments, viz., for stove, greenhouse, and flowering plants. Four vineries were remodelled, and hot water substituted for the brick flues. The Vine borders were all remade and young Vines planted. In all these operations I felt deeply interested, so that my apprenticeship passed away very pleasantly.

"I was then advanced to be foreman in the flower-garden and pleasure-ground. In that capacity I only remained a few months; Mr. Dallachy had been applied to for a foreman to go to Newby Hall, Yorkshire, the seat of Lady Mary Vynir, and I was sent to fill the place. After a very rough sea passage of some days, I landed at Newby Hall on February 19, 1847. I found it to be a fine old place, with a large kitchen garden, well stocked with

fruit trees, and a fine range of glass. Fruit growing was the principal feature of the place, and at that time was well done — Grapes, in particular. Mr. Smart, who was then head gardener, had the charge of the woods and plantations, so that he was but seldom in the garden, and owing to his absence the management of the work fell almost entirely to my lot. As there was nothing going on beyond the usual routine, I made up my mind that one year would be quite long enough to remain. But an incident occurred which induced me to stop another year. Lady Mary was about making a new flower garden in the Italian style in front of the Hall; her ladyship brought the plans to me, and asked if I could lay it out. I at once undertook to do it, and by the end of the second year the new garden was finished, as well as several other minor alterations, which I believe were all satisfactory to her ladyship, from whom I always received great kindness.

"My next engagement was at Moorpark, Hertfordshire, the seat of Lord Ebury (February 3, 1849), as foreman, under the late Mr. Sparrow, in whom I found a thorough practical gardener and a very indulgent master. Moorpark is known to be one of the finest places in the neighbourhood of London, and amongst the largest forcing establishments, fruit, flowers, and vegetables being in demand at all seasons. Strawberries were forced by the thousand: the first crop was always ripe early in March. I never knew a man more successful in Strawberry forcing than Mr. Sparrow. Grapes, Peaches, and Pine-apples were extensively grown; the culture of these three fruits has always received much of my attention, but the king of fruits perhaps rather more than his share. The collection of plants were in no ways neglected, and Mr. Sparrow added many rare things to it, in the way of Anaectochilus and other Orchids, Pitcher-plants and tropical aquatics; of the latter the Euryale ferox, a plant but very little known, was grown and flowered in perfection. This proved to be a good school for improvement, as the greater part of the place was under renovation during my sojourn there of four years, which passed away very pleasantly.

"My next start was to the Royal Exotic Nursery, Chelsea, February 7, 1853. The nursery was then in the possession of Messrs. Knight & Perry. This was, indeed, a change from Moorpark; for everything seemed to be at a standstill, and had they not taken a change for the better my stay would have been of short duration, but the late Mr. James Veitch shortly after became its proprietor, and through his great ability and energy the Royal Exotic was brought to the high state of perfection it still retains. I believe I gained the confidence and friendship of Mr. Veitch, which lasted until the day of his death. During my stay in the nursery, which was about sixteen months, I gained much useful information, which proved to be of great service to me. I may here be allowed to state that I think it would be to the advantage of every young gardener to get twelve months in a London nursery before he undertakes the management of a place for himself. Mr. Veitch sent me to Highgrove, Reading, June 3, 1854, as head gardener to the late John Jackson Blandy, Esq., in whom I found a kind and liberal master. He was a man of great taste, fond of horticulture and the improvement of his place. Alterations and improvements commenced as soon as I entered his service, and kept on until a few months previous to his lamented death. Several acres of ground were added to the gardens, and additions were made to the glasshouses from time to time, as the collections of plants and the growth of fruit kept increasing. Plant-growing and exhibiting were hobbies of Mr. Blandy's; at the same time that the other branches of gardening were not neglected. For many years we had ripe Grapes all the year round. The first dish was always cut on March 11, that being Mr. Blandy's birthday, and many are the friends who must have a kindly remembrance of the liberality with which Mr. Blandy distributed the products of his forcing-houses.

"Of the success I had in plant and fruit-growing the gardening public are the better judges; suffice it to say that, during my time at Highgrove, which was thirteen years, we took 400 prizes at the London and local shows, mostly for plants and fruits. During the

latter part of my time my sphere of labour was extended further than the gardens, and in consequence of this and other incidents, I had several agreements with Mr. Blandy; the last, which I shall never forget, being an agreement to stop with him as long as he lived. But alas! I had only the pleasure of serving him and his amiable lady a few years after that. The place was sold soon after his death, and part of it is now built over.

"From Highgrove I came to Alnwick Castle, October 16, 1867, as gardener to His Grace the Duke of Northumberland. This place being so well known, I need say but little about it. The Duke and Duchess take much interest in their garden and in the improvement of the place, which has been going on from the time I entered their service.

"The gardens are, to a certain extent, being re-made. In the grounds, Conifers and other choice trees and shrubs are being planted to a large extent. All these improvements have been carried out under the personal direction of the Duke and Duchess, from whom I have at all times received the greatest kindness and encouragement."

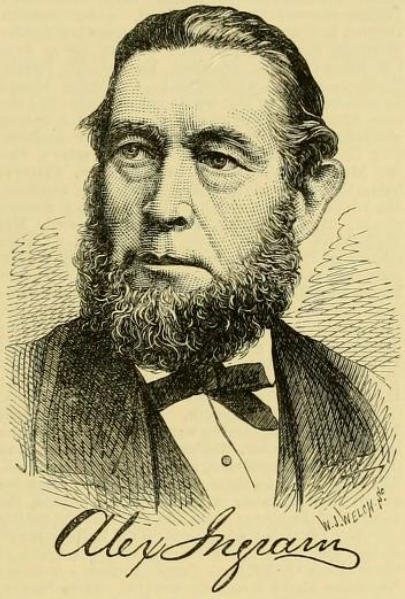
and Inner Temple in the last issue of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* reminds me of the difficulties under which many cultivators are placed. I availed myself of the privilege, so kindly conceded by the benchers, of visiting both collections, and I think you did not say a word too much in favour of those who, under such adverse circumstances, have produced such a show. The size and health of the foliage is if anything more remarkable than the display of flowers. But the evil effects of the low, damp situation upon the blooms, many of which are a mass of decomposed matter before half the petals are unfolded, was manifest enough at a glance. Exhibitors are alive to the loss of a single petal from this cause, and take care that lurking damp is dried up by warming the hot-water pipes through the day where there is full opportunity of giving abundant ventilation. Where there is no heating apparatus plants must take their chance, but there can be no doubt that more might be acomplished n the cultivation of this queen of winter flowers if we would but be more careful in our treatment, that is, where proper facilities are provided.

I do not know that it is sufficiently recognised that a little genial warmth is beneficial to plants occasionally at that particular stage when the centres of the flowers are unfolding; but as my remarks are of a general nature, I will not touch upon points which are only interesting to a few except to repeat that free ventilation and a dry atmosphere are important elements in producing and maintaining a long succession of flowers. In the matter of arrangement considerable improvement might be effected also. One cannot suggest any code of rules or method of training that would meet with universal approbation; nor, indeed, is it necessary or advisable to do so. I will not, however, be contested that the bush and standard systems are the simplest and best methods of training for producing a graceful and natural *tout ensemble*—a picture for an artist or a show that does not soon fade from the memory. An artistic style of grouping these plants is readily accomplished in the following way:—Given a sufficient number of tall-grown plants with a stout stake placed to keep the stem erect, but "hidden from the eye," and the flower-stem drooping, a bold background formed of these, and the whole space to be filled irregularly dotted with them would break the formal surface of bush plants, which would make up the groundwork. The plants, both tall and dwarf, would of course be selected in order to produce harmony of colour, and the heads of the tall plants would hang loosely among the dwarfer ones with charming effect. Those who have not been in the habit of grouping plants in this way would, I am sure, be pleased after giving the system a trial. *W. Hinds.*

CHRYSANTHEMUMS GROWING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—It is a well known fact that those who succeed best in Chrysanthemum growing must undertake the greater part of the work themselves, except the mere drudgery connected with the various cultural operations. It is, therefore, not too much to say that the man bearing the lightest burden has the advantage over those whose charge is heavy and of a multifarious nature, although lovers of the Chrysanthemum—and not a few either—who have to direct the management of large gardens, find time to grow show collections of this indispensable and charming winter flower. On a recent visit to Tunbridge Wells I was pleased to find how popular the cultivation of the Chrysanthemum has grown of late years in that neighbourhood, both in large and small gardens. Among the latter honourable mention is due to Mr. Ware, gardener to Mrs. Morgan, Hungershaw Park, who is a very successful cultivator and exhibitor at the Tunbridge Wells shows. His plants are noteworthy, not because of their great vigour, but because of their medium strength, and to the fact that they are grown in smaller pots than is generally used by exhibitors. Nine inches in diameter is the maximum size of the pots used, and some are even less, yet the plants are famous in the neighbourhood for the quality of the flowers they yield, and the fact of Mr. Ware carrying off prizes is the best practical testimony in favour of the system. In a neighbouring garden of about the same extent trained plants are a speciality, some of them measuring 4 feet across, neatly trained, and having fine leaves, which indicate their state of health. This garden is the property of J. Grant, Esq., and a very pretty and interesting garden it is. *H.*

Obituary.

WE much regret to announce the death of an old correspondent of this journal, in the person of Mr. ALEXANDER INGRAM, gardener to the Duke of Northumberland, at Alnwick Castle, whose demise took place on November 5, after a very short illness. Born in Aberdeenshire in 1821, Mr. Ingram commenced his career as garden boy at Pitcaple Castle, whence he left for the Earl of Aberdeen's, at Haddo House, where he served an apprenticeship of three years. From Haddo House he went, in February, 1847, to Newby Hall, Yorkshire, as foreman, and after two years' service at this place he went (in February, 1849) as foreman to Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Herts; and in February, 1853, entered the employment of Messrs. Knight & Perry, of the Royal Exotic Nursery, Chelsea, whose business was shortly afterwards taken over by the late Mr. James Veitch. In June, 1854, Mr. Ingram was sent to Highgrove, Reading, then the residence of a famous horticulturist and Vice-President of the Royal Horticultural Society—the late John Jackson Blandy, Esq., and in whose service Mr. Ingram proved himself to be a clever cultivator and successful exhibitor of choice plants and fruits, as may be inferred from



the fact that during his stay there (thirteen years) he took 400 prizes at the metropolitan and local shows. At Mr. Blandy's death the place was sold, and in October, 1867, Mr. Ingram became gardener at Alnwick Castle, the princely home of the Percies, and whose gardens he almost entirely remodelled. Mr. Ingram's autobiography will be found in our number for May 20, 1876, whence we reproduce the portrait that accompanies this brief memoir of a highly accomplished gardener and most worthy man.

Reports of Societies.

Royal Horticultural: *Nov.* 8.—Col. Trevor Clarke in the chair. The first group of plants referred to by the Rev. G. Henslow at the afternoon meeting was a fine series of Bouvardias, of Mexican origin, grown and exhibited by Mr. Woodbridge, of Sion. He called attention to the fact that they belong to the same family as the Coffee, Cinchona, Madder, and Galium, which, so different in appearance, had their flowers constructed on the same plan. The lecturer described the various uses of these plants. As illustrations of methods of fertilisation, he also described the Salvia, showing the peculiar oscillating motion of the stamens, which is adapted to insects, so that they may convey the pollen from one flower to another. In certain species with long-tubed corollas, this process has apparently become lost, as the stamens are straight and immovable. He also showed the methods of fertilisation in Primroses and Amaryllis. A Tea Rose exhibited by Mr. Bennett, profusely covered with fruit, showed the beneficial effects of artificial fertilisation, the crop being the second borne this season. A branch of Hippophäe rhamnoides, covered with fruits, gave occasion to describe the different organs utilised in forming fleshy fruits—such being the calyx in this case and in the Mulberry, while in Pears and Apples it was the flower-stalk. A curious illustration was seen in a specimen sent from Dublin, in which the stalk had alone swollen, there being no fruit within whatever. On the other hand in Cycas revoluta, specimens of which were forwarded by Mr. Hudson, of Gunnersbury House, Acton, it was the fleshy coat of the seeds which are borne on the edges of reduced leaves and not within pods.

In alluding to Cycas, Mr. Henslow remarked on the former abundance of Cycadaceous plants in England, as testified by the fossil remains found at Gristhorpe, near Scarborough, and at Portland, Dorset. Trunks of such trees may be seen in the rockery in the conservatory of the Royal Botanic Society, Regent's Park.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.—Sir J. D. Hooker, K.C.S.I., in the chair.

Substitute for Gravel.—Mr. Pascoe showed samples of crushed granite obtained in the washing of china clay, and available for use on garden paths where binding gravel is not attainable.

Ehret's Drawings.—Mr. Schofield showed a series of beautifully-executed water-colour drawings of plants on vellum by Ehret.

Disease of Elms.—Mr. W. G. Smith exhibited the fungus growth known as Rhizomorpha subcorticalis, the indurated mycelial condition of Polyporus squamosus, and other fungi. It grows under the bark of trees, and is extremely destructive to Elms round London. (See *Gardeners' Chronicle*, July 30, 1881, p. 147.)

Seedless Pears.—Dr. Masters exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Burbidge, College Botanic Garden, Dublin, samples of Pears from a tree which produces a large proportion of its Pears—we cannot call them fruits—without core or seed, destitute, that is, of fruit proper. The normal Pear is a small pyriform variety, while the abnormal Pear is elongated, cylindrical, and solid throughout. Mr. Burbidge finds that the solid-fleshed fruits keep much longer than the normal forms from the same tree, which latter rot at the core three weeks after being gathered. The flavour also of the seedless form is superior to that of the normal form. Dr. Masters remarked that such instances were not uncommon, though he had never seen them in such abundance as observed by Mr. Burbidge. They are interesting as confirming the views now generally held as to the morphology of these fruits, and the points mentioned by Mr. Burbidge are very significant.

Cyclamen Atkinsi.—Mr. Boscawen sent a flower of this in which the sepals had assumed a leafy condition.

Massachusetts Horticultural Society.—A communication from this Society of a flattering character, accompanying a donation of books to the Lindley Library, was read, and a suitable reply directed to be sent.

Objects Exhibited.—Fruiting fronds of Cycas revoluta from Mr. Hudson, Gunnersbury; Tea Rose fruits, mentioned elsewhere; and disease of Portugal Laurel, similar to that now so common in Plums and Almonds.

FLORAL COMMITTEE.—W. B. Kellock, Esq., in the chair. That even in dull November the floral "resources of civilisation" are not exclusively confined to the Chrysanthemum was well illustrated on Tuesday by the display of beautiful Cyclamens, Chinese Primulas, and Orchids that graced the tables of the Council-chamber. Of a group of the lovely Cyclamen staged by Mr. R. Clark, of Twickenham, it would be difficult to say too much in the way of praise, so thoroughly well were the plants "done"—to use an expressive gardening phrase. Each plant in itself was a model of good cultivation, the foliage being stout in texture, and the flowers finely developed, and very pure in colour. Much in the same way may also be said of a group contributed by Mr. H. B. Smith, of Ealing Dean, also a successful market grower. Many as have been the floricultural triumphs of Mr. Cannell, none will probably bring him more renown than the collection of Primulas which to-day came from "The Home for Flowers." Splendidly grown and flowered, and of well selected varieties, it was a group that gained the admiration of all, and higher praise could hardly be gained. Most strikingly distinct, and most attractive of all, was a real red Primula, the Swanley Red, that took the popular fancy amazingly, and of which it may be said that it has no rival. Other sorts of undoubted quality were the Swanley White, Rubra Improved, Swanley Purple, and Swanley Carminata—all represented by a number of plants, each in a 48-pot, in all respects remarkable for their stout leathery leaves and robust trusses of beautiful flowers, thrown suffi-

OBITUARY.

It is with much regret we have to record the death of Alexander Ingram, gardener to the Duke of Northumberland, at Alnwick Castle. Five weeks ago he was laid up for the first time with an internal complaint which no medical treatment could relieve. On the 15th ult., the day after the great storm, he was, however, able to leave the house and give directions about removing the plants from the great conservatory, which was nearly destroyed by a large tree falling upon it. After that he took to his bed, and died on the 4th inst. at the comparatively early age of 58. During the fifteen years he had the charge of the gardens at Alnwick Castle much has been done by him to improve them. Indeed, Mr. Ingram has in a great measure renovated the place, and he will long be remembered in the north of England as a most industrious and painstaking gardener. Before going to Alnwick he was for several years gardener to the late Mr. Blandy, at Reading.

— Mr. Alexander Ingram, gardener to the Duke of Northumberland, at Alnwick Castle, died on November 5th, after a very short illness. He was born in Aberdeenshire in 1821, and commenced his career as garden boy at Pitcaple Castle, whence he left for Haddo House; and from thence moved successively to Newby Hall, Yorkshire; Moor Park, Herts; and Messrs. Knight and Perry's nursery, at Chelsea. In June, 1854, he was sent by the late Mr. James Veitch, to Highgrove, Reading, then the residence of the late J. J. Blandy, Esq., in whose service Mr. Ingram proved himself to be a clever cultivator, and a successful exhibitor of choice plants and fruits. In October, 1867, after Mr. Blandy's death, Mr. Ingram became gardener at Alnwick Castle, the gardens of which he almost entirely remodelled.

Florist and Pomologist 1881

The Garden, 1881

OBITUARY.

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INGOLDBY Amalie Antoine.

Personal Estate £190.

1 September. Administration of the Personal Estate of Amalie Antoine Ingoldby formerly of 56 Daneville-road Denmark Hill in the County of Surrey but late of Wiesbaden in **Germany** Widow who died 3 August 1879 at Wiesbaden was granted at the **Principal Registry** under the usual Limitations to Kate Ingoldby of Cromer House Brandram-road Lea in the County of Kent Spinster the Aunt and Guardian of Robert Ingoldby an Infant the Son and only Next of Kin.

INGOLDBY William Frederic.

Personal Estate £190.

16 November. Administration (with the Will) of the Personal Estate of William Frederic Ingoldby late of 56 Daneville-road Denmark Hill in the County of **Surrey** who died 19 April 1879 at Wiesbaden in Germany was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Kate Ingoldby of Cromer House Brandram-road Lee in the County of Kent Spinster the Administratrix of the Personal Estate of Amalie Antonie Ingoldby Widow the Relict the sole Executrix and Residuary Legatee.

INGOUVILLE Maria.

Personal Estate £2,316 12s.

10 December. The Will of Maria Ingouville late of the Farm Gorey District in the Island of **Jersey** Spinster who died 30 June 1881 at 30 Brunswick-gardens in the County of Middlesex was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Albina Elizabeth Godfray (Wife of James Godfray) the Sister and the said James Godfray a Colonel in Her Majesty's Service both of Grainville Manor House St. Saviour's Jersey the Executors.

INGRAM Alexander.

Personal Estate £807 14s. 6d.

23 November. The Will of Alexander Ingram late of Alnwick in the County of **Northumberland** Gardener who died 5 November 1881 at Alnwick was proved at **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** by Helen Ingram of Alnwick Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

INGRAM Ann Eastmond.

Personal Estate under £300.

24 February. The Will of Ann Eastmond Ingram late of South Bank Red Hill in the Parish of Reigate in the County of **Surrey** Widow who died 8 December 1880 at South Bank was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Charles Constable of 116 Englefield-road Islington in the County of Middlesex Solicitor the sole Executor.

INGRAM Charles Thomas.

Personal Estate £15,283 3s. 9d.
Resworn March 1882 £14,652 6s. 1d.

13 August. The Will of Charles Thomas Ingram late of 119 Queen-Victoria-street in the City of **London** and of 46 Abbey-road St. John's Wood in the County of **Middlesex** Wine Merchant who died 28 July 1881 at 46 Abbey-road was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Sarah Ingram of 46 Abbey-road Widow William Folwell of 55 Gloucester-street Warwick-square in the said County Esquire and Edgar Francis Jenkins of 7 Godliman-street Doctor's Commons in the City of London Esquire the Executors.

INGRAM David.

Personal Estate under £200.

5 May. Administration of the Personal Estate of David Ingram late of Tynllydiart in the Parish of Llansaintfraed Cwmtoyddwr in the County of **Radnor** Farmer a Widower who died 17 March 1880 at Tynllydiart was granted at the **Principal Registry** to William Ingram of Tynllydiart Farmer the Son and only Next of Kin.

Leroy, gardener at Auteuil. Inarching is useful for furnishing branches with shoots. An eye or a shoot may be grafted or budded into the bare part. Sometimes we make use in August of grafts which were inserted in the month of June preceding. If there is no anticipative branch, one is excited to develop itself by pinching the shoot three weeks before grafting. When the young branch is developed, the leaf which springs from its base is partially pinched, in order to force the fruit buds of the new branch to continue at the base. The pruning of the fruiting branch will be afterwards made easier by this operation. The Vine is easily furnished with shoots on vacant parts by approach grafting. It is best to employ herbaceous shoots in May or June. The bark only of the stock should be cut, without removing any of the wood, especially if it is old; in which case, or when the scion is woody and not herbaceous, the detachment is effected by degrees in two years. In 1868 we applied successfully to the Vine this method of inarching in order to fill up

vacant spaces on the stems. The shoot, headed and pared under an eye, was let into the stem by a ⊥ incision. A month afterwards the union was complete, and the bud (A) grew vigorously. This was the first time, we believe, in which this mode of grafting was used with the Vine.

5.—To Preserve the Form of the Tree.—When the advantages of approach grafting are better appreciated, it will be more frequently used for preserving symmetry of form and equilibrium of growth in trees trained in particular forms and shapes, and will also simplify the labour of pruning, pinching, and tying up. We saw in the Horticultural Society's Garden at Mulhouse, a fine wall of Peach trees in an oblique cordon, joined at the top by approach grafting. The heat of the sun and the gum had injured some of them so much that M. Menet (professor of gardening to the society) had been obliged to cut away the damaged stems to the height of three and a quarter feet and burn them. The upper parts were left, and these continued to live and bear fruit, being fed by the sap of the neighbouring trees, on which the shoots had been grafted by approach. Horizontal cordons of Apple trees present the same result when the stems of any trees which have been grafted into the adjacent ones are cut away.—*C. Baltet's "l'Art de Greffer."*

(*To be continued.*)

OBITUARY.

MR. THOMAS INGRAM.

We have to record, with great regret, the death of Mr. Thomas Ingram, late of the Royal Gardens, Frogmore, who died at Upton Lodge, Slough, on the 9th instant, at the age of seventy-six. It is only a few years since Mr. Ingram left the scene of his more active duties at Frogmore, and retired to enjoy a well earned but not coveted rest, at a quiet house at Slough, within sight of the Royal towers of Windsor. Losing the stimulus which the obligation of work to be done always gives, parting with his long-watched and cherished trees, his seedling fruits and flowers, and the many treasured things that haunt a home—the bright spot signalised by the labours and successes of a long life—he drooped and faded, and quietly and resignedly breathed his life away.

Mr. Ingram was the son of a nurseryman, and was trained with Mackintosh and other eminent men in that great school of gardening of fifty years ago, the nurseries of Messrs. Lee, of Hammersmith. He was engaged by her Majesty Queen Charlotte to superintend the Royal Gardens at Frogmore in 1816, and remained at Frogmore until 1833, when King William IV. gave him the direction of the whole of the Royal Gardens at Windsor. Early in the reign of our present Queen the ancient and widely scattered gardens were given up, and one grand central forcing and kitchen garden was formed on the Royal estate, on a spot immediately contiguous to the Frogmore pleasure-grounds; this garden, thirty-two acres in extent, was formed, planted, and brought to that high state of perfection that has so long distinguished it by Mr. Ingram.

After the passing of the Windsor Improvement Act in 1849, the arrangements for laying out and constructing the new walks and drives in and about the Home Park, the Castle Grounds, and Frogmore were entrusted to Mr. Ingram, and the narrow and shady walks of the slopes were replaced by bold open roads, whose free sweeps and curves, stretching away towards Frogmore, are well seen from the terrace of the Castle. One of the last labours of Mr. Ingram was the re-arrangement of the pleasure-grounds at Frogmore, rendered necessary by the erection of the Mausoleum within the gardens, the last resting-place of the illustrious Prince Consort, with whom Mr. Ingram was associated in many works of improvement about the Royal estates.

During his long life Mr. Ingram devoted himself assiduously and with unflagging interest to the task of originating new and improved varieties of fruits, flowers, and vegetables, and by careful selection and hybridization he was successful in adding some useful examples to our list of fruits and beautiful flowers. Among fruits the Frogmore Scarlet-fleshed Melon is still highly esteemed. The British Queen, Frogmore Swan's Egg, and Golden Russet Pears are valuable contributions to our list of English fruits. The Frogmore Orleans, Bonne Bouche, and large late Greengage plums have merits which will make them generally appreciated, The Frogmore Bigarreau, F. Early Black, and F. Morello cherries are each improvements on sorts of recognized value. No fewer than nine new strawberries rewarded Mr. Ingram's attention to that excellent fruit, among which, the Frogmore Late Pine, Prince of Wales, Mr. Radcliffe, may be taken as examples. Three apricots, each having special recommendations for precocity, size, and late-keeping properties, prove that this fruit was not neglected. The Frogmore Golden and Premier peaches were also raised at the Royal Gardens.

The old scarlet Pelargonium known as the Frogmore Scarlet was obtained in 1817; and one of the very first double Dahlias about the same time. Two hybrid Begonias, an Epacris, Lonicera, and Escallonia attest Mr. Ingram's attention to our valued garden flowers; while an excellent broccoli, the Frogmore Protecting, and a hardy cucumber, show that vegetables were not forgotten.

Mr. Ingram was fortunate enough in the course of his long connection with the Royal establishment to secure the approbation of the Sovereigns he served so faithfully; and a just appreciation of his services to horticulture was exhibited by a large number of friends joining in a subscription to a handsome testimonial, which was presented to him a few years before he left the Royal Gardens.

He was much respected by all the members of the Royal Family, and has been frequently visited by her Majesty since his retirement from active life; even as late as Friday week, the day before his death, the Queen is said to have paid him a visit. Kind and genial in disposition he was esteemed by all who knew him, a man indeed for whom everybody had a good word; he therefore leaves a wide circle to lament his loss.

MR. WILLIAM OSBORN.

Only a week or two ago it was our sad duty to record the death of Mr. Thomas Osborn, and now we have to announce that of his elder brother and co-partner, Mr. William Osborn, which took place suddenly on the 7th instant. The firm of Osborn & Son is one of the oldest in the neighbourhood of London, and has been for many years worthily represented by these two brothers, who were greatly respected by all who knew them, or had business dealings with them. In Messrs. Osborn gardeners ever found friends able and willing to help them when assistance was most required; their demeanour towards all was kind and gentlemanly; and to the horticultural world generally their too early deaths is a sad loss.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR.

PRIVATE GARDENS.

Conservatories, Greenhouses, &c.—These are now everywhere brilliant with gay flowers, which the bright weather which we are now experiencing brings forward with so much rapidity. Phajus grandifolius and Wallichi, together with Odontoglossums, Dendrobiums, Lycastes, and other orchids at present form rather prominent objects in the way of plants for conservatory decoration. Specimens of all kinds now receive strict attention with regard to staking, tying, and training, and they are allowed plenty of head room by

Florists' Flowers.

There is one charming plant that has to a great extent disappeared from our gardens of late, amid the regrets of many who have a tender regard for good things among old-fashioned flowers—I allude to the Phlox Drummondii. A few years ago beds of Phlox Drummondii were frequently seen, and when at all well attended to they formed a pleasing item in the arrangement of a flower garden. When the Pelargonium came to play such an important part in the flower garden, and foliage plants became extensively grown, it was only natural that the Phlox Drummondii, with other things previously in constant use, should go to the wall; and now that flower gardeners are becoming wearied of the constant iteration the present system of the decoration of the flower garden necessitates, some are found turning with something of the old love to things that have suffered neglect, and among them the Phlox Drummondii is being affectionately remembered.

Probably as many as two dozen distinct varieties of this Phlox, if not more, are in cultivation at the present time, and beds of some of these are much more striking and valuable floral pictures than some imagine. One of the best self-coloured varieties of the Phlox Drummondii I have ever met with came into my hands a twelvemonth ago under the name of Cardinal. This was of a rich blood-scarlet hue, the flowers as perfect in shape as those of a good variety of the P. decussata section, and very brilliant in colour. I think a bed of this variety would cause many to lose their faith in scarlet Pelargoniums as furnishing a mass of colour. Another named Rose d'Amour was of a lively violet-rose hue, and very pretty indeed, furnishing a colour of which we have no counterpart in the Pelargonium class. There is another pleasing soft rose-coloured variety, and the same with a distinct white eye. There is also a rose coloured flower marbled with white, known as Empress Eugènie; and there is also a pale coloured flower marbled with violet. In addition we have a pure white variety, and the same with a purple eye, like that of a Verbena. There are two or three self-coloured flowers, more or less tinted with purple, that afford an excellent contrast; one of a deep blood-purple colour is particularly striking. The striped flowers, that only a few years ago were confined to the well-known Radowitzii, have now grown to something like four or five distinct forms, and these forms, when grown in masses, make a charming display. The stripes are either rose, blood-purple, carmine, or violet, mingled with white flakes. It will be seen that there is no lack of variation in the Phlox Drummondii, and the varieties just mentioned comprise others not named in this selection.

The culture of the Phlox Drummondii is but a simple matter. The seed can be sown early in March in some good light soil, and raised in a temperature of from 60° to 70°. When the plants are large enough to be handled it is but to prick them off into boxes, giving them room to grow. It is a good practice to pinch the leading shoots in when they are about a quarter of a foot in height, as this induces a branching growth. The beds to contain the plants should be filled with a rich light soil, into which the plants can strike root readily. A robust branching growth is what the cultivator should aim at, and this can only be secured in a fitting soil. The more open and sunny the spot selected for the beds, the better will it be for the plants, provided they are not allowed to suffer for want of moisture at the roots. In dry weather the plants should be well watered till the bed is covered. It is a good practice to peg down the leading shoots growing near the edge of the beds, so as to secure a symmetrical shape. To keep the beds effective, it is simply necessary to go over them twice a week, for the purpose of preventing the formation of seed-pods by pinching out the decaying flowers. *R. D.*

Obituary.

Four years ago we announced the retirement of Mr. Thomas Ingram from the charge of the Royal gardens at Windsor, and we now have to record, with regret, that a career long and honourably connected with horticulture has at length been closed by the death of that gentleman, which took place at Upton Lodge, Slough, on the 9th inst., at the ripe age of 76. He held the appointment of head gardener for upwards of 50 years, and was the trusted and faithful servant of four of our monarchs. Entering the Royal service as head gardener to Queen Charlotte in 1816, Mr. Ingram continued at Frogmore until 1833, when he was appointed by William IV. to the superintendence of the whole of the Royal gardens, then scattered about the parks at Windsor. During the reign of Her Majesty the ancient gardens were partly given up, and the present magnificent gardens at Frogmore were formed, planted, and brought to their high state of perfection by Mr. Ingram. Those who saw the Grapes, Pine-apples, Peaches, and Pears, occasionally exhibited at the Royal Horticultural Society's shows, will agree in the eulogium passed upon them and their producer by the late Dr. Lindley, who said, emphatically, "Those are Royal fruits, and Mr. Ingram deserves to be a Royal gardener." After the passing of the Windsor Improvement Act in 1849, the arrangements for laying out and constructing the new walks and drives in and about the Home Park, the Castle grounds and Frogmore, were entrusted to Mr. Ingram, and he successfully carried out the work; and one of his last labours was to assist in the disposition of the grounds about the mausoleum raised in memory of the good Prince, with whom he was for so many years associated in the various works of improvement projected and carried out by His Royal Highness. Mr. Ingram fulfilled a not unimportant part in the elucidation of many cultural matters in relation to the art of gardening. He devoted his attention to the development and improvement of the various classes of useful and ornamental plants which fell within the scope of the gardener's care. The Frogmore Scarlet-fleshed Melon was originated by him now nearly half a century ago, and it is still one of the best varieties of that fruit extant. In subsequent years he devoted great attention to the improvement of the Strawberry, and his success is attested by the excellent fruits which year after year were presented to the gardening world, of which Frogmore Late Pine, Mr. Radclyffe, John Powell, Prince of Wales, and Arthur are examples. Many careful experiments in hybridising led to the production of the British Queen, Improved Swan's Egg, and Golden Russet Pears. He added the Frogmore Prolific Apple to the narrow list of that fruit which are characterised by unfailing fertility and productiveness. The Frogmore Bigarreau Cherry and Bonne Bouche Plum are comparatively recent additions, contributed to the list of useful fruits from the seedlings raised at Frogmore. Mr. Ingram raised several good Roses, the last and most beautiful named after a member of his family, Miss Ingram. The Frogmore Scarlet Pelargonium still retains a position in our gardens, and his hybrid Begonia Ingrami will long be a favourite in our hothouses. By a long course of upright and honourable conduct, and devotion to the onerous and important duties which belonged to the position he held, he secured the esteem and approbation of the Sovereigns he served; and the good feeling and appreciation of his services which existed amongst his friends and fellow workers was evinced in 1865, when Mr. Ingram was presented by his horticultural friends with a handsome testimonial, the subscriptions to which amounted to £230. The testimonial consisted of a handsome silver tea and coffee service, a gold watch, and a purse of 150 guineas. The watch bore the following inscription, which sets forth the reason for the presentation:—"Presented to Thomas Ingram, Esq., by his friends, on the 50th anniversary of his service in the Royal Gardens, Windsor, July, 1865."

THE WEATHER.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AT BLACKHEATH, LONDON,
For the Week ending Wednesday, March 13, 1872.

1872. Month and Day.	Barometer. Mean Reading Reduced to 32° Fahr.	Barometer. Departure from Average of 18 Years.	Temperature of the Air. Highest.	Temperature of the Air. Lowest.	Temperature of the Air. Range.	Temperature of the Air. Mean for Day.	Temperature of the Air. Departure of Mean from Average of 30 Years.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 5th Edition. Dew Point.	Hygrometrical Deductions. Degree of Humidity. Sat. = 100.	Wind. Average Direction.	Rainfall.
1872.	In.	In.	°	°	°	°	°	°			In.
Mar. 7	29.26	−0.68	65.8	37.3	23.5	48.7	+ 8.5	43.8	83	S. by E.	0.00
" 8	29.37	−0.57	57.5	45.8	11.7	49.8	+ 9.5	44.9	83	S.S.W.	0.06
" 9	29.81	−0.12	55.1	35.8	19.3	43.9	+ 3.5	39.3	84	variable	0.00
" 10	30.13	+ 0.21	49.0	28.5	20.5	38.1	− 2.5	32.3	80	N.E.: Calm.	0.00
" 11	30.09	+ 0.17	55.9	28.3	27.6	42.1	+ 1.2	33.7	72	Calm: S.W.	0.00
" 12	29.90	0.00	55.4	33.5	21.9	44.2	+ 3.0	39.6	84	S.: S.S.W.	0.00
" 13	29.72	−0.18	56.9	38.3	18.6	45.1	+ 3.7	39.4	80	W.	0.02

March 7.—Very fine. The amount of cloud variable. A little rain fell at night.
— 8.—Rain fell in early morning. Generally overcast till noon. Variable till night, then generally cloudless.
— 9.—Very variable throughout. Dull. Hoar-frost at night.
— 10.—Hoar-frost in morning and at night. Cloudy till the evening; then cloudless.
— 11.—Foggy in morning. Nearly cloudless throughout. Hazy and misty.
— 12.—Very fine. Small amounts of cloud prevalent till night. Overcast after 8 P.M., and a little rain fell.
— 13.—Rain fell in early morning. The amount of cloud varied throughout the morning and afternoon. Cloudless at night.

JAMES GLAISHER.

Miscellaneous.

Guano.—At a recent meeting of the New York Lyceum of Natural History, Professor A. M. Edwards showed that the substance called "guano," used in the manufacture of artificial manures, is not, as is usually supposed, the accumulated droppings of birds, but a mud formed by the accumulation of the bodies of animals and plants, for the most part minute, and belonging to the group which Haeckel has collected into a new kingdom under the name of Protista. It was deposited along the ocean floor, and eventually upheaved to the elevations in which its strata are now found. Subsequent changes so altered it that the organic matter was transformed to bitumen. The Diatomaceæ, &c., found in guano occur as they would present themselves if deposited in water, and not as they would if they had passed through the stomachs of fish and birds. *Hardwicke's Science Gossip.*

Wax Palm.—Gloomy enough was the scene, for it was an immense wilderness of the Wax Palm (Ceroxylon andicola). The tall and slender stems (represented as far too low in Humboldt's *Nova Genera*) were rising thick in every direction. The cylindrical trunks were from 12 to 15 inches in diameter, as straight as the shaft of a column, and terminated at the summit, say 50 feet high, by a tuft of huge leaves. The trunk, which, like all Palms, is destitute of bark, is coated with a considerable film of wax, or, rather, it is believed, resin. It might be made a profitable business to collect and sell this, as much of the wax used in the churches is imported, and sells here at an extravagant price—nearly 3 dols. per lb.—when in the form of candles. *Holton's Andes.*

Garden Operations.

(For the ensuing fortnight.)

PLANT HOUSES.

The Conservatory. — The *Aralia* family is a striking one, and very ornamental, whether in a large or small state. Those kinds with large leaves, such as A. Sieboldii and its silver and golden-variegated varieties, and A. papyrifera, or the long persistent-leaved species represented by A. crassifolia, A. crassifolia integrifolia, A. crassifolia spathulata, and A. heteromorpha—these with *Beaucarneas* and *Bonaparteas* are very suitable and effective in featuring spots or centres of flowering plants. It is best not to overpot any such like plants—plants that yearly make sets of leaves or stages of growth. It is not uncommon to see such plants in enormous pots with no better growth, nor so good as those rarely seen in much smaller ones. It is much the best way to disroot and repot than to overpot such things. The same remark applies to the *Yuccas* when in a large state, and also to the *Dracænas*. *Myrtles* that have shed their berries, and otherwise lost their beauty, may be pruned or trimmed, if on a wall, into shape, in order that future growth may render them more shapely and effective. Pyramids, standards, or bushes of Myrtles are general favourites, and adapt themselves alike to the million and the great conservators of plants. They are quite indispensable in large gardens, and where extensive cut-flower decoration is carried on are invaluable, not so much for the flowers as for the branches, berries, or otherwise. If kept dry at the root thrip attacks them, and their beauty is lost for the year. Sow seed or strike cuttings for future plants, and grow them on in a genial Camellia-house atmosphere. Now is an excellent time to re-arrange, lift and replant, and group most plants in a permanent manner for the year, barring of course the flowering plants, which are shifted backwards and forwards, and also many that require more heat to mature growth. *H. Knight.*

Greenhouse Soft-wooded Plants.—A succession of bloom being one of the main objects in furnishing greenhouses, it will be best attained by paying attention to shifting the plants at suitable intervals, and by stopping the young shoots, not merely to retard their flowering, but also to assist in the formation of the plant. *Balsams* that have filled their pots with roots must be potted on in a rich compost, consisting of equal parts of leaf-mould, decomposed cowdung, and turfy loam; a little wood-ashes is also beneficial to them. A slight hotbed is the best place for them until they become established; then remove them to the greenhouse, where they will soon make specimens, and far better ones than the parboiled plants too often seen; never allow them to suffer for the want of water, or a premature bloom will be the result. *Lantana delicata* is a charming plant for autumn and winter decoration. Cuttings struck now, and grown freely through the summer, will make good plants; the flowers must be picked off during their growth. Most of the greenhouse bulbs will be growing or flowering now; they must be well supplied with water—let them have all the sun possible while they have any green leaves. Repot *Vallota purpurea* if it requires more room; it is a good plan to place a part of the stock out-of-doors as soon as all danger from frost is over, as these will form a succession to those kept under glass. *Gladioli*, where required for decorating the conservatory, should be potted singly, or three in a pot. *Petunias* make useful plants for greenhouse decoration, if struck at once. Look sharp after the aphis on soft-growing plants. *G. Baker, Clapham.*

Flower Forcing.—See that the plants are kept free of insects. *Roses* especially are subject to aphis; and, if not carefully watched, the bloom-buds will soon be spoiled. Many of the *Azaleas* will now be easily induced to bloom by giving them a short time in heat, and by removing them before fully open they will remain longer in bloom. *Dutch Bulbs* will do better now if allowed to come forward in a cooler temperature. A few of the best tender *Annuals* may be sown in 6-inch pots, in which they will bloom early in May. Let *Lisianthus Russellianus* have a good liberal shift with plenty of drainage. Let it be placed in the warmest end of the house, where it can have light and moisture. If set in pans of water, all the

by insect pests as wall trees. The treatment of pyramid trees in the early stages of their growth, up to, say six or seven years from the bud, is very simple, merely training the tree to a central leader and pinching the young growing shoots twice in the season. A little management is, however, necessary here, as the trees are apt to become too much crowded with wood, which excludes light and air from the centre of the trees. When this is the case thinning the branches is necessary. In practice I find it unnecessary to pinch the young shoots after the tree is a certain age—about six years. After it has reached this age, and has been properly trained, a very little attention, such as thinning and regulating the shoots, is all that is necessary. It will also be necessary to net the trees when the fruit is ripe to protect it from marauding birds.

Another method of growing this fruit, and which I found convenient here, is a sort of espalier system. I had a few trees which were planted against a low wall; and this wall having to be removed to make way for some improvement, I planted the Cherry trees against some iron hurdles, and with the aid of some sticks trained the shoots along them much in the same way as they were before on the wall. Some fruit was obtained the first year, and the trees have yearly borne good crops since that time—seven or eight years ago. The summer treatment consists in allowing the trees to grow much their own way, and in autumn or winter removing some of the old wood and tying the young bearing wood in to replace it. There is no difficulty in protecting such trees from the birds, as nets of some description can easily be thrown over them. I generally use the old herring nets, which keep the birds out and let light and air in.—J. Douglas.

CAMELLIAS AND THEIR CULTURE.

A little more than a century ago one might have said in half a dozen words all that was needed, in fact, all that could be said respecting the Camellia; but how wonderful and interesting has its progress been up to the present time, when it furnishes our conservatories during the dull winter months with myriads of blooms of various colours.

The first species cultivated in European gardens was the Japanese Camellia, C. japonica, said to have been introduced by Robert James, Lord Petre, in 1739; this was the single red or normal form of the species. No double-flowered variety appears to have been introduced till 1792, after which date came others, which have now, through the exertions of skilled cultivators, provided us with numerous and varied forms of this lovely plant; indeed, there are so many varieties, that the amateur who can accommodate only a dozen plants is unable to determine which to have without advice, and this is the reason we so often see the question asked. My intention, therefore, is to name a few varieties that I think worthy of cultivation, even in the most limited space.

No one, if possible, should be without the lovely Mathotiana alba, gem of white Camellias; the flowers when fully expanded are of very large size, and beautifully imbricated to the centre. I should be glad to hear through any of your correspondents if there are two varieties of this. In the collection here there are a few small plants bear single blooms, while a large plant produces double ones. There is no distinguishable difference in the foliage. Does this arise from the stronger constitution of the plant? I should fancy not. I am inclined to think the cause is a difference of variety, otherwise why should not the others produce the same kind of flowers, even if they were smaller? There is also the crimson Mathotiana, which is very good. But to the first-named I would add Jenny Lind, Cup of Beauty, Countess of Derby, Candidissima, Monsieur de Offay, Storyi, Lady Hume's Blush, Fimbriata, Maria Teresa, Imbricata, and Countess of Orkney. The buds of the last-named when in a half-open state present a most beautiful appearance. It is rather hard in opening, but when fully expanded lasts for a considerable time in perfection. Where space permits I would add the following six—namely, Jubilee, Wilderi, Empereur de Russie, Marchioness of Exeter, Valtevaredo, and Reticulata. The last is the largest-flowering of the species, the flowers often measure 6 inches and more in diameter, and are not unlike those of a Pæonia. Anyone having but limited accommodation will find in the above nineteen varieties a very choice selection. Of course where space permits, others of the highest merit can be added with advantage.

With regard to the culture of the Camellia, enough has been said from time to time, but the question is often asked early in the winter, Why do my Camellia buds drop off? Certainly this must result from bad condition in some way. In many cases, though perhaps not in all, I think it arises from the following cause—that they do not receive proper attention during the hot dry months of summer. Being in general placed in some shaded spot they are often forgotten, and consequently become dry at the root. This causes the wood to harden, and the Camellia not being a plant that quickly shows signs of suffering, the dryness is not perhaps noticed until the plants are removed to their winter quarters. Then as soon as discovered the water is supplied freely till the ball becomes soaked. What follows? The roots at once take up fresh nourishment, and supply it to the plant, the result is a swelling of all the joints, and the buds are thrown off before they can become developed. It is, therefore, always essential to give a regular supply of water at the roots during summer, with an application from the syringe in the afternoon, so as to keep the foliage clean and fresh. Attention in this respect will prevent many a disappointment at the blooming season.—C. J. W.

WILD FLOWERS AT HAWKHURST, KENT.

We certainly never can have had so early a season for wild flowers as the present. I have gathered, up to the 4th of March, the following:—

Jan. 27th.	Capsella Bursa-pastoris
	Stellaria media
	Veronica Buchanani
	Poa annua
	Lamium purpureum
	Ulex europæa
	Mercurialis perennis (male)
	Bellis perennis
	Leontodon Taraxacum
	Primula vulgaris
	Veronica agrestis
	Euphorbia Peplis
Feb. 12th.	Corylus Avellana
	Veronica polita
	Cardamine præcox
Feb. 23rd.	Ranunculus Ficaria
Feb. 23rd.	Potentilla fragariastrum
	Arenaria trinervis
	Petasites fragrans
	Viola odorata
Mrch 2nd.	Anemone nemorosa
	Mercurialis perennis (female)
	Vinca minor
	Viola canina
	Narcissus Pseudo-Narcissus
	Adoxa moschatellina
	Cardamine pratensis
	Taxus baccata (male)
	Ulmus campestris
	Oxalis Acetosella

I should be glad to hear what plants have been found in bloom in other counties. I have omitted to name the Willows, as I do not know the genus sufficiently well to discern the species.—Fraulein, *Botanist*.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS INGRAM.

It is our painful duty again to record the loss of a horticultural veteran in Mr. Thomas Ingram, formerly gardener to Her Majesty at Frogmore. He died on Saturday last at Upton Lodge, Slough, full of years, and, we may add, full of honours; for throughout his long and useful life he was respected by all who knew him, not merely for his skill as a gardener, but also, and higher, for his worth as a man. Those gardens over which he so long presided, those improvements in fruits and flowers which he effected, are standing proofs of his ability; and the esteem in which his personal character was held by horticulturists of every grade has been so widely admitted, that more than allusion to it seems superfluous.

We believe Mr. Ingram was born in England of Scotch parents, and in early life was sent to Scotland, under the care of his paternal uncle, who was parochial schoolmaster at Hutton, in Berwickshire. There he passed his school days in the house of his relative, who for a long series of years enjoyed the well-marked reputation of being an accomplished scholar, and one of the most distinguished teachers in the south of Scotland. Having finished his education at Hutton he came to England, and after passing through the preliminary training of a young gardener, he was appointed to the gardens at Windsor in the year 1815, so that he served four kings and queens of England, a boast, perhaps, that no other gardener could ever make, and one which Her present Majesty could well appreciate. On the occasion of the first visit of the Princess of Wales, then the Princess Alexandra, at Windsor, the Queen accompanied by the Princess visited the garden at Frogmore; Her Majesty, having sent for Mr. Ingram, said to him in that kindly manner which she always shows to her old servants, "Mr. Ingram, I wish to introduce you to the Princess Alexandra." "This," said Her Majesty to the Princess, "is Mr. Ingram, who was gardener to Queen Charlotte, and he has been here ever since." Mr. Ingram used to say that the Princess looked at him with amazement that Queen Charlotte's gardener should be still in the flesh.

A few years ago (1865), when Mr. Ingram completed his

fiftieth anniversary as gardener to Royalty, a number of his friends presented him with a handsome silver tea and coffee service, a gold watch and chain, and a purse of sovereigns. A report of the presentation was given in our columns at the time (August 1st, 1865), and on that occasion Dr. Hogg, who was the Chairman of the Committee, said, "For fifty years you have served the Royal Family of this country, with fidelity to them and honour to yourself—for fifty years you have occupied a prominent position in an arduous situation—one requiring the exercise of the greatest discretion, coupled with decision and courtesy. In that situation you have, doubtless, had to exercise much self-denial, and, while in the performance of your duty and your high trust, to give offence when you would rather have conveyed pleasure. For fifty years you have adorned the profession of horticulture, and assisted in no small degree in promoting and fostering its pursuit; and for far upwards of fifty years you have lived a life that has endeared you to many friends, and made you respected by all who know you; and it is for these reasons that we are now here to present to you these testimonials from your friends, whose names are inscribed on the accompanying roll.

"In the good providence of God you and Mrs. Ingram have been spared to live far beyond the allotted span, and it is our earnest wish, and that of all your friends, that you both may yet be long blessed with the enjoyment of each other's society, and to receive the hearty congratulations of all those who have the privilege of your acquaintance."

ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY'S SHOW.

The first spring Show of this Society was held on the 13th inst. in the new glass-covered corridor leading from the conservatory to the road—a structure 200 feet long by 15 wide, and well suited for the purpose. There was, besides, a tent along the side of the conservatory, so that the whole exhibition formed in fact a cross. The day was one of the finest we have had even during this unusually mild spring, and the Show well worthy of a numerous attendance of visitors, among whom were Her Royal Highness the Princess Beatrice.

Hyacinths were the main feature, and of these Messrs. Veitch exhibited in the nurserymen's class a magnificent twelve, which took the first prize without opposition. The spikes were quite equal to any we have ever seen, and in some of the varieties, Ida for instance, probably superior. The kinds were King of the Blues, De Candolle, General Havelock, Czar Peter, La Grandesse, Grandeur à Merveille, Koh-i-Noor, Solfaterre, Vuurbaak, Macaulay, Haydn, and Ida. In the amateurs' class Mr. Douglas, gardener to F. Whitbourn, Esq., Loxford Hall, Ilford, was easily first with excellent spikes of Prince of Wales, Charles Dickens, King of Blues, Baron Von Tuyll, Czar Peter, Von Schiller, Fabiola, Haydn, Koh-i-Noor, Ida, Grandeur à Merveille, and L'Innocence. Several of these were very much finer than we usually see in amateurs' classes. Mr. Stephenson, Tredegar Place, Bow, was second with very good spikes; Mr. Weir, gardener to Mrs. Hodgson, Hampstead, third; and an extra prize went to Mr. Rowe, gardener to Mrs. Lewis, Roehampton. Both Messrs. Veitch and Mr. William Paul exhibited splendid collections of one hundred pots, the spikes in which were extremely massive.

Of Tulips, again the only exhibitors in the nurserymen's class were Messrs. Veitch, who had the first prize for fine pots of White Pottebakker, Keizers Kroon, Vermilion Brillant, and Fabiola. In the amateurs' class Mr. Weir, Mr. Rowe, and Mr. Stephenson carried off the prizes in the order named. Messrs. Veitch exhibited in the miscellaneous class a numerous collection of Tulips and excellently bloomed Narcissus.

For miscellaneous plants in flower, Mr. Ward, gardener to F. G. Wilkins, Esq., Leyton, took the first prize with an extraordinarily fine collection, in which there was a specimen of Genethyllis Hookeri forming a bush nearly 4 feet in diameter, admirably bloomed. Together with this were fine specimens of Phajus grandifolius with eight spikes, Odontoglossum cristatum, O. Bluntii with five fine racemes, O. bictonensis, the rich yellow-flowered Azalea sinensis, the plant large and absolutely covered with bloom, Anthurium Scherzerianum, and other plants. Mr. G. Wheeler, gardener to Sir F. H. Goldsmid, Bart., Regent's Park, was second with Acacia Drummondi, large and in excellent bloom, together with other plants. From the same exhibitor and Messrs. Lane came groups of Azalea amœna, Rhododendrons, Deutzias, and other forced shrubs. Mr. Wheeler likewise sent a Lomaria gibba and other Ferns, a group of Palms, and one of fine-foliaged plants, as well as small plants of Indian Azaleas.

Chinese Primulas, well grown, and fine in colour, were shown by Mr. Goddard, gardener to H. Little, Esq., Twickenham, Messrs. Dobson & Sons, Isleworth, and Mr. James, gardener to W. F. Watson, Esq., Isleworth. Prizes were awarded to the exhibitors in the order in which they are named, as also to Messrs. James, Dobson & Sons, and G. Wheeler for Cinerarias, those from Mr. James being very good. Excellent pots of Lily of the Valley were shown by Messrs. Rollisson, and of Deutzia gracilis by Messrs. Lane, of Great Berkhampstead. The plants were 2½ feet in diameter, and in profuse bloom. Messrs. Lane likewise sent dwarf Rhododendrons in pots very well flowered, Roses, and a collection of Camellias.

Mr. Ward, gardener to F. G. Wilkins, Esq., sent half a dozen well-grown Heaths. From Mr. William Paul, Waltham Cross, came a choice collection of Camellias beautifully bloomed in small pots, cut flowers of Camellias and Roses, and Waltham White Chinese Primula. Messrs. Rollisson, of Tooting, contributed a collection of Orchids, Palms, and other plants; Mr. Wiggins, gardener to W. Beck, Esq., Isleworth, a group of Dendrobium nobile; and Mr. Needle, gardener to the Comte de Paris, Twickenham, a collection of Ophrys and Orchis. Cyclamen persicum was exhibited in fine collections by Mr. Goddard, Mr. Williams, Mr. James, and Mr. Wiggins, the last-named taking a floral certificate for C. persicum fimbriatum with white flowers neatly fringed at the edges. Mr. Ware, Hale Farm Nurseries, Tottenham, sent one of his very beautiful groups of spring-flowering plants, together with a collection of Succulents. From Messrs. Carter & Co., High Holborn, came a basket of scarlet Geranium Velocipede, which promises to be a desirable kind.

Among the new plants from Messrs. Veitch, Rollisson, and Williams the following received certificates — viz., Veitchia canterburyana, Kentia australis, and Kentia Forsteriana from Messrs. Veitch and Mr. Williams; also Agave Seemanni, Toxicophlæa Thunbergi, Tillandsia Lindeni, and Davallia Tyermanii from the latter exhibitor. Mr. Ley had also a certificate for the last-mentioned plant under the name of Humata Tyermanii. Martinezia erosa and Calamus verticillaris from Messrs. Rollisson were also certificated. To Mr. William Paul, floral certificates were given for Hyacinth Lord Mayo, violet plum with a white throat, very distinct and pretty; and Ornement de Rose [des Roses ?], with large pale blush bells faintly streaked with rose down the centre of each petal. Reine de Naples, bright rose striped with carmine, was lively in colour, and, no doubt, will form good spikes. A certificate was likewise awarded to Mr. Reed, Twickenham Ait, for Polyanthus Princess of Wales.

THE HELIOTROPE FOR WINTER FLOWERING.

Where cut flowers are in great demand during the winter, I know of no plant that would be more serviceable than the above, especially where the means are limited for growing other things. But to have it in quantity it requires to be planted out, the blooms also coming much finer. We have here (Bisbrook Hall, Uppingham), an old plant growing against the back wall of a cool vinery (the wall, of course, being very little used for anything else) that gives a good supply of flowers all through the winter, which amply repays for the little trouble bestowed upon it—which is simply keeping the shoots pinched back during the summer, and tying-in others to fill up vacant spaces.—Henry Mason.—(*The Gardener.*)

Prolific Hyacinth.—Seeing in last week's Journal an account of a prolific Hyacinth with four heads, allow me to mention that I have now in bloom in a glass a Princesse Clotilde Hyacinth, imported direct from Holland, with six fine heads, all growing from the crown. Each would be a fair head by itself, and one is particularly fine. The bulb is very small.—L. A., *Newmarket House, Co. Cork.*

FINE-FOLIAGED PLANTS FOR TABLE DECORATION.

Some people do not care much for foliage plants on the dinner table, thinking they look dull for the want of flowers, but to my mind nothing looks better than well-grown plants of the above kinds. I always grow my plants in pots of a size to drop into my fancy ones for the table, then I cover the surface (after they are in the fancy pots or pans) always with either silver sand or growing Selaginella denticulata.

Ananassa sativa variegata, or Variegated Pine Apple, is a plant we constantly use on the table here. It is light and elegant-looking, and will stand keeping in a room for a long time. We grow ours in a mixture of loam, peat, manure, and leaf mould, with a little silver sand, and always keep them close to the glass and in the full light of the sun, as that is the great secret of getting them up to a good colour. They are propagated by cuttings taken off the crown; let them lie and dry for a day or two, and then put them into a good heat,

INGRAM Joseph.
Effects under £100.

19 July. The Will of Joseph Ingram late of 62 Day-street in the Borough of **Kingston-upon-Hull** Bricklayer and Plasterer who died 1 July 1872 at 62 Day-street was proved at **York** by Anne Ingram of 62 Day-street Widow the Relict the Executrix according to the Tenor.

INGRAM Robert.
Effects under £8,000.

15 April. The Will with four Codicils of Robert Ingram formerly of Pinchbeck but late of Spalding both in the County of **Lincoln** Gentleman who died 21 November 1871 at Spalding was proved at the **Principal Registry** by William Robinson of Pinchbeck Farmer Thomas John Clark of Weston in the said County Farmer and Langton Merriman of Spalding Gentleman the Executors.

INGRAM Sarah.
Effects under £10,000.

29 June. The Will of Sarah Ingram late of Southover near Lewes in the County of **Sussex** Spinster who died 4 June 1872 at Southover was proved at the **Principal Registry** by John Stileman Bostock of Horsham in the said County Surgeon the Reverend Henry Manning Ingram of 3 Little-Dean's-yard Westminster in the County of Middlesex Clerk and the Reverend Hugh Ingram of Steyning in the County of Sussex Clerk the Nephews the Executors.

INGRAM Susannah.
Effects under £800.

22 November. Administration (with the Will) of the effects of Susannah Ingram late of King's Lynn in the County of **Norfolk** Widow who died 22 July 1872 at King's Lynn was granted at the **Principal Registry** to John Thomas Ward of Sibsey in the County of Lincoln Yeoman the Grandson the Universal Legatee.

INGRAM Thomas.
Effects under £1,000.

4 May. Administration of the effects of Thomas Ingram late of Slough in the County of **Buckingham** who died 9 March 1872 at Slough was granted at **Oxford** to William Ingram of Belvoir Castle in the County of Leicester Gardener to his Grace the Duke of Rutland Elizabeth Ingram of Slough Spinster and Thomas Frederick Ingram of Frogmore Royal Gardens in the County of Berks Gardener to Her Majesty the Queen the Children and three of the Next of Kin.

INGRAM Thomas.
Effects under £100.

21 June. The Will of Thomas Ingram late of the Parish of Meppershall in the County of **Hertford** Yeoman who died 1 June 1872 at Meppershall was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Joseph Gudgin of Shillington in the County of Bedford Farmer one of the Executors.

INGS Elizabeth.
Effects under £600.
Resworn Sept 1874 under £100 6

28 May. Administration of the effects of Elizabeth Ings late of Portswood in the County of **Southampton** Widow who died 9 March 1872 at Trinity Mews Vauxhall in the County of Surrey was granted at the **Principal Registry** to John Ings of Trinity Mews Coachman the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

INGS James.
Effects under £600.

20 April. The Will of James Ings formerly of 11 William-mews Lowndes-square Chelsea in the County of Middlesex but late of Portswood in the County of **Southampton** Gentleman who died 17 January 1872 at Portswood was proved at

William Ingram, Head Gardener at Belvoir

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1875 n.s. 3

Head Gardener's House at Belvoir

The name of Ingram is well and honourably known amongst British gardeners, having been borne by that fine old member of the profession who so long and so worthily presided over the Royal gardens at Frogmore. Of this stock comes the subject of our present notice, Mr. William Ingram, gardener to the Duke of Rutland, at Belvoir Castle, and who has won for himself a foremost position amongst his fellow horticulturists. He has earned a reputation also in other branches of science—geology in particular, and has achieved success, among other things, in the development of spring gardening, which has become so deservedly popular in many quarters. Mr. W. Ingram has obligingly sent us the following notes of his horticultural career, to accompany his portrait, which we now publish: —

"I was born at Frogmore in 1820, and spent my early days in that very charming garden attached to Frogmore House. I can only recall recollections that are pleasant to dwell upon of the Royal family of that day, and especially of the Princess Augusta, whose regard for my father, and kindness to his family, lasted while she lived. I believe I was rather distinguished by her notice, as I had to wait upon Her Royal Highness at least once every year, to tell her of the progress I was making in my studies.

After some practice in the old Maestricht Garden, I was placed in the forcing establishment at Cumberland Lodge, and ultimately took the management of the garden there. The great Vine in that place was an object of my especial care, and certainly did not suffer in my hands. At that time the new Royal garden at Frogmore was commenced, and I very well remember going with my father to stake it out. It was then a Turnip field. Associated with him in the consideration of the various details that attended the progress of this great work, I can recall one incident that occurred shortly after its completion with great satisfaction. It was the official visit made by the Prime Minister, Sir R. Peel, accompanied by Lord Liverpool, the Lord Steward, while I was left in charge, my father being at Balmoral, so that I was called upon to go round and answer all questions. The very careful examination made by Sir Robert, the acuteness of his remarks, and the acquaintance he exhibited with all the practical details, convinced me that the Minister's mastery of great questions did not preclude a just comprehension, or render him indifferent to even the small details of a garden.

Desiring to extend my practice, and to improve myself in the language, I went to France in 1846, and while in Paris attended the lectures of Milne Edwards and Brongniart at the Jardindes Plantes, and occasionally joined the botanical class of Adrien de Jussieu in excursions to the neighbouring woods. From Paris I went to the Royal garden at Sèvres, which was devoted to the cultivation of decorative plants. Enjoying the privilege of the acquaintance of M. Laffay, the celebrated Rose grower, and the raiser of Madame Laffay, La Reine, and other Roses, I frequently visited his charming gardens at Bellevue, just above Sèvres, and speculated on the future of La Rose with my kind and hospitable friend; and if his assurance of doubling the size of La Reine was not realised in his time, the variety and perfection of the Roses raised since that date partly justified the hope he expressed in many other respects. The celebrity of the great nursery establishment at Orleans tempted me to visit that ancient and interesting town, and I found in the admirably managed nursery of M. Dauvasse much to learn. The facility with which the art of multiplication was carried on satisfied me that rich soils and fine climates give vigour and vitality to a large class of garden plants that in growth and habit seem rather to languish than grow in many places in England. I shall always remember with gratitude the kindness and consideration shown to me by that truly excellent man, M. Dauvasse, and subsequent visits exchanged cemented the friendship which I treasure as one of the happiest recollections connected with my sojourn in France.

Returning to England just in time to escape the political explosion that drove Louis Philippe from the throne, I was offered the appointment at Hatfield on the introduction of Dr. Lindley. We grew good Grapes and Strawberries there, and I was glad to cooperate

with the good old Marquis in the many projects and experiments which suggested themselves to his very active mind. I remember we fed some Oaks with strong stimulating manures, and I have often wondered if the record remains in a double deposit of woody fibre on those of the ancestral Oaks of that noble park thus operated upon. I planted Conifers wherever possible. The Royal Horticultural Society at that time often sent out travellers, and I learnt something of the grandeur of the Californian Pines—macrocarpa and Sabiniana — from Hartweg, who visited me after his return from South America; my old companion in Paris, Rauch, joined him, and no one could be thus associated without acquiring a love and admiration for Conifers. My pen was not unfrequently employed for the "Doctor," as we admiringly called Dr. Lindley, and with my old friends Spencer and Frost I often acted as judge at Chiswick in the palmy days of flower shows, when Mrs. Lawrence and Lady Antrobus were rival exhibitors.

"The appointment at Belvoir Castle being offered me, I left Hatfield in 1853, and since that time have been hard at work in all departments of a very extensive establishment. A very large fruit and vegetable garden, situated near a wooded hill, and in the coldest of cold clays, has offered difficulties in the culture of fruits and vegetables, requiring years of patient labour to overcome, of which gardeners more happily situated know nothing; but difficulties and obstacles are only problems to be industriously worked out, and there is no greater pleasure in horticultural practice than to encounter and overcome such barriers to success. The complete drainage of the garden being effected I have gradually, on Jethro Tull's system, brought up the sub-soil clay to be operated upon by atmospheric agencies, but never more than can be completely reached and pulverised by the weather; next to this I have followed on with burnt earth and charred vegetable matter, preventing any future cohesion of the tenacious soil. The raking and wheeling away of much of the surface soil with weeds and rubbish, sometimes practised, I avoid as much as possible, taking care that every bit of soil is returned to the garden in one shape or other; and so my clay garden has become a bed of loam in which all vegetables thrive; and pursuing my plan of surface planting Potatos I succeed well with that capricious vegetable. Unfailing crops of Grapes have attended my system of culture; and I am amply rewarded in the fine and excellent fruits produced by the selection of Pears I have been gradually making. I have attempted to raise improved sorts of Pears and Apricots from seed, but nothing better than we already possess has rewarded me at present. We have a speciality for Strawberries, the crops of which are enormous, and I have great hopes of a seedling raised a few years since. Of Apples I have formed a very considerable collection.

It has been a cherished object to give interest to the gardens by gathering together all kinds of plants of horticultural value, rather than to depend upon the attraction afforded by the more limited number that brighten our parterres for a short season. I have often lamented the banishment of the fine old herbaceous plants from our borders, and it has been with me a labour of love to reinstate many of them, as well as to multiply a class of plants unsuited for the blaze of a parterre, which yet shed a light of beauty on rocky ledges or shady nooks, where floricultural productions would be out of place.

The distribution of soils, their varied character, derivation, and influence on vegetation, has been a favourite study of mine, and a paper read at the Congress at Oxford expressed some of my views on that interesting subject. Gardeners, who are so much dependent on weather for the success of many cultural operations, should endeavour to know as much about it as possible; and feeling this, I have conducted a series of observations for the last quarter of a century, which may some day be of use. Local rainfall is a matter that should always be ascertained, especially as the rainfall varies in cultivated districts from 15 to 50 inches.

Some years since it was a matter of common regret that our flower-beds were for more than half the year quite bare, and without interest or beauty, I have endeavoured to

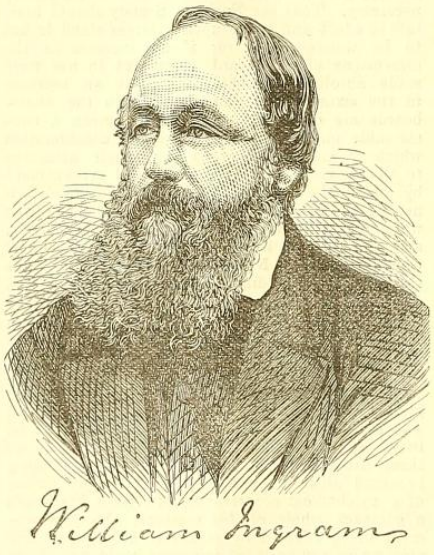
remove an acknowledged blemish in, our gardening practice, by collecting as many hardy shrubs and plants as were suitable, and so filling every bed as soon as the summer flowers are over. Our flower gardens at Belvoir are now green and pleasant to look upon in winter and delightful in early spring, filled as they are with vernal blossoms; my great difficulty has been to secure the greatest display in March and early in April, and this has been in a great measure overcome and accomplished. For alpine plants I have made extensive rockwork, and, with such opportunities, I hope to gather together many alpine gems.

I need hardly say that the wishes and interests of the owner of the princely estate of Belvoir has governed me in my arrangements, and to his artistic and refined taste is due the merit that belongs to the disposition of the pleasure grounds; and it is a source of pride and satisfaction, and my highest reward, to feel that I have in many instances secured his Grace's approbation."

little competition for reflexed varieties for instance, at some places, yet the class is still adhered to, simply, I suppose, because it has always had a place in the schedule. Why not offer a prize, as suggested by your correspondent, for a table of Chrysanthemum flowers, to see and encourage the flower for decorations, and for the table? Lady visitors, and they are a large proportion of those who attend flower-shows of any kind, rarely care for the big blooms, but delight in seeing the flower as if for their own drawing-room. The same classes are included for groups, specimen-plants, and cut flowers, year after year. The groups are painfully formal, and no prize is offered for an arrangement consisting, say, of such specimens as one sees at Kew, and recently noticed in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. A good group of these, smothered with flowers, would create as much interest as the winner of the award for "forty-eight Japanese or incurved," which seem to monopolise the attention of a few ardent gardeners. The abolition of the present leading classes is not advocated, but rather more thought given to showing the Chrysanthemum more naturally grown. A class or classes could be formed for a certain number of both incurved and Japanese flowers in bunches, cut with sufficient length of stem to get plenty of foliage. This is done now, but not enough, in the case of the reflexed pompon, anemone pompon, and single varieties, all of which are absurd when shown in bunches of three, stuck on to a board, with no leafage of any kind as a relief. The exhibits of "singles" at the recent Aquarium show were very stiff and unnatural, and the plants had been so disbudded that the flowers had lost all their characteristic grace and beauty. It is carrying the big bloom craze too far, when even the beautiful single kinds cannot be left alone. The stereotyped classes for the "best arrangement of bouquets, &c.," might be varied by classes for hall vases, bowls, and similar things. The shows would then be different to those of the summer in which table decorations are occasionally a conspicuous feature. Why not vary the groups with foliage plants, as one sees at Hull? The flat mass or surface of bloom at southern exhibitions is not interesting, every plant placed as close as possible to its neighbour. The effect would be still better if foliage plants were used as an edging as well as in the group itself, then one would see less of the bare stems of the plants. The present discussion does not enter upon the size of the later flowers. There is nothing beautiful to my mind in a flower a foot across, without a trace of the free graceful beauty of the earlier introductions. From what one can see of the novelties this year, the Chrysanthemum flower of the near future will not be smaller, but still larger, coarse, and ungraceful. *V.*

Obituary.

WILLIAM INGRAM.—We deeply regret to have to announce the death of Mr. William Ingram, the Garden Manager at Belvoir Castle, on the 9th inst. Mr. Ingram was seventy-three years of age, and died after a painful illness. The funeral takes place to-day (Saturday) at 3 P.M., at Knipton, near Belvoir. This is no common loss to ourselves or to horticulture. For ourselves, we have lost one of our oldest friends and contributors, one on whose judgment and intelligence we as well as our predecessors could always rely; whilst those only who have visited Belvoir are capable of estimating fully the loss to horticulture. Our portrait was taken several years since, when he was still in his prime, but it will still convey some idea of his appearance to those even who have only known him recently. William Ingram was born in 1820, at Frogmore, where his father had charge of the Royal Gardens. As a youth he had the management of the great Vine at Cumberland Lodge. In 1846 he went to France for the sake of learning the language, and of attending the lectures of Milne Edwards, Brongniart, and Adren de Jussieu, and here no doubt he laid the foundations of that knowledge of botany and geology which he was to turn to such good account in future years. Practical knowledge was gained from M. Laffay, the celebrated Rose-grower, and M. Dauvesse of Orleans. On his return to England, he was appointed to take charge of the gardens at Hatfield, on the recommendation of Dr. Lindley; and in 1853 he proceeded to Belvoir Castle, where he has been ever since. His geological knowledge enabled him to effect a great change for the better in a naturally unpropitious soil, and to select the kinds of fruit trees most suitable to the not too favourable climatic conditions at Belvoir. His knowledge of botany and love of plants enabled him to appreciate the value for decorative purposes of a host of plants at one time much neglected by gardeners in general, and especially by owners and gardeners who expended their chiefest efforts in producing a brilliant display at one season only, leaving their beds bare and uninteresting for the rest of the year. If one had to choose a spot where spring gardening, as it is now called, could be well carried out, Belvoir would most decidedly not be that spot, yet the knowledge and taste of Ingram triumphed over all obstacles, and furnished a proof of the exceeding value of a knowledge of general principles judiciously applied to practice. Ingram was one of the best informed gardeners of the time, and his practice was equally noteworthy. Those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, will remember the refined kindliness of the man, his sympathy with whatever was good, and his appreciation of anything that tended



to the progress of his art. These qualities endeared him to his associates, and caused his advice to be sought, and his judgment to be relied on in many matters of public as well as of private interest.

FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

THE HOLLYHOCK.

I WAS recently asked whether seed of the Hollyhock could be sown, and the plants raised from it flower the same year. From my own experience, this can certainly be done, and the plants will give very handsome spikes. The seed was sown on February 1, and the young plants were grown-on under glass until they were strong enough to plant out where they were to flower early in May. I put each of the seedlings into flower-pots, but this is no great matter, and in gardens where pits or frames are available, the plants can be so well inured to the open-air that they may be planted out in May without any check to their growth. A good rich border must be prepared for them to take deep root into. I trench the ground 2 feet deep, and put in two good layers of rich manure, one at the bottom of the trench, and another about 9 or 10 inches below the surface. If this can be done in the autumn, so as to expose the surface to the winter's frost, so much the better.

Another method of raising seedling Hollyhocks is to sow in May or early in June. It can be sown out-of-doors in May, or, if it is left until June, it is better to start it with a little bottom-heat on a hot-bed. The plants will be strong enough to be planted in September where they are to flower. Seedlings will pass unscathed through the winter, when named varieties, under same conditions, become badly injured. If seed has been saved from the best varieties, the progeny will, to the extent of 30 to 50 per cent., be as good as the parent, and nearly true to colour. This is my own experience, but it differs considerably from that of some other raisers and growers.

It is now time to take cuttings of the named varieties. Each cutting should be planted singly in a small flower-pot. They require a little bottom heat, and should be planted in moist soil, for I do not care to give them any water until roots are formed. All the growths may be taken from the stools with one exception, and that allowed to remain, in order that it may form a plant to go out with the others in May. The experienced amateur, if he is an exhibitor, will not trust altogether to old stools, nor to spring-struck cuttings, or propagation from root-grafts. Plants raised thus generally produce their flowers about one time, and rather late in the season. Other plants are obtained from eyes propagated during the previous summer. When long handsome spikes are desired, all the lateral shoots should be cut off. These laterals usually have a number of flower-buds formed in the axils of the leaves nearer the points. The buds nearer the base of the laterals are leaf-buds, and if these are taken off, and the eyes planted much the same as Vine eyes, each one will form a good plant to flower early next year. The eyes should be planted singly in small flower-pots, with the leaf-stalk attached, but not the leaf. Place them in a frame over a spent hot-bed. The plants obtained from these eyes are wintered in frames; they are usually very hardy, and are ready to plant out before those that have been obtained from spring cuttings or grafts.

THE HIPPEASTRUM.

These plants should be repotted in the earlier part of January. I like to have the soil prepared, and expose it to the air for some weeks, before it is required for potting, but protected from rain. It should be sufficiently moist when used to start the plants into free growth without affording any water for six weeks afterwards. The compost may consist of two parts of yellow loam, and one of good fibrous peat, with an almost equal quantity of leaf-mould, and one-fifth part of rotten manure and sharp sand. If many Hippeastrums are grown, the pots holding them should be plunged in a bed of tanners' bark. If a tan-bed has been previously used, sift out of it all the fine particles, and with the coarser parts remaining mix fresh tan in sufficient quantity to afford a genial warmth to the bulbs when plunged, the heat at the time being not higher than 85°. The bulbs being in the pots in which they flowered or grew last year should have the soil shaken off entirely, and decayed roots and loose skin at the bottom of the bulbs removed, the tips of the long roots which have run over the rim of the pot and entered the tan being likewise cut back to a considerable distance. The roots of the bulb issue from a ring round the central point. The soil for the bulb to rest upon should form a cone, and this must be made tolerably firm; place the bulb in position, and, holding it with one hand, spread out the roots with the other, arranging them down the sides of the cone of soil, pressing the mould firmly about the roots and round the base of the bulbs, leaving the bulb, when the potting is finished, half its depth above the soil. It may be thought that this method of potting is a slow one, but in reality it is not so. All offsets are removed from the plants at the time of repotting, plunging them altogether by themselves in the bed. Be careful not to use unnecessarily large pots, those about 6 inches diameter inside-

INGRAM Frederick Simpson of Cottingham Northamptonshire innkeeper died 26 September 1893 Probate **Peterborough** 17 March to Ellen Ingram widow and Eleanor Florence Ingram spinster Effects £203 15*s.* 6*d.*

INGRAM George Pick of 9 St. James'-road Leicester gentleman died 18 December 1893 Probate **Leicester** 3 November to Theodore Walker and William Ralph Walker hosiery manufacturers Effects £706 4*s.* 4*d.*

INGRAM John of Wern Uchaf Merthyr Tydfil farmer died 2 February 1894 Probate **Llandaff** 21 March to Ann Ingram widow Effects £235 16*s.*

INGRAM John of 17 Herbert-street Landport Hants pensioned chief petty officer from the royal navy died 11 November 1894 Administration **Winchester** 20 December to William Ingram naval pensioner Effects £524 0*s.* 6*d.*

INGRAM Jonas of Moorland North Petherton Somerset labourer died 13 February 1894 Probate **Taunton** 12 March to Elizabeth Willshire (wife of John Willshire) and Eliza Prosser (wife of William Herbert Prosser) Effects £20.

INGRAM Mary Jane of 14 Trinity-place Halifax widow died 6 March 1894 Administration **London** 22 November to Henry Wright retired corn miller Effects £159 17*s.* 3*d.*

INGRAM Sarah Ann of Wilbarston Northamptonshire widow died 11 November 1894 Probate **Peterborough** 28 December to Benjamin Ingram grazier Effects £50.

INGRAM Thomas of 10 Staddon-terrace North-road Plymouth gentleman died 11 January 1894 Probate **Exeter** 5 February to Edward Ingram Woodhead retired civil servant Charles Edwards accountant and Emily Groves widow Effects £9698 18*s.* 9*d.*

INGRAM Thomas Frederick Winnington of Southampton and of Her Majesty's ship "Peacock" commander royal navy died 8 May 1894 at the royal naval hospital Haslar Hants Probate **London** 11 June to Jessie Winnington Ingram spinster Effects £1109 13*s.* 1*d.*

INGRAM William of Belvoir Leicestershire gardener died 9 January 1894 Administration **London** 23 February to Harriet Frances Ingram widow Effects £356 5*s.* 3*d.*

INGRAM William of Winslow Buckinghamshire groom and gardener died 28 February 1894 Probate **Oxford** 3 September to George Ingram retired butcher Effects £250 3*s.* 10*d.*

INGRAM William Smith of Waltham-lane Waltham Holy Cross Hertfordshire died 7 May 1894 at the nitro-glycerine factory Waltham Holy Cross Administration **London** 26 May to Agnes Murray Ingram widow Effects £175.

INGS George of Blissford near Fordingbridge Hants brickmaker died 20 April 1894 Administration **Winchester** 9 July to Tom Ings farmer Effects £100.

INKER Thomas of 41 Kennington-oval Surrey died 20 September 1894 at the homœopathic hospital Great-Ormond-street Middlesex Probate **London** 1 October to Sarah Perrett (wife of James Perrett) Effects £297 8*s.*

INKERSOLE Thomas of Grange-road Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire coal merchant's clerk died 22 January 1889 Probate **London** 5 June to Elizabeth Inkersole widow Effects £1.

INKSON Annie Maria of 83 Kent-street Great Grimsby Lincolnshire (wife of Walter James Inkson) died 23 October 1892 Administration **London** 1 January to the said Walter James Inkson fish-curer Effects £82 8*s.* 3*d.*

INMAN Caroline of 21 Elletson-street Poulton-le-Fylde Lancashire widow died 29 December 1893 Administration **Lancaster** 22 January to Edward William Farmer gentleman Effects £1830 14*s.* 5*d.*

INMAN James of Garsdale Emsworth Hants esquire died 4 August 1894 Probate **London** 1 September to Amy Ada Howse (wife of Charles Edmund Howse) Effects £3346 15*s.* 6*d.*

INMAN John of Blackpool gentleman died 29 April 1888 Administration (with Will) **Lancaster** 24 February to Edward William Farmer gentleman Effects £321 Former grant June 1888.

INMAN John of Cundall near Boroughbridge Yorkshire farmer died 17 April 1894 Administration (with Will) **London** 28 July to Mary Elizabeth Inman widow Effects £340 4*s.* 6*d.*

INMAN Philip of Kirkgate Knaresbrough Yorkshire rate collector and assistant overseer died 5 April 1894 Probate **Wakefield** 26 June to John Inman merchant's clerk and Frederick Inman joiner Effects £1573 4*s.*

INMAN Sarah of 10 Duckett-street Burnley spinster died 6 November 1894 Administration **Lancaster** 21 November to Mary Riley widow Effects £72 1*s.* 6*d.*

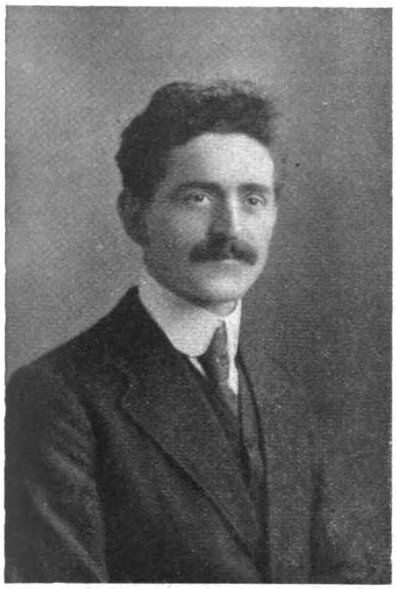
INMAN Susan of Penhow near Burythorpe Yorkshire widow died 11 December 1893 Probate **York** 29 January to James Inman farmer and Grace Inman spinster Effects £518.

INNES Ann Moor of 13 Meaburn-street Sunderland widow died 6 March 1894 Probate **Durham** 10 April to Elizabeth Harrison Squance spinster and John Thomas Potts ironmonger Effects £84 3*s.*

A Garden in the Making.

Interview with Mr. W. J. Irvine, at Bradley New Gardens, Grimsby.

To plant and develop the gardens before the house is built is not the usual method of procedure, nor is it possible as a general rule; but it certainly has its advantages, and is being done by Mr. W. H. Thickett, one of the most prominent of Grimsby's business men. Mr. Thickett, having been the architect of his own fortunes, is now spending part of his leisure as architect of his new estate, the while he is still occupying his old residence near the town. He has as head gardener Mr. W. J. Irvine, whose name is not altogether unknown in exhibition circles, for he was last year second in the Burpee Cup



MR. W. J. IRVINE,
in charge of Bradley New Gardens.

class at the National Sweet Pea Society's London show, and filled a similar position the previous year, when the show was held at Birmingham; he has also been successful with Chrysanthemums at Sheffield.

Bradley, where the new garden is situated, is about three miles out of Grimsby. It was here, last September, I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Irvine, and of being introduced to his esteemed father, Mr. W. Irvine, an old-time gardener of great repute, now retired, but still retaining his enthusiasm for gardening, and cheerfully placing his wide experience at his son's command.

GARDEN FIRST, HOUSE TO FOLLOW.

"At present this place is called Bradley New Gardens," Mr. Irvine explained; "but when the house is built it will receive its proper name. Mr. Thickett is very keen on the garden, and possesses brilliant ideas; he also backs me up in any plans I suggest, giving me a free hand to carry them out. He wants this for his hobby garden, and desires to get it to his liking before the house is built, so that when he comes here to live it will be already made, and he will not have to be altering and improving it, as he might if it were an old-established garden taken over from someone else."

The estate is about twelve acres in extent, and on two sides is bounded by a public road. Mr. Irvine's cottage is near the corner of the roads, and close to the carriage drive. In the opposite corner, screened from the highway by tall trees, is the site of the house. Looking around the garden of the cottage—whence we started on our walk—and seeing the thriving shrubbery which cuts it off from the pleasure grounds, one gained the impression that several years had passed since the work began.

"How long is it since you commenced operations?" I asked.

"Four years ago—1917. It was then a rough field, like the land around, and there was not even a hut or shelter of any kind. My house was the first thing built. As you would notice as you came along from Grimsby, this part of Lincolnshire is very flat, and to break the force of the winds that sweep violently across from the west, we are planting Lombardy Poplars and Pines all round, to give protection."

"When you started, I suppose you found it difficult to get labour?".

TREES THAT ARRIVED DURING FROST.

"It was practically unprocurable. We could have done with eighteen, but had to put up with two. The first thing done was to plough the land—it was in the autumn, and later, a man went over it with a sharpened adze, and cut it down as with a hoe, to get a fine tilth, and keep the turves underneath. This made good soil. It was at this time, during a severe frost, between four and five hundred espalier fruit trees arrived, and we were in a difficulty. The ground was not ready, and we could not lay them in; so we got ropes and hurdles, laid the heads of the espaliers against the ropes, and covered the roots with litter, as we could not get soil. The plan answered well, and we did not lose a single tree."

"How many hands do you now employ?"

"Six; three men and three women."

Coming out from Mr. Irvine's garden, and passing along the carriage drive, a broad expanse was pointed out which is to be the lawn fronting the house. Last year it carried a crop of Oats, which, despite the drought, were good in straw. Here and there small portions of the ground which have still to come under cultivation, showed how rough all had been at the start; but elsewhere, wherever the eye rested, the clean state of the ground, the absence of weeds, and the healthy state of the trees and shrubs, was most noticeable.

The carriage drive will not go right up to the house, but describes a graceful curve, and at the end passes round a pear-shaped bed, thus avoiding the necessity for the carriages having to make a turn. This bed was filled with Antirrhinums, but later will have dwarf shrubs and perennials. Near by is an ornamental bungalow, approached by crazy paths, which are to have tiny plants, such as Thyme, Sedums, Dianthus, Saxifrages, and others suitable in the spaces between the stone.

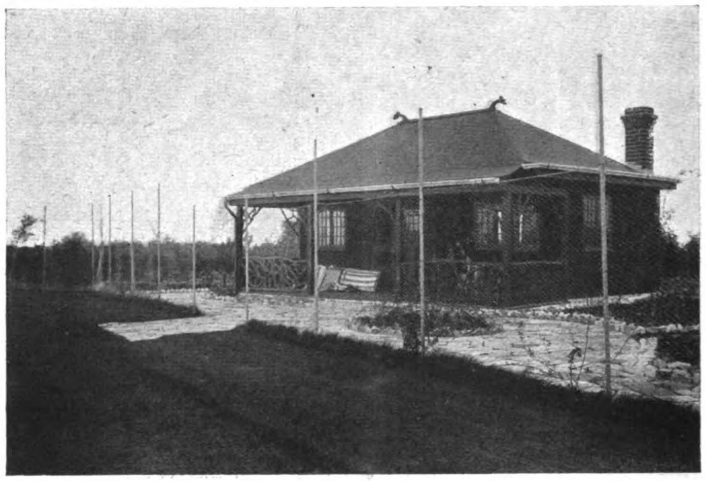
"The bungalow was built for the accommodation of the young ladies," said Mr. Irvine, "and they spend a lot of time here, playing tennis on the lawn at the back. It will be a permanent feature, and will make a fine pavilion and summer house. We have planted Climbing Roses and Wistarias on it, and when these are fully established the effect will be very good, for it will be quite covered."

Passing to the back of the bungalow, a large bed was pointed out which is to be planted with Ghent Azaleas, to provide a broad mass of colour in the season. This bed is to be visible from the house. The tennis lawn was a delight—smooth, fresh, green, and weedless—and in contrast to so many which had been parched by the drought.

THE TENNIS LAWN.

"How have you managed to get this so fine?" I asked.

"It was sown only twelve months ago. We were told we would not get good grass under ten years, but we have managed it in one. The ground had a slight slope, but we have got it quite level. The seed, of course, was of the best quality, and we have kept the hose going during the dry weather."



TENNIS LAWN AND BUNGALOW AT BRADLEY NEW GARDENS.

"But where have you got the water from?"

"Mr. Thickett had a well sunk. We had to go down a hundred and forty-seven feet, and then came to water of good quality. The water is raised by a windmill, which requires only a puff of wind to work it. There is a storage tank holding two thousand gallons, which is enough to last ten to fourteen days, and we are seldom so long as that without wind. But to guard against eventualities, Mr. Thickett is going to have a small engine put in. Beneath the water tower a place has been made for the electric light plant, which will be run to light the estate. You can see from here that the Austrian Pines and Lombardy Poplars have been so planted that when they have grown they will completely screen the engine house and the other buildings from the house itself. The water is conveyed to stand-pipes, which are put in convenient parts

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of the garden. There are four in the kitchen garden."

From the tennis lawn we turned back towards the kitchen garden, passing on our way the Rose garden, planted in beds, each of one colour, and surrounded by a hedge of Thuja; and coming next to the ground where the Sweet Peas are grown. They were in six long double rows, and though so late in the season, these were still blooming profusely, and I asked how they had been kept going, when in most gardens the drought had caused them to stop long before.

"We have been able to give them water," was the answer; "but the chief reason is that the soil is so good for them, and has a certain amount of natural moisture. The surrounding land was at one time a marsh. We get the Sweet Peas up to fifteen and sixteen feet high, and even this season they have reached ten feet. The cooler weather has benefitted them, and the colours seem fresher and brighter than ever."

"You are going to have plenty of fruit in the future," I observed, as we reached the kitchen garden.

GOOD FRUIT TREES.

"Yes; altogether we have two and a quarter acres devoted to fruit. The trees are still young, but they are bearing remarkably well. On three sides the kitchen garden is bordered by double cordon Apples and espalier Pears. Cox's Orange Pippin, as a double cordon, started fruiting the first year, and has never failed since. Blenheim Orange, Charles Ross, James Grieve, Rival, Newton Wonder, Ecklinville Seedling, and Allington Pippin are others that do remarkably well. Peasgood's Nonsuch is not so good. In rows between the bushes we have Beets, Cabbages, and other vegetables."

As I was able to see for myself, the fruits were indeed very satisfactory, alike in quantity and quality, the Blenheim and Charles Ross being especially fine. Pears were a poorer crop, as they were elsewhere; but some of the trees were carrying good specimens. They are the best varieties, and had borne plenty of bloom, but this had been spoiled by a late frost. Plums were scarce, but the bushes were very healthy, and give promise of better things to come; and the Cherries left nothing to be desired. These have all been planted two years, but to judge by their appearance they might have been ten years old.

"The Raspberries," Mr. Irvine remarked, "are Superlative and Yellow Antwerp. We had some difficulty with them, and it was two years before they started, but they gave good crops this year."

"What are the Gooseberries?"

"Langley Gage and Whinham's Industry are our two chief varieties. They have suffered severely from drought, especially Langley Gage. We are subject here to strong west winds, which blow the bushes down, so as a precaution we drive a 2-in. stake on the lee side, close to the main stem of each bush, and then they cannot fall."

"Do you have any trouble with 'big bud' on your Black Currants?" I asked, as we went through a large plantation.

"Up to now we have not seen a sign of it. On this piece of ground we have altogether about a thousand plants in the thirty rows, and we gathered off the bushes a ton and a quarter of fruit this season. The varieties are Victoria and Boskoop Giant. As a precaution against 'big bud' we dust them in spring with lime and sulphur, on a dewy morning, or after a shower."

A large bed of Strawberries was next inspected. The varieties, I was informed, are Royal Sovereign, King George, Sir Joseph Paxton, and Laxton's Latest of All.

"This bed is three years old," said Mr. Irvine, "but the plants look so healthy and vigorous that I am giving them another year. There is a small bed with two-year-old plants, and there I have put all the surplus runners. There are also a nice lot of runners in pots, to make a new plantation. Of the varieties, Royal Sovereign is the best for table, and Sir Joseph Paxton for preserving. King George I do not find so good as the others."

In frames and in the open were two thousand plants of Violets, Princess of Wales; and, standing on ashes, a large number of pots of Chrysanthemums.

DECORATIVE CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

"Do you show many Chrysanthemums?" I asked.

"Only decoratives, and of these we grow a good many. They are required for Mr. Thickett's town house and other purposes. We have five hundred pots of Baldock's Crimson and three hundred pots of December Gold—these are our chief sorts. Of Singles, we have a good selection, such as Bronze Molly, Lady Aston, Mensa and the yellow variety, Phyllis Cooper, Bronze Beauty, Excelsior, and Tom Wren; and among decorative Japanese Madame R. Oberthur, H. W. Thorp, Tuxedo, Yellow Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Roots, Mr. F. McNeice (this is a beautiful pink), Brilliant (a gem—sent out by Mr. H. J. Jones), and Bronze McNeice. The Singles are grown in 32-size pots, which I think is big enough for them; the others have the larger pots."

"UP-TO-DATE" METHODS OF WATERING.

Turning our attention next to the glass, I noted three greenhouses, each one hundred feet long by eighteen wide and high, span-roof, with sharp slopes, giving a great extent of surface exposed to light. Five more greenhouses of the same size are to be built, making, when complete, a splendid range. Like everything about the place, they are fully "up-to-date" in equipment, heating, and ventilation. Running along outside each house are stone tanks, which collect rain-water, which passes inside. Then, inside, there are dipping tanks at intervals, so that soft water at the right temperature is available for the plants. This is one of Mr. Thickett's ideas, as is the system of watering for the frames. Of these frames, which are all brick-built, there are three rows, each seventy-five feet long. One row is heated by pipes, the others can be when it is thought desirable. A perforated pipe is laid along the top, inside each row of frames, and connects with a standpipe at the end. When water is turned on, all the frames in the row can be watered at one time with a fine spray; or, if only certain frames require it, taps cut off the supply from the others.

The first house we entered was the vinery, divided into two. Madresfield Court, Mrs. Prince, Muscat Hamburgh, and Cannon Hall are the varieties in the first part. Both Mr. Irvine and his father, who accompanied us round, are keen on growing Cannon Hall, for, as Mr. Irvine, Senr., said:

"It is a splendid Grape, but it wants a lot of growing. There has been a good show of bloom, and the berries promise well. It is a very strong grower, and the soil can be too rich. The best treatment is, I think, to prune close, and leave only every alternate spur."

In the next division the varieties are Gros Colmar, Black Hamburgh, Alicante, and Gros Maroc. All told, in the two divisions there are forty Vines, each with one rod. The handsome bunches of Grapes were well up to exhibition standard, and I was not surprised when I heard that it was in contemplation to send some of them to the Royal Horticultural Society's show a month later.

"There is plenty of room for development, as you can see," said Mr. Irvine. "They are only three and a half years old, and for the first twelve months—before the house was ready—they were all outside. For the present we are letting them carry an average of only ten bunches each."

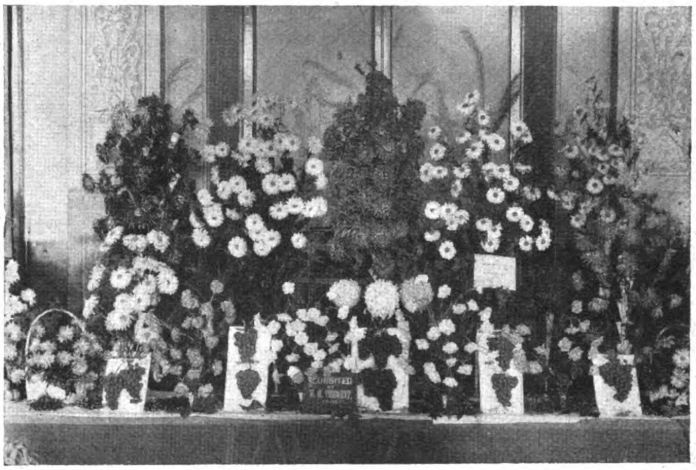
The next house, which is also in two divisions, is given over to Peaches and Nectarines, of which there some thirty-six trees, dwarfs and standards. The varieties are Dymond, Early Rivers, Waterloo, Royal George, and Pitmaston Orange. They were planted at Christmas, 1920, and naturally had not arrived at the fruiting stage, though two or three would carry fruits the first season. But the aim was to lay the foundations of good trees for future bearing, and of this there was most satisfactory promise, to judge by the sound wood and generally healthy growth, with no suggestion of grossness.

The third house contains plants, and especially Perpetual Carnations, of which there were upwards of a thousand in all the best varieties, such as Mary Allwood, Destiny, Enchantress Supreme, Wivelsfield Beauty, Beacon, Boadicea, Rose-pink Enchantress, Wivelsfield White, and Triumph.

After coming out of the houses, I was shown through the potting shed and tool house, all nicely fitted up, so that work can be done in comfort, no matter what the weather is outside.

I may add that, at the Fruit Show in October, Mr. Irvine exhibited in several classes. But competition was exceptionally keen, and against some of the best Grape growers in England he managed to get second prize in one class. He was more successful with his Chrysanthemums at Sheffield, in November, for he secured second prize for his display of Singles in a space of twenty feet by four, and first prize for six vases of decorative varieties.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.



A PRIZE-WINNING GROUP OF DECORATIVE CHRYSANTHEMUMS, GROWN BY MR. W. J. IRVINE.

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case the syringe should first be heated, otherwise it will cool the water below the point at which it is fatal to the insects. The same means can be attained by having the temperature a few degrees higher. Even harder-bodied insects can be killed by using water at one hundred and twenty-two degrees Fahrenheit, which is still more than seven below the temperature at which it would be injurious to plants. The operation should, of course, be regulated by the thermometer.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

People You Hear About.

MR. E. R. JANES.

One of the most successful of the younger school of gardeners is Mr. E. R. Janes, who, last summer, was appointed to succeed the late Mr. F. G. Drew as lecturer and practical instructor in horticulture at Reading University College. That the authorities had made a wise choice was realised by all who were acquainted with Mr. Janes' career, as he had proved his fitness by a series of brilliant successes in the growing of flowers, fruit, and vegetables.

MR. E. R. JANES.

It is interesting, at this juncture, to recall that the last great prize won by Mr. Janes was in connection with vegetables. In the spring of 1915 "The Daily Mail" initiated a competition open to gardeners of all classes, with a first prize of £100 in each section. An exhibition was held in the following September, and Mr. Janes was successful in the premier class, that for nine different vegetables, beating, amongst others, the redoubtable Mr. James Gibson, gardener to the Duke of Portland. With Sweet Peas, too, in the same year, Mr. Janes was unbeatable, for, during that season, he won ten silver cups and five gold and many silver medals, amongst his trophies being the Eckford Memorial and Sutton cups. The year before he had gained the champion cup offered by the Royal Horticultural Society for vegetables, and many cups and gold medals for Sweet Peas and other flowers, both at London and the principal provincial shows; while in previous seasons he had had many successes, mainly at local shows, for groups of Orchids, Chrysanthemums, and fruit.

Mr. Janes is a native of Dorsetshire, and it was at Iwerne Minster, in that county, that he commenced his gardening career. After six years he left and entered the employment of Lady Tate, at Park Hill, Streatham, where he spent two years. For the next two he was at Wilderness Park, Sevenoaks, the seat of Lord Hillingdon, and for another period of two years he was Carnation grower and decorator at Arundel Castle, the Sussex residence of the Duke of Norfolk. Other notable gardens where he gained experience were those of the Duke of Portland (under Mr. James Gibson) and Lord Wolverton. He then went as foreman to Lord North, at Wroxton Abbey, Banbury, and after remaining here for some time left to take the position of head gardener at Hawthornden Manor, Uttoxeter. But six months later he was back again at Wroxton Abbey, this time as "head," and then commenced the long list of successes as an exhibitor already recorded. For five and a half years Mr. Janes was at Wroxton, leaving it to take up his appointment at Reading. He also has charge of the fruit farm and gardens, which are situated at Shinfield—where the whole of the horticultural work of the college will ultimately be carried out.

Mr. Janes is a member of the committee of the National Sweet Pea Society.

PERPETUAL-FLOWERING CARNATIONS.

HOW TO IMPROVE THEIR KEEPING QUALITIES.

It is during the dull winter months that the value of Perpetual Carnations is most highly appreciated. To be able to cut regularly from even a small collection of plants is a delightful experience. The difference in constitution and flowering capacity of each individual variety is tested during these months, and it is then that we can judge correctly the results of our method of cultivation.

We must, however, recognise that size is only one quality of a Carnation bloom. Better that a flower be of medium size, and possess lasting qualities, than that it should become curled and "sleepy" a few hours after it is cut. All will agree that the keeping quality of the Perpetual-flowering Carnation is unequalled by any other flower. If correctly grown and handled when cut, it will last for at least ten days. This quality is entirely governed by the system of cultivation. "Sleepiness" may be traced to several causes, the most prevalent being over-development of the flower; improper treatment after cutting; a high, forcing temperature, causing the petals of the bloom to become soft; and more than all, heavy feeding with liquid manure and chemical fertilisers.

Over-development can easily be guarded against by cutting the blooms when three-quarters out in the early morning, when the petals are fresh from the night air. When cutting, always cut between the joints with a sharp knife, and remove the two lower sets of leaves. One of the most important conditions necessary to improve the durability of the cut blooms is to have a cool, dark room or cellar, which, at this season of the year, must combine dryness of atmosphere with cleanliness and airiness. It must also posses an average temperature of forty-five degrees.

As the flowers are cut, they should be taken immediately to the dark position prepared for them, and placed in deep vases, capable of holding two gallons of water, and of sufficient depth to allow the stems to be three-parts submerged. Do not overcrowd the blooms in the vases, but allow ample room to each individual flower, so that further development can be carried on during the time they are in the water. At this season twelve hours is sufficient to complete the final development of the flowers, and enable them to withstand the ordeal for which they are required in a manner that will give satisfaction, and prove the advisability of this system over flowers cut from the plants and carried direct into the dry atmosphere of rooms, to fade quickly and lose half their beauty.

PACKING AND DISPATCH BY POST.

In the dispatching of Carnations by post, it is of vital importance that the above system be carried out, if we wish the blooms to arrive in a perfect condition. The packing of the blooms is a simple matter. This is the system now followed by our leading growers in the dispatching of their bloom to market. Strong leatherboard boxes, twenty-two inches long, eight inches wide, and four inches deep, are of sufficient size to carry two dozen flowers. The box should be lined with strong white paper. Previous to placing the blooms in the box, give them a light spray. A light roll of newspaper, half an inch thick, and of sufficient length to reach across the width of the box, is then placed in position to form a pillow, upon which to lay the first row of flowers. This is continued until the whole of the flowers are in position, when a final roll is placed to hold all the blooms firmly. A piece of white paper should then be laid over the blooms, and a small pad of damp wood wool, wrapped in damp paper, placed over the stems, this in return being held in position by another paper roll. The principal art in packing flowers is to prevent them from moving in the boxes and becoming bruised. Carnation blooms packed under this system will keep fresh and arrive in good condition after being twenty-four hours in transit.

RICHARD BRANT.

Garden Life "At Home."

THE problem of the Potato supply is now receiving attention from high authorities, who will no doubt adopt every means available to help to solve it. While they are doing this, we housewives can give assistance by looking more closely into the question of cooking the Potato. A friend has just sent me a leaflet entitled "Economy in using Potatoes," which is issued by the Board of Agriculture. In it a special appeal is made for cooking the Potato before paring it.

Apart from the need for economy, it appears that the richest part of the Potato is next the skin, and this is generally cut away in paring it. Where the eyes are deeply sunk fully ten per cent. of the tuber is cut away—sometimes much more—so that out of five pounds of Potatoes we obtain only four and a half to four pounds for cooking. When we remember, also, that much of the nutritious parts are lost in the water when cooking, we can see how wasteful a method this is.

On the other hand, Potatoes boiled in their jackets lose only a very small percentage of their soluble ingredients and none of their solid flesh. For my part, I prefer them done this way, as their flavour is decidedly better. The one thing that many people dislike is the trouble of removing the skins, but with a very little practice this difficulty is overcome.

When cooking the Potatoes in their jackets, it is best to make a cut in the skin at each end of the tuber to allow the steam to escape and prevent stodginess. This applies whether they are steamed, boiled, or baked.

If Potatoes must be pared, there should be as little waste as possible, and they should be steamed for preference, or else cooked in the smallest possible quantity of water, which should be boiling when they are put in. The loss is much greater when they are put on in cold water. The water, by the way, should not be thrown away, but should be put aside for soup.

A TABLE DECORATION.

Cheerful colours are always best in the dull days of mid-winter, and more so now than ever. We can obtain a happy combination with white and gold, the white being supplied by the Paper-white Narcissi and Lilies of the Valley, and the gold by Acacia dealbata, commonly called the Mimosa. Take a light, dainty Rose basket, which should be zinc-lined. Fill it with damp sand, and over this put a layer of fresh green moss; or else pack it closely with the moss (omitting the sand), in which slender vases or tubes of water can be inserted.

Put trails of Smilax and a few sprays of Acacia round the basket handle, carrying them around and over the edge of the basket; then insert good branches of the Mimosa, with long-stalked Narcissi and Lilies of the Valley, adding also a few sprays of a graceful Fern.

Around the basket arrange on the table trails of Smilax, and amongst them set slender vases, each with Acacia sprays and a few of the Narcissi and Lilies of the Valley.

LADYBIRD.

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INCIDENTS IN THE LIVES OF WELL-KNOWN HORTICULTURISTS.

Mr. J. Jaques, F.R.H.S.

THOUGH Mr. Jaques retired from the practice of gardening as a profession a few years ago, he still takes the keenest interest in all that passes in the horticultural world, and is one of the most active members of the Fruit Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society. When I asked him to see me for a chat respecting his career, he replied that he would be pleased to welcome me at his house, but that he was afraid I should be disappointed with the result of my visit. This is quite characteristic of Mr. Jaques. He has always been unobtrusive, preferring to remain in the background. Yet, when appealed to, he has invariably been able to give useful advice, and make valuable suggestions. Soon after my arrival at Greyfriars, a pretty villa high up on the slopes of Chorley Wood, I asked Mr. Jaques when and where he started as a gardener.

A MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS EVE.

"I went to my first situation on Christmas Eve in the year 1860. It was five degrees below zero early the following morning after I reached Thrones House, Wakefield, then the residence of Mr. J. M. Gaskell, M.P. I was eighteen years old, and had worked for some time with my father, who was a market gardener in the county. There was a good general garden at Thrones House, nicely walled in, with a range of Peach houses, Vineries, and Pine stoves. The Pine stoves had recently been heated by hot-water, and the cultivation of Pines was quite a feature. Vines were grown in the Pine stove, and they did very well, especially Muscats, which were grown on the long-rod system. In those days, as now, Canon Hall Muscats were very popular. The variety was raised in Yorkshire, seven or eight miles from Wakefield. Muscat of Alexandria was also grown, and the grizzly Frontignan was much esteemed for flavour. The borders were outside, and in November were thatched like a rick.

"Another feature," continued Mr. Jaques, "was the growth of tobacco for use as a fumigator. We dried it in the early Peach house, after the Peaches were cleared out. The woman who looked after the bothy used to hang the tobacco leaves over the trellis."

"Was the accommodation in the bothy good?"

"No, there were only two rooms for four men. The others slept over the stable. There were no palatial bothies in those days. For the rest, a fair collection of Oranges were grown in tubs, also Camellias, Brugmansias, and Myrtles in tubs, and planted out in the same house. With a south-west aspect, on the brow of a hill, there was a modern terrace flower garden, adjoining the house. In the kitchen garden were a Peach wall, well furnished with trees, the proper training of which was regarded as the highest proof of a gardener's skill. On other walls were a good collection of Pears having east and west aspects. The lower wall facing south was warmed by flues, and planted with Cherries. The park was between two and three hundred acres in extent."

DERBYSHIRE AND LONDON.

"How long did you stay in Yorkshire?"

"I stayed just two years at Thrones House, but I did not leave Yorkshire at once. Desiring to have nursery experience, I spent three months in the establishment of Messrs. Fisher and Holmes, at Sheffield, which enjoyed a special reputation for trees and shrubs, including Hollies. I next proceeded to Alfreton Park, Derbyshire. The garden was small, but everything was well done; and Mr. Henry Ellis, under whom I worked, was an excellent chief, with his heart and soul in the business. At the end of two years I became foreman, and on the completion of a third, I obtained an appointment in the celebrated Pine Apple Nursery, then carried on by Messrs. Arthur Henderson and Son. I had charge, after a time, of the stove plants which they were then showing at the London shows, Regent's Park, South Kensington, and the Alexandra Palace. Some very

MR. J. JAQUES, F.R.H.S.

good Ericas were grown, and all the hard-wooded plants of the period. My next post was that of flower gardener and plant foreman at Hillingdon Court, Uxbridge."

"Were there any special features?"

"A very large conservatory had to be kept going all the year round, and forcing flowering shrubs was rather a feature. Primula sinensis was grown in quantity. At the end of two years I had my third and last nursery experience, this time at Messrs. Veitch's Royal Exotic Nurseries in 1866. When the first International Exhibition was held in London, the firm exhibited largely at the exhibition. They were doing a big trade, and I well remember Mr. John and Mr. Harry—now Sir Harry—being taken into partnership. From the outset and subsequently, he was a general favourite."

BACK TO YORKSHIRE.

"From Chelsea I went as general foreman to Grimston Park, the residence of the second Lord Londesborough. Here, too, there was a fine collection of Ericas, Darwinias, Phœnoconas and other hard-wooded plants, now practically unknown to gardeners. Azalea indica was grown largely for exhibiting, and shown at York and Leeds. At the shows I came into contact with Mr. Thomas Baines, Messrs. Cope Brothers, of Manchester, and Mr. George Houghton, of Bowden Baines was the best plant grower of his day. When I had been at Grimston Park a few weeks, I happened to meet Lord Londesborough in the gardens, and he said, 'You are the new foreman; can you grow Orchids?' I replied that I could, and he at once rejoined, 'Then we will have some.'"

"Where had you gained your knowledge?"

"At Veitch's nursery. Lord Londesborough had a range of houses erected forthwith, and we soon had a representative collection. The conditions of air and water were all that could be desired, and we did well with all the sections we tried. We commenced with Dendrobiums and Vandas, making purchases from Colonel Benson, of Burwash. A little showing was done. Not long after I left, the estate was sold, and Lord Londesborough rented some land belonging to the Duke of Cambridge, at Kingston, where he removed the Orchids. But they did not flourish in Coombe; the structures and other conditions were not congenial, and the air was wanting in purity."

"And your next appointment?"

BANANA CULTIVATION.

"To a place in Surrey, near to Croydon. My employer was Mr. Pickersgill Cunliffe, and this was my first situation as head gardener. Mr. Cunliffe was very fond of gardening, and went in largely for stove and greenhouse plants at Hooley House. In fact, the gardens were quite up-to-date. One of the specialities was Bananas. There was a house erected forty feet high for the cultivation of Musa sapienta. The sides of this house were planted with Passiflora quadrangularis for jam. Musa Cavendishii was grown in another house, and from these we were able to keep up a constant supply of fruit. The sapienta was red, and had a magnificent flavour. Mr. Cunliffe's American friends, notably Mr. George Peabody and Mr. J. P. Morgan, told him that in the United States they could never get such fine Bananas. In addition to Banana houses, there were four Vineries, two Pine stoves, three Peach houses, an Orangery, and an orchard house, a hundred feet long and thirty-two feet wide in several spans. Peaches were gathered in barrowfuls. I had just finished three new Orchid houses, and got the plants well established, when Mr. Cunliffe was accidentally killed on the railway. He was taken to Guy's Hospital immediately, but there was no hope of recovery. That tragedy ended everything, and soon afterwards I was invited by Mr. J. Dyson Perrins, of Davenham Bank, Malvern, to extend and take charge of his gardens."

AT DAVENHAM BANK.

"The father of the present owner?"

"Yes. Amongst the extensions was the connection of the old fruit houses with the Orchid houses, and the erection of a new house for fruit. Mr. Perrins was one of the highest type of men I have ever met, and most reasonable. The Orchids did wonderfully well. There was one little incident which you may like to mention. Mr. Perrins wanted to grow Phalænopsis, and Mr. Dominy, from Veitch's, was asked whether they could not be grown successfully. He said 'Yes, if they had more ventilation,' and he advised that a budding-knife should be pushed half-way up between the lapse of a glass. This advice was taken, and we got plenty of air, but the natural atmosphere of the place was so strong and dry, that then we failed completely. Davenham Bank is seven hundred and fifty feet above sea level, and very exposed. However, we went on with it. I had the house double glazed, and ventilated it from the apex of the adjoining buildings. We then secured a number of imported plants, and in due time they flowered magnificently; one plant of P. Porteii intermedia had over two hundred flowers at one time. Mr. Perrins was delighted with the collection of Phalænopsis which we got together, but just at this time, I regret to say, he died very suddenly, his coffin on its way to

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the grave being covered with his favourite Orchid. One other section of Orchidaceous plants did remarkably well at Davenham, viz., the Disas. In 1885 I had a group of D. grandiflora photographed which was probably the finest group of this terrestrial Orchid that had then been seen in this country. Other features at Davenham Bank were Ferns and Grapes, specially Muscats of Alexandria. I was at Malvern between thirteen and fourteen years, and a few weeks after the death of Mr. Perrins I had the honour to be appointed gardener to Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild. Upon undertaking such an important and extensive charge, I felt my first duty was to get, as far as I could, an accurate grip of the requirements of the establishment. For instance, house and table decoration for both Waddesdon and London had to be considered, therefore a good decorator and plant foreman was indispensable. Necessary conveniences in the way of plant houses had to be completed. The summer bedding for the terrace and other portions of the gardens were on such a large scale that arrangements were made for the erection of houses, capable of accomodating one hundred and fifty thousand bedding plants. For the convenience of working, this arrangement was merged into the fruit and forcing department, under the charge of the forcing foreman. Each of the departments, including the kitchen garden and hardy fruit, required a large staff."

A FINE COLLECTION OF ORCHIDS AND FOLIAGE PLANTS.

HOW TO WORK SMOOTHLY.

"You must have had a great deal to occupy your attention?"

"At the outset I certainly found enough to do; but as soon as all the departments were staffed, the work proceeded smoothly enough. Being, at that time, fortunately blessed with good health, I really enjoyed the work, especially as I received every encouragement from my employer, Baron Ferdinand. The plant houses, forty in number, were arranged in blocks, with a central corridor, a big Palm house under the dome; and among numerous representative collections, Malmaison Carnations and Odontoglossum were especially fine. Forcing fruit and vegetables was done on a very large scale, and I had a standing order from the Baron to have Strawberries on the table on February 14."

"What about the bothy?"

"During my time, the bothy, although very good, was pulled down, and the Baron erected a new one. He was most considerate to all his employees. After his death I remained with Miss A. de Rothschild for two years and a half. Unfortunately, about this time my health began to fail, and as the duties were heavy, I felt the time had come to relinquish work. I laid my case before Miss Alice de Rothschild, who treated me in the kindest and most considerate manner."

THE GARDEN AT GREYFRIARS.

"Have you been in this house since you settled in Hertfordshire?"

"Yes, six years. Generally speaking, my garden—the little I do of it—is limited to hardy fruit. The soil is stiff clay and stones, and I have used but very little manure. But, in spite of that, or perhaps because of it, Raspberries do remarkably well in the back garden. The varieties are the Guinea and Superlative."

"The buds on the Apple trees suggest that you will have a good crop?"

"I think the Plums and the Cherries are equally promising. With regard to Apples I am trying sixteen different varieties to see what they will do. But my gardening is on a very small scale. Still, I find many things to interest me, particularly in horticulture, and also in the rural district where it is now my lot to reside."

Alfred Wilcox.

ONCIDIUMS.

For an amateur who wishes to grow one or two Orchids amongst a mixed collection of plants in a cool greenhouse, there are few more suitable than the Oncidiums, and a few notes on their culture may be of use. The various species here enumerated are among the most beautiful, and will, under careful but easy culture, give a magnificent display of bloom during the winter and early spring months. All can be procured for a very modest sum.

A SELECTION FOR BEGINNERS.

O. concolor.—This is a dwarf-growing species, which produces long drooping racemes of pure yellow flowers, usually in March or April. These continue several weeks in perfection, and are borne in great profusion.

O. crispum.—This is one of the finest of the genus. It blooms somewhat earlier than the preceding. The blossoms are of good size, light yellow, much marked with brown. It is a strong grower, and extremely floriferous.

O. Forbesii.—Another fine species, of which strong plants can be procured at low prices, and are invaluable for early winter blooming. The flowers are brown, edged with bright yellow.

O. macranthum.—This is undoubtedly the king of the genus, and no one who observed the plants exhibited at last year's International show could forget the magnificent display afforded by the spikes of bloom over twelve feet long. The flowers are of various shades of yellow, olive, and brown, and of large size.

O. Marshallianum.—For autumn blooming this species stands out pre-eminent. On well-grown examples often a hundred blossoms are carried on the long, branched flower spikes. The blossoms are of a brilliant yellow, much barred with reddish-brown.

O. sarcodes.—Although a low-growing Orchid, this species bears beautiful flowers in great quantity, the predominating colours being yellow and reddish-brown. It is one of the cheapest, and invaluable for Christmas decoration, long spikes keeping for weeks in perfection.

O. tigrinum.—This is one of the most beautiful Orchids in cultivation. The long spikes are produced in the early winter months, and continue many weeks in full beauty. The flowers are yellow, and the sepals and petals are prettily barred with rich chocolate brown. It has a powerful scent, resembling that of Violets.

O. varicosum.—This is an extremely free-flowering Orchid, but amateurs should be careful to procure the true variety "Rogersii," as the ordinary type is poor in comparison. The flowers are pure yellow, with a little brown in the lip. The long, branching spikes are borne during December, and besides being of attractive beauty, will keep fresh for a month or more.

TEMPERATURE AND MOISTURE.

The most suitable position for these plants is a shelf about one foot below the eaves of the house, preferably facing west; or failing this, the plants should be arranged on the staging at the warmest end of the house.

Oncidiums do not require much heat, a minimum of forty-five degrees Fahr. by day in winter suiting them admirably; but the temperature should, from May to October, be well above an average of fifty degrees Fahr. Plenty of fresh air is needed at all times, but this will be regulated largely by the weather, and hence no definite instructions can be laid down.

Shade is necessary directly the sun begins to gain power, and will usually be needed on all bright days from the end of April until September is well advanced. As soon as the flower spikes are of sufficient length, they should be tied to neat sticks, otherwise they are liable to become twisted, or broken off. Remove these spikes of bloom as soon as the blossoms begin to fade. The leaves should be sponged regularly at intervals of a fortnight with tepid rainwater.

To all in full growth and in bud and flower, give a good watering every day; to those which are just commencing growth, water should be given every other day; but to any which are at rest, a dose once a week (unless in summer) will be ample. Be careful to give enough to wet the whole compost when watering the Orchids, a mere sprinkle over the leaves being of no use. Rainwater should always be employed, and never use any guanos, as they are dangerous in the hands of beginners.

Potting should be done annually. The best time to do this is when the new bulbs are seen to be pushing from the base of last year's growth; usually two months after the flower spikes have been removed. For soil, use a mixture of chopped Osmunda fibre, well-rotted Oak leaves, and sphagnum moss in equal parts. After potting, keep the plants fairly dry until new roots are seen to be pushing into the new compost.

C. Alwyn Harrison.

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spot within so short a distance of the heart of the Black Country. Kinver Edge has now been presented by the family of the late Mr. Thomas Grosvenor Lee, of Birmingham, to the National Trust, to be held for the use of the public. This munificent gift comprises some two hundred acres of heathery moor, which will be much appreciated, and will serve to keep green the memory of the famous naturalist. At a public celebration of the gift on September 28, Canon Rawnsley, the chairman of the Trust, formally accepted the gift, and Lord Dartmouth and the Mayor of Stourbridge made speeches congratulating the Trust on the acquisition of its first piece of property in the heart of the Midlands.

Four Veteran Gardeners.—We reproduce in fig. 51 an interesting photograph of four veteran gardeners, Messrs. H. Ballantine, T. Robinson, J. Jemmett, and A. Sinclair, taken recently in the garden of Mr. Ballantine at Westwood, Egham, where he now resides. Each of these four gardeners is over eighty years of age, and their combined ages amount to 336 years. Mr. Ballantine was born in 1833, and began his gardening career in Scotland. While still a young man he was appointed gardener and bailiff at "The Dell," Baron Schröder's residence at Englefield Green. Here he stayed for nearly half a century, and the late Baron, who esteemed him very highly, on his death left Ballantine a legacy of one thousand pounds. He was a keen and successful Orchid grower, and was for twenty-five years a member of the R.H.S. Orchid Committee. In 1907 he was presented with the Victoria Medal of Honour, and in 1911 he retired from "The Dell" appointment. Some particulars of his career, and a portrait, were published in *Gard. Chron.*, Sept. 14, 1907, and his retirement is mentioned in the issue for April 1, 1911. Mr. T. Robinson was born in 1835. His experience was chiefly gained in the south of England, but his first post as head gardener was at Maryborough Park, Cork. Later he was for twenty-nine years gardener and bailiff at the Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's Hill, and retired in 1899. Mr. J. Jemmett is the eldest of the little group, having been born in 1831. He is still in harness and has never been absent from work for a day through illness, being hale and hearty. For the last fifty-six years he has held the post of gardener at Milton Park, Egham, where he has served three generations of Barons de Worms. Mr. A. Sinclair is two years younger than Mr. Jemmett. He began work at nine years of age, and has had a very varied experience, having served in gardens as far north as Banff. His last position was that of head gardener to R. Charington, Esq., at Hunsdon House, Ware, where he remained for fifteen years, retiring in 1909.

Potato Grower Fined £300.—At Wisbech Police Court recently George Tansley, a Potato grower, was fined £300 on twelve counts of having sold seed Potatos at prices above the maximum. The excess profit was £211. He pleaded that the Government had commandeered 167 tons of his Potatos at £8 a ton, while his neighbours had obtained £11 a ton on the market.

Medlar Seeds as Poultry Food.—It is not generally known (states the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*) that the seeds of the Japanese Medlar (Eriobotrya japonica), a tree which is grown for its fruit on the French Riviera, can be used for feeding poultry, rabbits, and other domestic animals. They can also be used for distilling a spirit resembling Kirschwasser. Food for poultry can be prepared by simply boiling the fresh or dried seeds in water for thirty to forty-five minutes, and then crushing them or using them whole, as may be desired; or, instead of being boiled, they may be roasted like coffee. Another plan, which has the advantage of not requiring heat, is to crush the seeds, then moisten them with sufficient water, and allow them to remain in this state for twelve hours. The mass is spread out in a thin layer to dry in the sun, in order to remove any traces of the bitter flavour. This poultry food can be used dry or wet as preferred.

Soil Bacteria.—During the past eight years Mr. H. Joel Conn has been engaged in the very difficult and important work of studying the bacterial flora of the soil.* Our knowledge of the bacterial content of the soil progresses very slowly, and this because of the fact that it is a new branch of science. The organisms have to be isolated and cultivated. Many of them are new and not easy of cultivation under artificial conditions. The soil bacteria are of two types: those which form spores and those which do not. The former are relatively few in number, and are probably not of agricultural importance, since they appear to occur in the soil only in their spore—or resting—stage. The non-sporers, on the other hand, occur in great number and variety, increase amazingly when the soil is manured, and also when it is aërated. Some of them are known to be ammoniafiers—that is, producers of ammonia. As an example of the effect of aëration on the bacterial population of the soil, Mr. Conn mentions that whereas 1 gram (about 15 grains) of dry soil yielded about 16 million colonies, a similar amount of the same soil yielded after aëration about 28 million colonies. It will evidently be a long while before we shall be able to purchase soil fertility bacterial starters, which, added to soil, will infallibly set going those beneficent processes of corruption—and those only—whereby the food and stimulant necessary for perfect vegetable growth are produced. Yet it does not require much vision to see the agriculture and horticulture of the future employing the bacteria of the soil in as sure and beneficent a manner as the dairyman now employs cultures of micro-organisms to act as starters in producing the kind of cheese he wants.

* *Soil Flora Studies.* Bulls. No. 57, 58, and 59, New York Agric. Exp. Station, Geneva, N.Y.

HISTORIC FIRM.

With some notable exceptions British seed firms have been more or less short-lived. They have flourished for periods of varying brevity, but few have continued successful for more than a century. That being the case, it is cheering to find an exception in the case of a firm which is known, not only throughout Scotland, but also throughout the whole of the United Kingdom—that of Messrs. Austin and McAslan, of Glasgow. The bicentenary of the firm was celebrated on the 28th ult. by a dinner in the Trades Hall, Glassford Street, Glasgow, at which a numerous and representative company was present. The chair was occupied by Mr. Alexander N. Hunter, the present head of the firm, and the guests numbered about one hundred and fifty. The Lord Provost and other important townspeople were present, and Sir Robert Wright, the chairman of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland. Representing the staff of Messrs. Austin and McAslan were Messrs. John Cairns, R. M. Young, S. G. Smith and J. J. Robertson. The following represented the garden and agricultural seed trade and nursery trade: W. Cuthbertson (Dobbie and Co., Edinburgh), J. M. Bridgeford (Watkins and Simpson, Ltd., London), A. W. Johnson (Hurst and Son, London), Andrew Aitken (Chas. Sharpe and Co., Ltd., Sleaford), T. S. Findlay (Findlay Bros., Baillieston), Joseph Dobson (Wm. Leighton, Glasgow), T. B. B. Kerr (Kerr and Co., Glasgow), James Gray (Glasgow), W. P. Maltman (Alex. Cross and Sons, Glasgow), James McKenzie (Glasgow), Andrew Motherwell (Glasgow), T. C. Meldrum (Smith and Meldrum, Forfar), John Sutherland (Lenzie), John Smellie (Busby), Thos. Jeffrey (Edinburgh), Chas. Young (Kennishead), Thos. Thomson (John Donaldson and Co., Edinburgh), J. D. Alexander (Pringle and Alexander, Glasgow), R. W. Todd (Dunlop and Todd, Glasgow), Robt. Howie (Glasgow), W. Gilchrist (W. Gilchrist and Sons, Glasgow), P. M. Hamilton (Arch. Hamilton and Sons,

Fig. 51.—Four Veteran Gardeners.

Reading from left to right:—H. Ballantine, T. Robinson, J. Jemmett, and A. Sinclair.

THE GARDENS OF LORD BURNHAM, AT HALL BARN, BEACONSFIELD.

Interview with Mr. George Johnson.

AMONGST the stately homes of England, the seat of Lord Burnham, in Buckinghamshire, takes a first place, both on account of its associations, its charms, and its surroundings. By the courtesy of the Honourable Lady Hulse, Lord Burnham's daughter, who herself takes the keenest interest in the gardens, I had an opportunity in the middle of January of inspecting them, under the auspices of the gardener, Mr. George Johnson. Before we commenced our tour of the extensive and picturesque pleasure grounds, I spent some minutes in admiring the Oak Lodge, which is one of the features of Hall Barn, and is quite unique. The mansion has been materially enlarged since Lord Burnham became the owner of the historic estate, but the original portion has been carefully preserved. Great changes have been made in the original gardens; but their natural beauty, instead of being impaired, has been developed, and on every hand there is evidence of the care and consideration which must have been given in the initiation and carrying out of improvements. Near the mansion, which, owing to its architecture, is unadorned by creepers, is one of the finest variegated hedges in the country.

A Famous Variegated Hedge.

"Formerly," said Mr. Johnson, "it was composed of Hollies and Laurels, but in recent years the Laurels have been gradually taken out, and Yews substituted, with the most satisfactory result. Its height is quite fifty feet."

"How often do you manage to cut it?"

"Once a year. In order to reach the top, we have a series of ladders, and telescope clipps are employed for the purpose of trimming. We do not cut the hedge on lines, but with a view to keep it as rustic as possible."

"It forms a splendid background for your flower beds."

"Yes, and it does not shade them unduly. These flower beds which you see cut in the grass slopes represent the only approach to formal bedding at Hall Barn."

"How many beds are there in the grass on the slopes, which I notice receive embellishment from several topiary trees?"

"We are trying to get the topiary trees to represent peacocks. You will observe, as we proceed, peacocks and other birds decorate the tops of our beautiful gates. With regard to the bedding, the average number of plants in each for the groundwork is three hundred. In spring we combine Violas and Tulips, Arabis and Tulips, Polyanthus and Tulips, Aubrietias and Tulips, making thus a great show of Tulips. The varieties are Crimson King, Chrysolora, and Keizerskroon. In summer two beds are filled with Heliotrope Lord Roberts, Abutilon Thompsoni, and Begonia Fairy Queen. In other beds we have Lobelia Queen Victoria and Abutilon Thompsonii, worked out in panels of Alyssums and Ageratums—a blend of blue, scarlet, golden, and white. Two beds are occupied with Heliotrope Lord Roberts and Begonia Crimson Bedder; while the large round bed contains Fuchsia Mrs. Marshall, growing from two to four feet high, filled in below with Salvia Fireball, and edged with a broad band of Lobelia Mrs. Clibran."

Rhododendrons in Natural Soil.

"How do you fill your bowls set out on the grass?"

"The centre bowl is filled with Fuchsias and Calceolarias; and the others with Chrysanthemums and Ivy-leaved Geraniums. At the far side of the slopes is a collection of hybrid Rhododendrons."

Mr. G. Johnson.

"Is there any peat in the soil?"

"None at all. We add a certain amount of leaf-mould to the natural soil, and find that quite sufficient. Facing us here is The Grove, which is now an integral part of the pleasure grounds, so that altogether I have between eighty and a hundred acres under my care. You will see more of The Grove as we walk through it, and meanwhile you will like to make a note of the great Yew hedge on the south side of the mansion. Here, too, in front of the house, is a fine Copper Beech, and a good specimen of Lime. Later on we stand out tubs of Fuchsias, Heliotropes, Marguerites, and Ivy-leaved Geraniums."

The Ornamental Water.

"The Broad Walk," continued Mr. Johnson, as we pursued our way, "is quite undecorated on the left of the ornamental water, save for Laurels, which in August are cut with an ordinary knife, in order that the leaves may not be severed. Above these are specimen Yews, evergreen Oaks, Larch, and scarlet Thorns. On the right of the walk there are a few Conifers planted at intervals, and the grass slopes down to the water are planted with bulbs, with the view of naturalising them."

"How large is the lake?"

"It covers about two acres. At one end there are a few Lilies, and a summer-house with a garden seat. There is also a summer-house at the other end, with two fine bowls, which in summer are filled with Heliotropes and Geraniums. In addition to the Lilies, there are clumps of Dogwood in the water. You can judge from the big bank of Rhododendrons at the end of the Walk, close to the sportsman statue, how they thrive in the soil. Now we pass into The Grove."

The New Rock Garden.

"In The Grove," continued Mr. Johnson, "we have recently planted tens of thousands of Daffodils, Bluebells, Snowdrops, Crocuses, and miniature Hyacinths. Also there are thousands of Forget-me-nots. The latter are the plants which were previously used in the flower beds, and they seed themselves in The Grove. The rock garden at the bottom of the lake is our latest addition."

"When was it finished?"

"At Christmas. As to its formation, the waterfall has been made with three falls; bulbs, Ferns, and Foxgloves are planted on the sides, and at the foot of the waterfall is a Bamboo garden. The rockery itself contains a collection of all the best-known Alpines."

"Who designed the rock garden, Mr. Johnson?"

"I did. As, however, there has not been time for anything to flower, I cannot yet say how far my efforts have been successful."

"At any rate, you have chosen a delightful position, and there is every appearance of success."

Walks in The Grove.

From the rockery we proceeded through the Temple Walk, four hundred yards long, all green and grass, with ponticum Rhododendrons on each side, and many glimpses of noble Beech trees and flourishing Yews. At the end is the Temple, with its marble floor. Leading from the Temple is the Obelisk Walk, five hundred yards long.

Continuing our progress, we passed one of the striking gates picked up abroad by the Hon. Harry Lawson, M.P., on his travels, with a distant vista of the maze; the four spacious tennis-courts and croquet ground; an Elm tree wall, which had just been topped, because the Elms had become dangerous; a thriving Holly hedge; and, lastly, the great Yew hedge, twenty to thirty feet through, and between thirty and forty feet high.

"How do you keep the Yew hedge in such a grand condition?" I asked, as we strolled on towards the kitchen garden.

"I feed it with blood manure in the spring. That is the best means, so far as I know, of giving the colour which makes it so attractive."

"Will you describe the addition which, as you

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say, was lately made outside the kitchen garden?"

"From my house, past the bothy, and running right down to the south end of the pleasure grounds, is a herbaceous border and Rosery. I am contemplating a scheme of colour in the border, but meanwhile I may say that it contains many clumps of the best and most up-to-date varieties. Perhaps it would be convenient to give you the dimensions of all our herbaceous borders."

"Can you tell me how many square yards you occupy with them?"

"About one thousand eight hundred; this one alone represents nearly three hundred, and we keep them very gay during the summer. My plan is to divide up into three sections, and so trench and rearrange a portion each season. I do not plant close to the edge of the border, but reserve that space for annuals. The varieties are far too numerous to mention in detail."

"What about annuals?"

"We plant upwards of ten to fifteen thousand each season. We also use very largely varieties of Antirrhinums, Pentstemons, East Lothian Stocks, Gaillardias, Phlox, Nemesias, Salvias, and Coreopsis. On the walls behind this herbaceous border are numerous flowering shrubs, such as Cotoneasters and Ampelopsis. Facing the big border is a narrow Rose border, which runs right along, and consists almost exclusively of the variety Hermosa, the exception being that on the low fence, two hundred and eighty-nine yards long, we have planted Crimson Rambler to make an edge of scarlet in July."

"When was the border planted?"

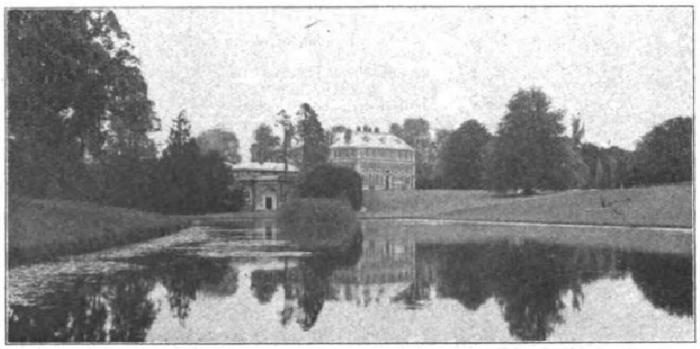
"Only two years ago. This part of the garden was formerly an old cart road, and has been adapted to its present use with results that have hitherto more than fulfilled expectations."

The Rose Garden.

"But you have a Rose garden beyond, which must be of much less recent date?"

"Yes; that was established some years ago, but in 1907 I made a number of new beds and planted Polyanthus varieties. The beds at the commencement of the Rosery, except the second, which contains Madame Pavie, a white Polyantha Rose, are all filled with Mrs. W. H. Cutbush. This is a splendid Rose for decorative purposes, and I grow it both on standards and on bushes. Beyond the Polyantha Rose garden is a large Hybrid Perpetual Rose garden, with over two thousand plants, which I made four years ago. Previously it used to be the rubbish yard, but when the new kitchen garden wall was erected all round the lower portion of the garden, it was decided to make the now existing Rose garden, which I did with good results. The beds were taken out to the depth of three feet, and filled up with good strong loam from the park. There are eighteen beds below, each of one variety. Then on the walls are climbing Roses, with which are intermingled Wistaria, Lonicera, Jasminum, and Clematis in variety. I have just added Tropæolum speciosum, with Mina lobata, which is of the same colour, and self-clinging."

Above the various elegant gates of the walled-in gardens are engraved the words: "Think and Thank"; but, before exploring the interior, we visited a number of houses. The first was the late Vinery, which contained a nice show of Eupatoriums.



Hall Barn, Beaconsfield—South Front.

The Treatment of Eupatoriums.

"We use these," said Mr. Johnson, "for standing about the rooms of the mansion. They are quite easy to cultivate, the cuttings being struck in the early spring, grown on, and potted up into 'twenty-fours.' In this house I grow Tomatoes in spring on the front stage, four feet wide. The Vines here are Alicante and Lady Downe, and in this house, in order to keep them back, are Cypripediums insigne, almost the only kind of Orchid we grow. Then there are the Freesias, of which we have a supply from Christmas onwards for many weeks."

"You go in considerably for Begonias?" I said, as we stepped into one of three little houses.

"We have about four hundred, Gloire de Lorraine, Rothschild, and Turnford Hall. Some of these are from two feet to three feet six through, and up to four feet high. Up the roofs of these three houses are Euphorbia jacquiniæflora, which I use for decorating. I have always to put four corner plants on the dining table, as well as masses of flower in a room. For the latter purpose I use Begonias, run up as standards, with one spike of flowers. In these houses are Plumbagos, Callas, and a number of Primula obconica, which I find are better for decorative purposes than sinensis, but they are of the grandiflora type. These plants, however, we do not take into the house; the flowers are cut. There is no poison in them, but only in the leaf."

Chironia exifera.

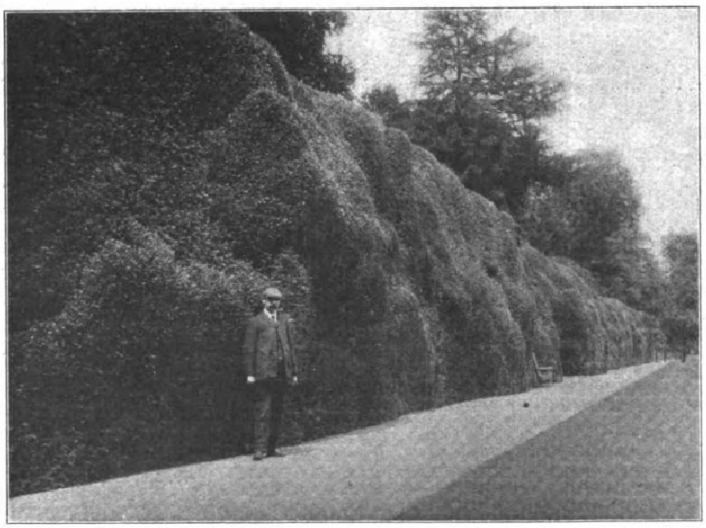
"Do you grow Chironia exifera largely?"

"Yes, and I consider it a very grand old variety. We flower about seventy-five. The beautiful soft pink blooms are much appreciated by ladies, and after the plants have flowered in October, we find the foliage useful for purposes of decoration."

"What is your method of cultivation?"

"We strike five cuttings in a small pot in a gentle hotbed, and pot on into 'forty-eights' for flowering. We also cut down one-year-old plants, and pot on into 'twenty-fours.' The compost consists of loam, leaf-soil, and sand. You will like to know about Chrysanthemums, which we finish cutting on the 18th of this month. We grow about six hundred plants."

Entering the second Vinery, Mr. Johnson observed, "We have just cut Mrs. Pince out of this house, and filled in with Muscats. Both the latter and Madresfield Court are grown in tubs to take the place of Mrs. Pince. In the early Vinery, just breaking away, are Black Hamburgh, Foster's Seedling, Muscats, and Madresfield Court, all of which do well. The berries of Madresfield Court never split, a fact which I attribute to the precaution of having a little air top and bottom when the Grape starts colouring. On no account should the border be watered in the early stage of colouring. Now we had better take the Carnation house, as Carnations are a great speciality. Lord Burnham has a Carnation every day in the year for a button-hole; it is his favourite flower."



The Giant Yew Hedge at Hall Barn, Beaconsfield.

Lord Burnham's Favourite Flower.

"How long have you been cutting Tree Carnations?"

"Since September, and since November I have decorated tables with one hundred and fifty cut from four hundred plants. We grow one hundred and thirty large specimen plants, and three hundred and fifty in small pots. You may be interested to know that I have had as many as sixty-seven flowers on one of the specimen plants, the largest being nine and a quarter inches across."

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"Are there any points in cultivation you care to mention?"

"It is of vital importance to give them plenty of air in summer, and to keep the rain off them when they are growing. Wet weather is most injurious, both to foliage and flowers."

"What other plants have we time to notice?"

"On the wall above the Arum Lilies, some of which have five flowers on one plant, are four specimens of Habrothamnus glabra, which have been in flower since October. We use the blooms in winter for house decoration. Then there is the Palm house, which chiefly contains Kentias. We do not go in much for stove plants, and we have discarded all other Geraniums in favour of Mrs. Pole Routh, a salmon-pink which stands a fortnight or three weeks in water in the winter. Together with the old vegetable Asparagus, it makes a most useful combination for the dinner-table."

"Some mention must be made of Sweet Peas."

"About forty-eight varieties are grown, some in rows and others in clumps, but I believe the rows produce the best flowers. We trench the ground and fork good manure in, adding wood-ashes, soot, and a little lime at the time of planting. This keeps slugs and other pests away."

"How many houses have you?" I asked, as we entered the Peach houses.

Clarkias for Table Use.

"Fourteen, as well as a number of heated span-roof frames, and fifteen lights of Violets. The only variety we grow is Marie Louise. Before going outside, you may care to know that we grow one hundred Clarkias of the variety Firefly. It is raised from seed, and is a most useful flower with which to decorate the tables. It lasts a fortnight in water, and we get splendid spikes. I put three seeds in a 'twenty-four' pot, and pinch the plants when they are nine inches high. Other plants grown for table decorations are Trachelium cærulea, Francoas (the Bridal-wreath), Schizanthus, Campanula pyramidalis (of which we get nine spikes on a plant), and Hesperis flore pleno (the double Sweet Rocket). The latter should be lifted every year, planted in fresh ground, and the crowns kept well above the soil."

A Hint on Potato Cultivation.

"Do you go in for anything special in vegetable cultivation?"

"The Potato that gives the best result for winter is Up-to-date. We grow this variety in the store-shed, in brick pits, on a layer of soil four inches in depth, and cover with about three or four inches. As soon as growth commences, we finish off-hand, all that is needful being to see that the soil does not get too dry."

"When do you begin to gather Peas?"

"About the first week in June, and continue without a break until November. I must mention the French Legas Pea, which we sow at intervals during the season. It is a grand acquisition, and makes a choice dish. The whole of the pods are edible, but the Pea should be gathered when quite young."

"What is your system with Seakale?"

"We take up about a thousand crowns each season for cutting, and for the following season, the crowns being forced in the Mushroom house. As soon as this quantity is exhausted, we start forcing on the ground by means of inverted pots and bed-making material. By this method we obtain excellent results later. When the crowns show signs of starting, we cover them with pots, in order to obscure the light and prolong the season."

French Gardening.

"I observe that you go in somewhat for French gardening, and I should like to know your view on the subject."

"One hears so much about French gardening that one is rather indisposed to express opinions about it. I believe that many people have entered upon it with the idea of making a fortune, only to discover themselves ruined by the expenses of buying dung, leaves, soil, and lights, and other necessaries. But I am confident that where horses are kept, and all materials can be obtained free of cost, French gardening can be made very profitable. We have a large space here where we grow specially for the establishment."

Mr. Johnson's Career.

"I had the pleasure of meeting you before you came to Hall Barn."

"Yes, I remember your visit to Knowsley, where I was principal foreman for four years and a half, two of which I was under Mr. Hazelton, the present gardener, whom I have to thank for obtaining me my present situation as gardener here, nearly six years ago."

"What was your previous experience, Mr. Johnson?"

"My early gardening days were spent in the gardens of Stowe House, Buckingham, belonging to the Comte de Paris. From there I went to Bretley Park, Burton-on-Trent, where fruit and vegetables were grown and exhibited on a large scale. My next appointment was at Stapleton Park, Pontefract, where I served as general foreman for two years and a half. Then I moved to Lord Derby's gardens at Knowsley, where very large quantities of fruit, flowers, and vegetables are produced."

Pot-grown Grapes.

"And your record in showing?"

"That, of course, is confined to my experience at Hall Barn. I hold the Perpetual-flowering Carnation Society's medal for a non-competitive exhibit of Carnation Mrs. H. Burnett, which was awarded me in December, 1909; and last year I gained the silver Flora medal of the Royal Horticultural Society, for twenty-five Malmaisons, shown in July at Holland House, covering a space of a hundred square feet."

ALFRED WILCOX.

The Vinery.

STARTING EARLY VINES.

WE assume that all readers of GARDEN LIFE, who have Vineries under their care, pruned and cleansed the rods by the middle of January, according to previous instructions. To delay pruning till later is to court misfortune through "bleeding," that is, an oozing of the sap from the cuts, sometimes seriously exhaustive.

Top-dressing the Border.

Having thoroughly washed down glass and woodwork, and lime-washed the walls, early Vines may be started into growth at any time, but the border should be first examined, and top-dressed with loam. Any loose surface may be raked off, and the border tested in various places with a small handfork, to ascertain the depth of the roots. If former top-dressings have been suitable, and the Vines are in a healthy condition, the roots will be found forming a network of fibres quite close to the surface. In this case, sprinkle a good, concentrated fruit manure, according to the maker's instructions, evenly over the entire surface, and lightly prick it in with a fork. Be very careful that no roots are lacerated in the process.

As a substitute for a proprietary manure, we have great faith in a free dressing of wood-ashes, and old, dry soot, in the proportion of one part soot to two of wood-ashes. These substances provide just the food that a Vine needs, and are, in fact, a complete and safe manure for any fruit crop. After the manure, a surfacing of good loam, about a couple of inches in depth, should be applied—not ordinary heavy, garden soil; that is quite unsuitable. What is wanted is the turfy surface of a pasture field, which has been cut and stacked a few months.

A light sprinkling of crushed mortar rubble mixed with the loam is commendable, and a gentle watering from a rosed can should afterwards be administered.

Removing Bad Soil.

But, perhaps, the examination of the border may show us that something is wrong. It may be that the top portion is in a wet, sour state, owing to over-watering or incorrect surface dressing. If so, we shall certainly find no live roots in this poisonous mess, and must, therefore, take it all right away without further delay. The depth to which we must descend will depend entirely upon the position of the topmost active roots. It may be anything from two to six inches. But having carefully located these roots, proceed to loosen the surface to this depth, and take the useless soil to the refuse heap. Manure, top-dressing, and watering may be then administered as advised above.

As regards the rods, it is best to allow the top ends to hang down free of the wires until the buds begin to move. This is advised because the sap naturally rises in full force to the top buds of the Vine, and, unless a check be administered by the curving of the rod, it sometimes happens that the lower spurs do not break into growth as evenly as could be desired. Some growers tie the rods horizontally over the water-pipes, side by side, until the buds are all quite plump. This method certainly facilitates syringing, and is commendable in that respect, but the Vines must be tied in their permanent places before the shoots get very long, or some of them may get broken off in the process.

Starting the Vines.

Close the house when preparations are completed, and admit no more air until the growths have made a start and sun heat really demands it. Syringe the rods, and the paths, walls, pipes, etc., three times a day, maintaining moist conditions from now onward, until the flowers open. The artificial heat should be almost imperceptible at first, strong forcing being very objectionable. At the end of the first week, a temperature of forty-eight to fifty degrees will be high enough, though a rise of some degrees due to sunshine will do no harm, provided the atmosphere is humid.

As soon as the shoots have developed far enough to show the small bunches at their ends, cease to syringe the Vines, but pay assiduous attention to the damping of the house as before. By this time the night temperature should have been gradually increased to fifty-five degrees, the day temperature ranging to sixty-five degrees.

J. E. S.

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THE GARDENS AT STANSTED HALL, ESSEX.

Interview with Mr. W. Johnson.

ALTHOUGH for postal purposes the address of Stansted Hall is Bishop's Stortford, the beautiful country-seat of Mr. Fuller-Maitland—for twenty years member for Breconshire—is situated in Essex. Travellers on the Great Eastern Railway get glimpses of the park as the express trains rush by, and from some aspects the mansion can be seen. But the charms of the place can only be fully appreciated by closer acquaintance. On the occasion of my visit to the gardens last month, I was immediately impressed by the remarkable number of fine specimen trees, and the luxuriance of the shrubs. Mr. W. Johnson, the gardener, who showed me round, and courteously afforded me every possible information, pointed out in the shrubberies a magnificent specimen of Taxodium sempervirens, and in different parts of the shrubberies, or on the lawns, Wellingtonias, Cedars (atlantica and deodara), Pines, Firs, evergreen Oaks, Thuja dealbata, Sycamores, Cupressus, Mountain Ashes, and Chestnuts, are strongly represented. The growth of the Wellingtonia gigantea may be imagined from the fact that in some cases the soil has been lifted up by the roots.

"What is the nature of the soil?" I asked.

"It is loamy, and there is no doubt that it suits a great many of the tree and shrub families. Our one difficulty in the shrubberies is, as you can see, that their growth is too rapid, and that consequently some of them do not show up so well as they would do if they had more space for extension. But we do not like clearing away old favourites."

"When were most of them planted?"

"Forty years ago, when the present mansion was built. But, of course, many of the trees in the park, and some in the gardens, date much further back. The original mansion stood at the end of the lawn, near the grand old Horse Chestnut tree."

"The soil seems to be particularly congenial to Portugal Laurels."

"Yes, we have a considerable number of good specimens, and they are well cared for. But the soil helps immensely. On the mansion the principal creepers are Cratægus, Magnolias, Roses, Forsythia suspensa, Wistaria sinensis, Ivy, and Pyrus japonica."

Bedding Combinations.

"What is the spring scheme of your extensive bedding cut out of the grass on the terrace, overlooking the ornamental water?"

"Tulips are the prevailing feature, white, yellow, and red varieties. The edging on this, the west side of the house, is Wallflower Sutton's Dwarf Brown."

"How will the beds be filled in summer?"

"The centre beds will be occupied entirely by Geranium Madame Crousse, pegged down without edging. Two of the side beds will contain Geraniums, Indian Pink, and Queen of Belgium, edged by Dandy; and the other two Geranium Salmon Pink, edged with Kœnigas and Geranium West Brighton Gem."

"And the more elaborate designs on the south side of the mansion?"

"These will be filled with Tulips for spring, the Parrot section being used for the middle beds. We change the summer bedding from year to year. This summer the combinations will include Geranium Henry Jacoby, with Marguerites in the centre; Geranium Flower of Spring, with Perillas in the centre; Geranium West Brighton Gem and white Kœnigas, with a few Grevillea robusta as dot plants, and Geranium Paul Crampel and white Marguerites, edged by Cerastiums. As to colour, the summer bedding is practically a scheme of red and white. Many thousands of plants are used. There are upwards of a hundred Tulips in a single bed, beside other flowers. On the other side of the path, Pæonies flowering early in the spring, with an edging of Echeverias, are a feature.

"The border underneath the conservatory and corridor," continued Mr. Johnson, "is mainly devoted to Irises, edged with Dactylis glomerata, with Gaillardias as dot plants. To keep up a succession, Pentstemons, yellow Marguerites, and Heliotropes, are introduced."

"Are your Roses on the other side of the paths planted in groups or mixed?"

"They are mixed, and planted for cutting. We have no special time for renewing, but put in new varieties as the old ones die out."

STANSTED HALL, NEAR ELSENHAM, ESSEX.

Entering the conservatory, which faces the sundial, I noticed a fine Camellia, which looked very striking with its handsome foliage, and a mass of flowers and buds.

A Primula for Conservatory Work.

"It is a very old tree," said Mr. Johnson, "and the Orange trees in tubs are upwards of a century old. They fruit well under ordinary treatment. Just now a prevailing element in the conservatory is the show of Primulas. We sow them in May, grow them on, and pot on in leaf-mould, loam, and sand, with a little bonemeal. One of the best of the Primulas is Royal White. The Ficus elasticus is a very fine specimen, but it has outgrown its quarters. Ficus repens does well on the walls."

"The Arums and Imantophyllums just throwing up spikes, promise well?"

"Arums flower every year, and we plant out alternate years, putting the bulbs in trenches. This system answers excellently. As we decorate the church with flowers, the demand for Arums at Easter is considerable. A great many flowers are used for decorating the rooms."

"There must be abundant provision for tennis on the large lawn?"

"There have been as many as seven courts in use at one time. In addition to the trees I have mentioned, there are on the lawn a fine Tulip tree, a very good specimen of a Mulberry, several Spanish Chestnuts, Walnuts, Limes, and double Thorns, which yield masses of bloom."

"You have not mentioned the great groups of Rhododendrons."

"They are mixed, and embrace many varieties of vivid colour. Mahonias, Hollies (gold and silver), Ribes sanguineum, and Laburnums also do well. Essex is supposed to be very cold, but there are two Myrtles in the shrubbery, which stand out always, and do not suffer any injury. Yews appreciate the soil; and Quinces grafted on to the Mountain Ash are just coming into bearing."

The pleasure grounds, though of extensive area, are exceedingly compact, and almost before I realised it we entered the kitchen garden, which is in close proximity. Mr. Johnson's house is in the centre, and the ranges of glass on either side. Here, we first turned our attention to a Peach case, perfectly cool, and with very healthy-looking trees.

"When do you start gathering in this house?" I enquired.

"The first week in July with Early Louise, of which we get over two hundred fruits. The varieties in succession are Bellegarde, Royal George, Sea Eagle, Goshawk, Walburton Admirable, Crimson Galande, Prince of Wales, Gladstone, and Noblesse; the Nectarines, Pineapple, Early Rivers, and Milton."

Hints on Peach Cultivation.

"Any hints on Peach cultivation would be useful?"

"During the early part of the season, I keep ventilation in as much as possible, both night and day, in order to retard flowers, so that they may be secure against frost. There are no hot-water pipes in this house. Once a month I give a good soaking of water. The watering is always done just before the Peaches flower, and afterwards I keep them dry until they are

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well set. Fumigating is also done just before flowering, and again as soon as possible after setting, so as to keep down fly. Syringing is done thoroughly after the flowering stage, until the fruits begin to ripen."

"Do you use rabbit's-tails tied on sticks to set the blooms?"

"Yes, unless there are plenty of bees about, and also plenty of sun. If the weather is fine, I also slightly spray with the syringe to settle the pollen. I start thinning as soon as I can see which fruits are set, and go over the trees two or three times, not taking too many fruits off at once. As soon as the fruits on a tree begin to ripen, I leave a little ventilation on, closing other parts of the house up as usual."

"When do you start forcing Strawberries?"

"In March, with Royal Sovereign, and follow on with The Leader, which is very good for forcing purposes, if you do not hurry it. It should come on in a cool house. Roses Marechal Niel flower splendidly in the spring, and we continue to get some bloom right through the summer."

The Best Tomatoes.

"The next house is your stove?"

"I have to work it according to the contents needed. For instance, I have had Tomatoes start fruiting here in May, and have cut them off from the plants up to Christmas for three years. This has been done by running up a fresh growth from the bottom. The best variety is Carters' Sunrise. I plant Sunrise also in the orchard house, training it with Frogmore and Invicta on the back wall and on the outside wall. I have had some fruits weigh one pound each. Invicta does equally well inside or out. Cucumbers are also grown in the stove. Pride of the Market suits my purpose best. If you grow Tomatoes in a stove, you have to be very careful in the selection of your variety. Begonia Gloire de Lorraine is grown here, also Deutzias, Azaleas, Spiræas, foliage plants, Caladiums, and Pandanus. I keep the temperature at seventy degrees in the day, and from fifty to sixty degrees during the night. Now we come to the Vineries."

The Grape Season.

"Do you devote an entire house to Muscats?"

"Yes, so far as Grapes are concerned, Muscats want a different treatment from any other Grape, and should always be grown by themselves. On the stage is a representative selection of Pelargoniums, embracing Mrs. Comber, Duke of Fife, Belle Blanche, Madame Thibaut, Tommy Dodd, Little Richard, Linda, Rose of Devon, Duke of Devonshire, and Dainty."

"What are your varieties in the early Vinery?"

"Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, and Alicante. We feed from inside, and there are only inside borders to our Vineries. I think they are much the best; you know what you can do with them. Nor does the age of the Vine matter; some of these are thirty years old. Everything depends upon the way in which the Vine is treated. Here, on the stage, is a collection of Geraniums in pots. They flower early in the year, and the varieties include Duke of York, Hermione, Mrs. Ewing, Ian Maclaren, General Wolseley, Raspail Improved, Attraction, Beauty Poitiers, Lady Ilchester, Lady Sara Wilson, and Paul Crampel. This Vinery is also turned to account for growing Genistas, Iresines, Amaryllis—which are just coming on—and Ferns in variety."

"How long does your Grape season last?"

"We start cutting the second week in July, and finish in January. In the late Vinery, the varieties are Alicante, Lady Hutt, and some time ago I added Golden Queen. In Grape cultivation the most vital point is ventilation. If any mistake is made in this, the work for the entire twelve months may be rendered futile. In this house, Cinerarias, Carters' strain, Freesias, Hydrangeas, Primulas, and Schizanthus are brought on. The principle carried out in all these houses is to get the largest number of flowers extending over the longest possible period, and avoiding breaks."

Single and Decorative Chrysanthemums.

"What about Chrysanthemums?"

"We go in for Singles and Decorative varieties only. The former are Ladysmith, Miss E. Roberts, Exquisite, Mary Anderson, and Annie Holden. The Decorative include Sunshine, October Bronze, Lady Audrey Buller, Caprice du Printemps, Miss Nellie Pockett, W. R. Church, Mrs. R. Oberthur, Lady Osborne, Moneymaker, W. Duckham, Beatrice May, A. J. Balfour, Western King, Madame P. Radaelli, W. H. Lincoln, and Winter Cheer. The best Violet is Marie Louise, and we grow a large quantity of Canterbury Bells, blue and white; also of Gladiolus The Bride, which we put in small pots to start with."

THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE AT STANSTED HALL.

"I notice that there are herbaceous borders in the centre of the kitchen garden?"

"They form a general collection, of which the most striking when in flower is Anchusa italica Dropmore variety. During the summer months we introduce clumps of Scabious, Helichrysums, Coreopsis, Nicotianas, Clarkias, and Asters, to make things bright as herbaceous plants go out of flower."

"How do you grow Sweet Peas?"

"In rows. I find they flower better in rows than in clumps, nor are they so much trouble to water or stake. Violas are largely used amongst the Roses, the principal being Maggie Mott. Border Carnations are layered, transferred to frames, and put out in March, the varieties including Raby Castle, Mrs. Reynolds Hole, Ismalia, The Lion, Filomena, Margaret Smith, Duchess of Fife, Stromboli, and the Old Clove."

"Pears appear to be largely grown on your walls?"

"There is one Pear I advise everybody to grow—I mean Conference. Clapp's Favourite, if used as soon as it is ripe, is also very good, but it should not be put into the fruit room. Other varieties along the outside wall are Pitmaston Duchess, Doyenne du Comice, Bon Chretien, Thompson, Marie Louise, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Winter Nelis, Beurre Hardy, and Catillac. Apples embrace a large collection. Our earliest is Gladstone. You may judge what sort of crops we get when I add that I can start early Apples and keep on with the greenings till the season begins again. Other wall fruit include Plums in variety, Apricots, and Cherries. I should like to mention the Cherry Plum, of which we have a tree yielding a good crop each year. It is a red Plum, and is equally good for stewing and preserving, while it also does well for dessert. The flavour is pleasant, and people ought to grow it more. You may care to add that facing the Plum tree is a very fine specimen of Saffron, which was in the old garden, and must be of great age."

"Then there are Strawberries and bush fruit?"

"In addition to the forcing varieties we grow Givon's Late Prolific. A fresh bed is made every year, and we get tremendous crops. Starting picking in the orchard house the second week in May, we finish outside about the first week in August. The bush fruit includes Gooseberries, Currants, Raspberries, and Loganberries; and though not a bush, the grand old Mulberry tree of immense age, though now propped up, should not be forgotten. It still fruits well, and carries a large crop."

"When do you begin your first sowing of Peas?"

"The middle of February, with May Queen, following with Thomas Laxton. It is not much use sowing earlier on this soil, and they come in just as we finish cutting Asparagus. Sutton's Centenary is a first-rate mid-season variety, and there is nothing to beat Autocrat for late sowing. We commence cutting Asparagus about the third week in April, and finish on June 25th, so as to give time to make grass to build up crowns for another year. In spite of the age of the beds, they continue to improve every year. All that we do to them is to put a little mould on occasionally, also stable manure and salt, always leaving off picking before the heads are exhausted. Other vegetables that do particularly well are Broccoli, Cauliflowers, Celery (which we do not trench too deeply), Leeks, which we do not trench at all, and put on after Peas; while in front of the Peach house, Standwell Cabbage Lettuce does well. It is remarkably good for autumn sowing, and you can cut it before the old Cos Lettuce is ready. Potatoes are grown in an outside piece of ground, and provide satisfactory crops."

"Then, will you say something as to your own career, Mr. Johnson?"

"It is told in a few words. My first experience was gained at Sandhills, Bletchingley, and my next position was at Kelsey Manor, Beckenham. I was then appointed head gardener at How Hatch, South Weald, and after eleven years, I came to Stansted Hall to take charge of the gardens."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week the gardens at Feldhall Manor, Berkshire, will be described.

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Observations.—Since the report of last month we have had some rain (generally), which has materially improved our supplies of vegetables, both as to quantity and quality. The prices of several articles have declined considerably, such as French and scarlet beans, spinach, &c. Colewort cabbages are as yet scarce, and of indifferent quality. Of turnips we have as yet but few, none that are good, but they are certainly improved, and lower in price. Carrots are plentiful and good. Onions are small and rather short in supply, the price is improved. Of potatoes the supply continues to be limited, at a considerable advance in value: we have not yet obtained any quantities by water, from the distant counties where they are extensively cultivated; but a good supply is shortly expected, which will in a great degree determine the prices of the ensuing season.

Lettuces, endive, celery, and other salad herbs, have been as yet furnished limitedly, and have realised good returns, but not more than a fair remuneration for the extra expense of raising them during the dry weather. Of fruits generally there has been a liberal quantity furnished. Apples and pears are certainly in great abundance, the former generally small, and much affected by blight in the early stages of their growth; nevertheless, there are plenty of excellent size and quality. Pears are also plentiful and good, many of the ordinary sorts abundant. Filberts have also been a great crop, and the market has been liberally supplied; prices have been moderate, but are now improving. Walnuts are not so good a crop, but our supplies have been kept up by large importations from Holland; which, with melons and several other fruits, have been brought over by steam. Grapes are plentiful and good; we have also had a fair supply of peaches, nectarines, and other wall fruits, but as the season advances the prices have improved. — *C. G. M. Sept.* 23. 1835.

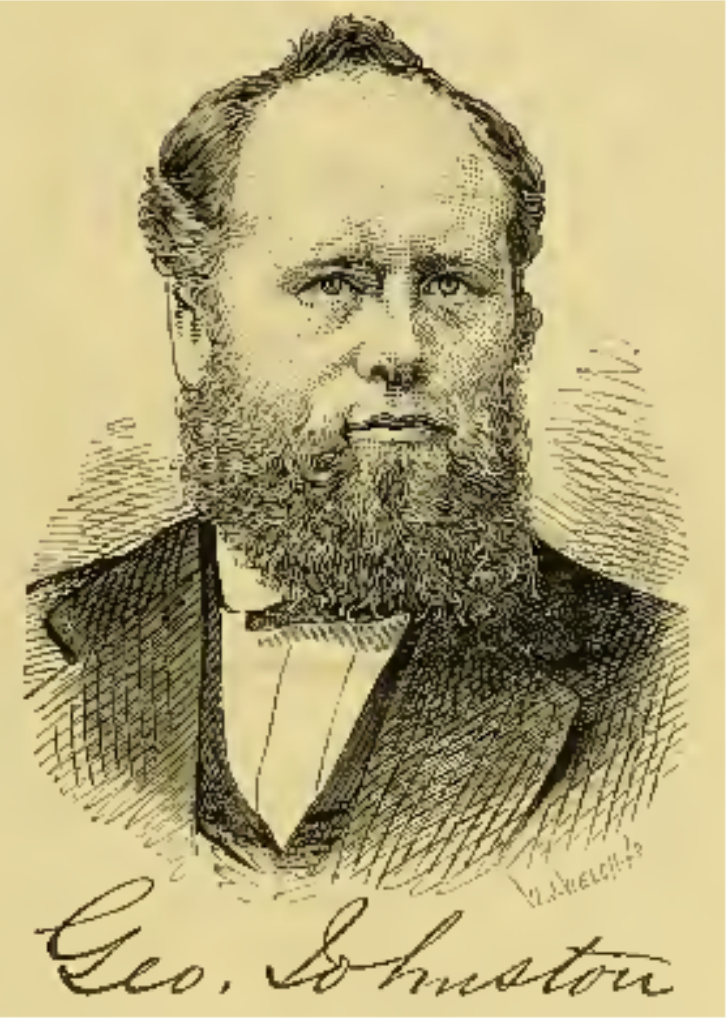
Art. VII. *Obituary.*

Died, June 13., *George Johnston*, gardener to the Earl of Aberdeen. Mr. Johnston's father, a ~~native of~~ Old Rayne, Aberdeenshire, was upwards of fifty years a market-gardener at the bridge of Don, near Aberdeen. His son, George, the subject of this memoir, was born at Old Rayne, on the 5th of January, 1773, and lived with his father till the age of fifteen; when he was employed in the gardens of Monymusk, in his native county. At the age of sixteen he went to England, where he resided during a period of sixteen years. In December, 1805, he was appointed gardener to the Earl of Aberdeen, in whose service he continued till the time of his death.

The various operations in gardening, conducted by Mr. Johnston at Haddo House, will prove a lasting monument of his fame. The very extensive plantations, the excellent new kitchen-garden, and the beautiful pleasure-grounds, all formed by him, bear ample testimony to his ability and sound judgement as a practical gardener.

Mr. Johnston's character, as a good and benevolent man, stood equally high: his manly and gentleman-like deportment was at all times pleasing to his superiors; to his equals he showed the greatest vivacity of disposition and equality of temper; and to his dependants, kindness and sympathy.

Mr. Johnston married about sixteen years ago, but had no issue, leaving a widow only to lament her loss. For several years previous to his death, Mr. Johnston was much afflicted with rheumatic gout, which, in all probability, laid the foundation of water in the chest, the disease which terminated his existence. — *William Kerr, late of Kedleston House, Derbyshire.*



George Johnston

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1875 n.s. 3

Amongst the younger Scottish gardeners who have achieved success in their profession, we must assign no mean position to the subject of our present memoir, Mr. George Johnston, whose name has often been found well up amongst the prize winners at great horticultural gatherings, and whose productions have taken the first position at some of the International shows. Our former volumes bear record of these facts. Mr. Johnston has been an exhibitor of fruit since 1868; and we find that he has won over £300 in prizes, chiefly for large general collections of fruit, and for Grapes, at the various International shows, including those of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, and Belfast—upwards of a third of that sum being won by exhibits comprised under seven entries; while as an exhibitor of Peaches, Figs, and Melons, he has been equally successful Some of his examples of Pine-growing have won for him the certificate of the Royal Horticultural Society.

George Johnston was born at Fingask, in the parish of Kirkill, Inverness-shire, on October 31, 1837. When seventeen years of age he was apprenticed for three years to Mr. Findlay, at Rulig, the seat of James Bailie Fraser, Esq., in the above parish. Mr. Findlay was a model gardener, and Rulig at that time was quite a model place, and an excellent school for young men, everything relating to gardening being carried out in the most thorough, manner. He was very particular in the training of his pupils, and would see that they handled their tools properly, and got through their work in an active and systematic manner. He was also a keen competitor at the Inverness shows, and was always very successful. "Indeed," writes Mr. Johnston, "I never knew any one to surpass him in growing all kinds of soft-wooded specimen plants, and the many valuable lessons I received from him are still fresh in my memory. The fine Cedar grove at Rulig is worth going miles to see.

After my time expired at Rulig, my first journey-man's place was at Red Castle, in Ross-shire, the seat of the Hon. Henry Bailie, under Mr. Fraser, who still holds the situation of gardener there, and is justly looked upon as one of the best judges and cultivators of fruits, especially Grapes and pot Figs, in that part of the country. All kinds of hardy fruits receive much attention from Mr. Fraser, and the climate being a favourable one, the finest kinds of Plums and Pears are extensively cultivated, and as a rule very successfully. Grapes and other fruits under glass are grown extensively and well at Red Castle, and of these I had the charge for one season. In 1860 I went to Balbirnie, in Fife, the residence of John Balfour, Esq., where I took charge of the flower gardens, under Mr. Edwards, who was then gardener. I held that situation for one year, when I got advanced to the charge of the forcing-houses. Mr. Edwards, who was a clever gardener, carried out many important improvements at this fine place; he was also a highly educated man, and offered his aid frankly and freely to any of his men who wished to improve themselves.

My next engagement was in 1862, with Mr. Fowler, at Castle Kennedy, as foreman in the forcing department. The far-famed Castle Kennedy Grapes were at that time beginning to be spoken about, and I shall never forget the first sight I got of these extraordinary Vines and their magnificent crop. I have a strong impression that I have never seen anything since to surpass them. It would be quite superfluous for me to add a single remark about either Mr. Fowler or Castle Kennedy. Mr. Fowler has most deservedly made his mark in the horticultural world, and to him I owe more gratitude than to any other horticulturist. When I went to Castle Kennedy the Grapes were in their glory. The Vines in the new vineries were bearing their second crop of fruit; and at that date (November, 1862) there were hanging in these houses some of the finest Grapes I ever saw, and which made such an impression on my mind that I can never forget them. They comprised Muscat of Alexandria, Muscat Hamburgh, Trebbiano, Gros Guillaume, and White Nice—all very large in bunch and berry, and faultless in finish. As is well-known, Mr. Fowler was a most successful exhibitor for many years.

In the autumn of 1864 I was engaged, on Mr. Fowler's recommendation, as gardener to Henry Fernie, Esq., Mill Bank House, Liverpool, a situation I held till the winter of 1865-66, when Mr. Fowler recommended me to my present employer, the Earl of Strathmore. His lordship at that time was making arrangements for the formation of the new garden establishment at Glamis Castle, including kitchen and flower gardens, with all the glass-houses and many miles of drives, as well as extensive additions to the lawns and shrubberies. I at once took charge of the works, with the view to their being carried out in a thorough and practical way, under Mr. Fowler's directions. This was a grand opportunity for a young man, as I then was; and although the responsibility seemed at first rather heavy, the facilities which in the end such an opening were sure to afford rendered my task comparatively easy. My employer entered fully into the spirit of the work, including every matter of detail in connection therewith, sparing no expense to secure thorough efficiency in all the arrangements, and taking particular interest in those which affected the accommodation and comfort of the garden employés. The arrangements in this respect are most complete, and are not surpassed by those existing in any garden in the kingdom, thanks to Mr. Fowler's good judgment, and Lord Strathmore's liberality.

The construction, heating, ventilation, and general plan of the glass-houses are of the most complete and efficient character, as is everything else in connection with the forcing department, reflecting the greatest credit on Mr. Fowler, who was architect for the whole.

Few men, I believe, at my age have had a better opportunity of achieving success, seeing that I have had the oversight from beginning to end of the formation of a first-class garden establishment, and that I have had for the last nine years every encouragement from my employers, who, in their love of gardening and their knowledge of the art, and in their kind consideration for those in their employment, are certainly unsurpassed."

FORESTRY.

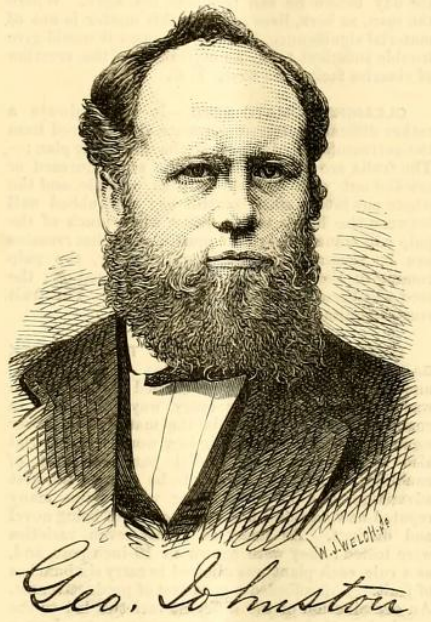
Lopping Field Trees.—This is one of the most fatal mistakes in what is called the art of forestry, and I am sorry to see that it has extended to places where there can be no sort of apology for its adoption. In the counties adjoining here, where there are large breadths of arable land, there may be some sort of excuse framed for such a practice; but the other day, when travelling in Wales, I saw some fine Elms standing in pasture fields from which numbers of large limbs had recently been cut. In most parts of the Principality there is none too much of this kind of timber, therefore, simply from the picturesque point of view, it is much to be regretted that what there is should be so disfigured. This, however, is a matter of sentiment, and merely noticed in passing. The chief point to which I desire to direct attention is the effect which the pernicious practice has upon the timber itself. There are, I know, certain foresters who pin their faith to the use of the axe as an aid to timber cultivation and who assume that good timber is only to be produced by the assiduous removal of branches. Nothing I can say will be strong enough to condemn such a notion. If a tree does not naturally grow long and clear in the bole, nothing that a forester can do will make it so. The *sine qua non* in growing good timber is the clearness of grain and perfect freedom from knots. If this quality is not inherent to the tree no forester's tool will make it so. I grant that much will depend upon the distance apart at which the trees stand, and upon other surrounding conditions, but no good whatever will come of the attempt to remove branches when they have once grown. I believe I have had as many opportunities of seeing our home-grown timber cut up as the bulk of those who are interested in the forestry question; at any rate, I have seen the contents of many thousands of almost every kind of timber tree, and grown under all sorts of conditions, and the outcome of my observations is, that wherever the axe has been allowed free scope, mischief more or less serious has resulted, according to the size of the branches when they were removed. As a rule, the continual cutting away of small branches—and when the operation is once commenced it must be followed—does not produce any serious unsoundness, but fills the bole with such a number of knots, that it is quite useless for the best purposes. Directly the buyer sees a lot of timber of this class he is sure to discount it by about a third, as, although the bulk of it can be turned to account, it is necessarily at a lower price.

Cutting away large limbs affects the sale of a tree in a different way, but quite as detrimentally. In trees thus treated a portion of the timber is generally very good, and the other portion very bad; in some cases the mutilation results in complete rottenness, tainting the wood for many feet from the original wound; in others it may remain practically sound. This it is obvious the buyer has to risk, and the price is reduced to leave a margin to cover the chance of loss. With the same classes of trees allowed to grow on without lopping, none of these contingencies has to be reckoned upon, consequently the highest possible price is realised. If the shade is too dense, or for any other reason the branches are in the way, it is infinitely better to remove a tree altogether than to allow it to be mutilated by lopping. *D. J. Y., Lyneham, Wilts.*

MR. GEORGE JOHNSTON, GLAMIS CASTLE.

We learn with regret, from the *Dundee Advertiser*, October 4, of the death of Mr. George Johnston, Head Gardener at Glamis Castle, which took place in the Edinburgh Infirmary, on Friday, Sept. 30. Mr. Johnston had not been in his usual health for more than twelve months. On Dr. Wedderburn's advice he proceeded to Edinburgh Infirmary on Wednesday, Sept. 28, and his sudden demise created much surprise among his friends. Deceased came from Castle Kennedy (where he served under the late Mr. Fowler) to Glamis Castle in 1866, and he had, therefore, been in Lord Strathmore's service for twenty-one years. At the time of his arrival at Glamis his Lordship was making arrangements for the formation of flower gardens, as well as extensive additions to the lawn and shrubberies. This work was entrusted to Mr. Johnston, and it is generally admitted that the gardens of Glamis Castle are surpassed by very few in the kingdom. But it was as a Vine grower Mr. Johnston earned his fame.

He had been an exhibitor of fruit since 1868, and won over £300 in prizes at the various International and other shows. He had been called the "prince of Grape growers," and at the International Exhibition at Belfast a number of years ago he gained a splendid cup, which adorned the table of many dinner parties at Glamis. At the first international show in Dundee he beat all comers with his splendid display of fruit, and at the second International he was only a point or two behind the 1st prizeman. At the Edinburgh shows he was a frequent exhibitor, and generally carried off the principal prizes for fruit. Lord Strathmore, who had a great regard for him, often spoke of deceased as "My friend Johnston." Mr. Johnston, speaking of the Earl's kindness in a short sketch to the *Gardeners' Chronicle* some years ago, said:—"Few men, I believe, at my age have had a better opportunity of achieving success, seeing I have had the oversight from beginning to end of the formation of a first-class garden establishment, and that I have had every encouragement from my employers, who, in their love of gardening, their knowledge of the art, and their kind consideration for those in their employment, are certainly unsurpassed." Deceased was fifty years of age, and has left a widow and five of a family, for whom much sympathy is expressed.



For a more detailed account of Johnston's life we must refer our readers to our issue for February 20, 1875, p. 239.

MAKING VINE BORDERS AND PLANTING VINES.

Where new borders have to be made in old vineries, the first thing that has to be done is to remove the soil composing the old border, and the drainage underneath, and then, unless the subsoil of the border consists of stone or chalk, it will be necessary to lay in the bottom 6 inches thick of concrete, composed of five parts of gravel to one of stone-lime well mixed, with a series of gutter-bricks set in cement placed at the base of the front retaining wall, with sufficient fall to carry superfluous water into the main drain connected with the internal water-tanks, &c.; then lay on the concrete floor 6 inches thick of brickbats, broken rather fine, on the top, for drainage, afterwards covering the same with turves, grass-side down. If the brickbats cannot be so easily procured as rough stones, the latter, by covering them with a sufficient thickness of coarse gravel to fill the chinks, will answer the same purpose.

Soil for the Border.—The most suitable compost for the growth of Vines is a good fibry loam, such as the top 3 inches of a sheep or deer park, or a down which has been grazed by sheep. To every five cartloads of this soil should be added one load of lime or mortar rubble, one load of horse-droppings, one load of wood-ashes, 3 or 4 cwt. of Thomson's Vine and plant manure, and an ordinary-sized garden-barrowful of fresh soot. Turn the whole over twice before wheeling it on to the border when dry. Supposing that space is provided for both an inside and an outside border, and that the front wall of the vinery is built on arches, so that when the inside border is filled with roots the latter can push freely into the then freshly-made outside one. The border should be made in sections 6 feet wide from the front wall, the arches and sides being built up of turves, and sufficiently high to allow for the loosely thrown together soil subsiding 6 or 7 inches within as many weeks from the time of making it. The border should, therefore, be made the number of inches indicated above the top of the arches supporting the front wall, whence it should slope towards the pathway. *H. W. Ward.*

HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

Cactus and Decorative Dahlias.—A somewhat large collection of these was produced at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society at South Kensington on the 13th of September, and it may be said that it was representative of the leading varieties in cultivation. Coarse and ugly as not a few of them are as soon as the flowers attain to maturity, they are still popular, and, it is said, in great demand. Whether the rage for them will be permanent remains to be seen; but it ought to be stated that the exhibition of flower alone affords no criterion by which to judge of the habit of growth; and not a few of the named varieties at present cultivated are tall and ungainly in character, and hide their flowers too much among the foliage. Of those shown at South Kensington mention may be made of the following:—Princess, crimson centre, the florets forming the base of the flower bright pale purple, but they show the green eye in the centre, which is very objectionable; William Raynor, bright salmon-pink, the centre tinted with pale orange, distinct and striking; Empress of India, shaded crimson with maroon centre, a fine bold flower—the habit of growth of this variety is medium, and it throws its flowers well above the foliage; Mrs. Hawkins, bluish-white, primrose centre, the basal petals tinted with lilac-purple; Cochineal, crimson, with slightly dark shading, broad flat petals, and good form; Zulu, crimson-maroon, with black centre, fine broad petals; Charming Bride, pearly-white, tipped with rose; Lady E. Dyke, bright yellow; Lady Brassey, bright reddish-scarlet; Lady M. Morsham, bright salmon-buff; Prince of Wales, rich orange-red; Lady Thomson, cerise-scarlet and purple; and W. T. Obery, the petals bright pale red, with a band of white running down the centre of each. One thing is quite certain—that if the raisers of Cactus and decorative Dahlias continue to proceed along the present line of work they will find themselves producing larger and more double flowers, answering to the show Dahlias of the present time. Why, of the present race of show and fancy Dahlias there are dozens far more deserving of being called decorative Dahlias than most of those seen at South Kensington on the 13th ult. They are of sturdy, erect, dwarf, free growth, throwing their flowers well above the foliage, and displaying them to the best advantage. If the plants are not thinned out nor disbudded, nor treated to copious doses of manure-water, nor watered well overhead at times, nor the flowers shaded, as when required for exhibition; but if they are treated exactly as

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Johnston, Lawrence Waterbury (1871–1958), *garden designer and plantsman*
by Jane Brown
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Johnston, Lawrence Waterbury (1871–1958), garden designer and plantsman, was born in Paris on 17 October 1871, the elder son of Elliott Johnston (1826–1901), a member of a well-connected banking family from Baltimore, Maryland, and his wife, Gertrude Cleveland Waterbury (1845–1926), an equally well-connected heiress from New York city. He was brought up mainly in France, where his mother preferred to live; after her divorce from his father his mother married, in London in 1887, a New York banker, Charles Francis Winthrop (1827–1898). Gertrude Winthrop, a New York socialite, dominated her son's life. In 1893 Johnston came to England to Little Shelford, near Cambridge, where he became a pupil of a Mr J. Dunn and prepared to enter the university. In June 1894 he entered Trinity College as a pensioner; he matriculated at Michaelmas of that year and graduated BA in 1897. He had enjoyed the friendships that Cambridge afforded, and one of his friends encouraged him to study farming at New Etal, Northumberland. In 1900 he became a British citizen in order to serve as a private in the South African War, and later received a commission in the Northumberland Hussars.

By 1904, when he was elected a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, Lawrence Johnston was again living at Little Shelford. In 1907 Mrs Winthrop bought the small estate of Hidcote Bartrim, near Broadway in the Cotswolds. It was Johnston's nature to study thoroughly and master his interests, and he turned first to architecture in order to restore the Hidcote Manor house and buildings, and then to garden design for the enlargement of the garden. In appearance he was small and militarily smart, combining a shy and reserved manner with birdlike energy; he loved to paint and play tennis and was welcomed into Broadway society by the artist Alfred Parsons and the American actress Mary Anderson de Navarro; he also formed links with many of the distinguished local gardening fraternity. From 1907 to 1914 Johnston set about the restoration of the old garden at Hidcote, enclosing adjoining fields to create wide vistas to the west and south and planting hedges of every variety to form small sheltered ‘rooms’. Although he was nearly forty-three when the war started in 1914 he went to the western front as a major in the hussars: he later told his friend Alvilde Lees-Milne how he was wounded and left for dead until the officer of the burial party recognized him and saw him move. He was invalided home in October 1914 but returned to France in 1916 and continued to serve as an officer with the Northumberland regiment until he retired in November 1922 on reaching the age limit.

While continuing to develop his garden at Hidcote Manor (with his head gardener, Frank H. Adams, from 1922 until 1939) Johnston also acquired a French property in a valley near Menton, La Serre de la Madone, where the winters were spent for the sake of Mrs Winthrop's health. She died in 1926, releasing Johnston to pursue his plant hunting in South America, South Africa, and the Far East. In 1930 Hidcote Manor garden was featured in two articles in *Country Life*, which showed the well-grown structure of hedges and avenues of beech, holly, hornbeam, and yew

and exhibited Johnston's wisdom in planning and planting them all so carefully. During the 1930s he concentrated upon filling the garden rooms with a lavish collection of rare and beautiful flowers and shrubs, his tastes and enthusiasms being shared with his closest gardening friend of those years, Norah Lindsay. Having escaped from Menton in 1940 just before Italian forces entered the town, Johnston returned to Hidcote. He maintained the garden throughout the Second World War, but it was still known to only a comparative few outside the horticultural world. However, it attracted much attention when Johnston announced that he wished to retire to his French home for the sake of his health, leaving Hidcote Manor to Mrs Lindsay. She died suddenly in 1948, and it was largely because of support by Vita Sackville-West that the National Trust acquired Hidcote Manor on behalf of the nation, entirely on the merit of the garden. This followed a public appeal for funds to preserve some of Britain's finest gardens, launched by the National Trust and the Royal Horticultural Society in June 1948. Hidcote was the first garden to be saved under this scheme and Johnston signed the deed in August 1948.

Johnston never married, and remained a devout Roman Catholic throughout his life. After leaving Hidcote, he moved to La Serre de la Madone, where he died on 27 April 1958. He was buried in Mickleton churchyard, near Hidcote Manor, alongside his mother. His garden in Hidcote, maintained to his design and with many of his favourite planting schemes, is now regarded as one of the most influential of twentieth-century gardens, of enduring appeal and inspiration as a network of small private garden rooms. It became one of the most visited of British gardens.

JANE BROWN

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THE GARDENS AT HADLEY MANOR, HIGH BARNET.

Interview with Mr. A. Jones.

STANDING several hundred feet above sea level, just outside the picturesque town of High Barnet, Hadley Manor still retains the charms which it possessed centuries ago, when the famous green in front was unfrequented. Visiting the gardens in April by the courtesy of Miss Wyburn, the lady of the manor, I was greatly impressed with their commanding position (as well as with their beauty), in a corner of Hertfordshire which is so near and yet so far from the din and dust of the capital. The former is particularly apparent from the large unbroken expanse of lawn, and as I noted the contrast between the valley below, with New Barnet in the perspective, I asked the head gardener, Mr. Jones, who accompanied me round, and rendered me every possible assistance, whether it had ever been disturbed by a scheme of bedding.

"Yes," he rejoined, "there used to be a number of beds, but they were done away with some years ago. You will observe that we have scarcely any formal bedding. Miss Wyburn very much prefers the informal and natural."

"You have no difficulties of cultivation to prevent you from growing fine blooms?" I said, as we entered the pretty conservatory.

The Decoration of the Conservatory.

"London is still creeping on, and even at this altitude we suffer from touches of fog. High gales also trouble us a little, but valuable protection is afforded by the avenue of Elms."

"It would be interesting to have in detail the present contents of the stage and shelves."

"On the stage are Cinerarias stellata, Arums (which we grow partly for church decoration), Cyclamen (which have been in bloom since October), Clivias, and specimens of Cordyline indivisa, of which there are four in the building. The Ferns make a rockery in front of the stage."

"And under the glass there is also a rockery?"

"The feature of that part of the conservatory is the number of Eupatoriums now in flower, in close proximity being Deutzia gracilis and Asparagus Sprengeri. Elsewhere are more Cinerarias, Schizanthus, and Genistas, with a Tree Fern in the centre, and Tulips at the base. Tacsonia flourishes on the roof."

"Do you keep up a show of flowers all through the season?"

"Yes, this is quite an all-the-year-round garden, and even in winter we have a few plants in bloom outside. The terrace border now consists of Wallflowers, Myosotis, Polyanthus, Wallflowers, Sutton's Dwarf Brown and Dwarf Yellow, and the two or three neighbouring beds of Daisies, Tulips (pink), and seedling Pansies (chiefly yellow). In summer their places will be taken by Grevilleas as dot plants, Abutilon Thompsonii, Geranium Paul Crampel, Marguerites Queen Alexandra, edged by blue Lobelias and white Alyssums."

"The fogs do not hinder you from preserving the colour of your variegated Hollies?"

HADLEY MANOR, BARNET, HERTS.

"No, the soil and the position suit Hollies. But the position does not suit a good many flowers, because of its bleakness. We have to limit the contents of the vases to a few varieties, such as Fuchsias, Ivy-leaved Geraniums, and double Petunias in the baskets. On the manor house itself, Ivy, Wistaria sinensis, Magnolia grandiflora, and Clematis montana do well."

Proceeding down the slopes, we arrived at a fine herbaceous border, also fairly sheltered from wind.

"Here," continued Mr. Jones, "we get a long succession, including Phloxes, Michaelmas Daisies, Doronicums, Oriental Poppies, Crown Imperials, Campanulas, Cornflowers, Delphiniums, Galegas, and Pæonies. When the Pæonies are over, we put in standard Fuchsias Lord Roberts, Mrs. Marshall, Charming, Fye's Favourite, and Flora Bell Improved."

"I see that in the rockery you have the blue Primrose in flower."

"We began to flower blue Primroses five years ago. This year they have been in bloom now for more than a month. They are in a very warm and dry corner, well raised from the ground. Clematis is used to decorate the rockery, and there is a nice piece of Pyrus japonica. The white Periwinkle, Solomon's Seal, and Ranunculus in variety are just coming on; and the Roses on the wall include one plant of Dorothy Perkins, which covers a space of thirty feet, all the growth being made in one year. Beyond the rockery is the hardy Fernery."

British Ferns at Home.

"Another delightful feature. Are the varieties all British Ferns?"

"Practically, and they all thrive. For example, Polystichum proliferum is quite hardy in this spot. The collection embraces many varieties of Hart's-tongue, Polypodiums, and Scolopendriums. In this place we start the spring with Primroses and Wood Anemones, and after these the Bluebells come up. We find Chionodoxas very useful. They were in bloom at Christmas, when there was nothing else about, and made quite a bright show."

"Rhododendrons are just coming into flower in front of the house on the other side."

"The variety you indicate is R. Nobleanum, which is always early. This bed was made with a mixture in which peat figured largely. It was in existence when I came here seventeen years ago. But since then we have used four tons of peat on it, and quantities of loam. Before we go into the walled-in garden, or the glasshouses, you may like to see our arrangement for the supply of water on cheap and effective lines. We use an electric motor to pump the water from the well."

"How long have you had this ingenious contrivance in operation?"

"Four years. The electric motor, which, as you see, is easily switched on, does the work of three men at the cost of twopence per hour; and the gardens throughout are watered completely with a minimum of trouble, as well as at a minimum expense."

"I congratulate you upon having such a valuable labour-saving invention."

"It has made a tremendous difference, and we should not like to be without it. In the walled garden, flowers are largely grown for cutting, especially Cactus Dahlias, Asters, Sweet Peas, and Pentstemons. The Sweet Peas are raised in pots, and the varieties are planted out separately in rows."

"You do not sow direct outside?"

"No, because if I do, I cannot obtain long flower stems. Why, I do not know. Many of

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the varieties are of the Spencer type. I add a few each year of the newcomers, but I keep to some of the older varieties. I prefer the waved section to any. Lady Grizell Hamilton is still a favourite here."

Bees and Peaches.

"I notice that you have bees working in the Peach trees on the walls."

"Yes, and there must be pollen, or the bees would not care to be there. The trees have stood the gales very well, aided by the protection of the close-meshed nets. The varieties are Gros Mignonne, Noblesse, Rivers' Early York, Violette Hative, and Barrington. Our Peach season outside begins in August, and goes on to November."

"Are all the Apples grown on the bush system?"

"All in the garden. I have never known Stirling Castle to fail. Cox's Orange Pippin, though only planted this year, is covered with buds. Other varieties especially good are Stone's Loddington, Warner's King, Peasgood's Nonsuch, and Bismarck. On the walls, Plums, Orleans, Victoria, and Greengage, crop well; also a Morello Cherry tree."

"Underneath the houses you have a Pansy border?"

"Yes, Giant Yellow and Giant White. Outside the Vineries, in the old Vine border, we grow Tea Roses, with rockwork all round. Being nicely sheltered from the north and east, we can prune here earlier. The Roses are used for cutting. Of the houses, we will take the Fernery first."

A New Chinese Conifer.

"Have you any special varieties?"

"We have a good general collection, of which the most noticeable are the Nephrolepis todæoides, the Aspleniums, and Maidenhair Ferns. Perhaps the most interesting plant in this Fernery is the new Conifer, imported from China, Fokemia Hodginsii. Captain Hodgins, after whom it is named, is Miss Wyburn's nephew, and he sent us some seed. They have now grown to good-sized shrubs, and this season I am going to see how it will do in frames. In necessary ignorance of the culture required, one has to feel one's way."

"You have a number of Tree Carnations in flower in the greenhouse?"

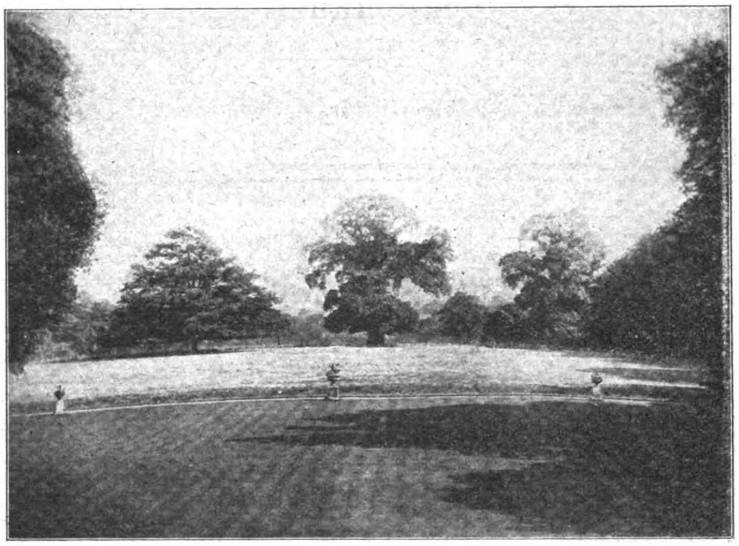
"They have been in flower all through the winter. On the stage is also a batch of Calceolarias."

"What is your treatment of Calceolarias?"

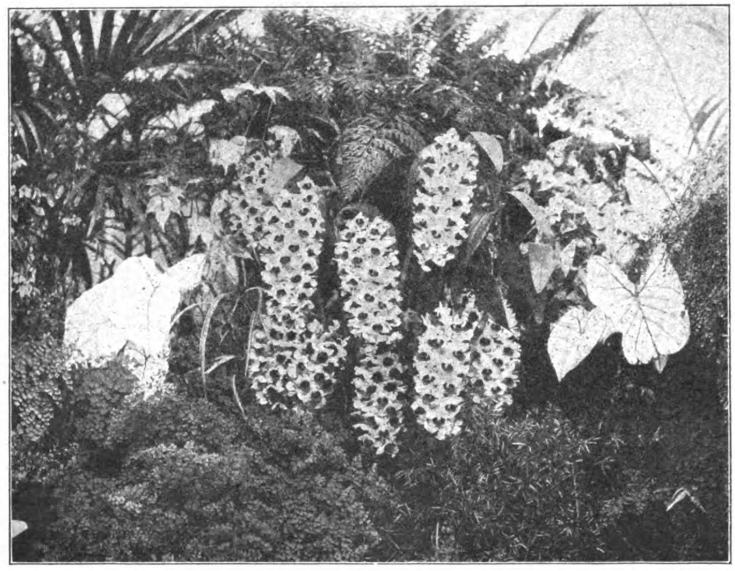
"The seed is sown in July, and the plants are grown cool through the winter. In February we put them into 24-in. pots. Points of vital importance are to keep them on a nice cool bottom, and to give them special care in watering after fresh potting. They should always be kept very clean."

"How do you get your Primula obconica with such long stems?"

"There is nothing special in the treatment, but I grow a batch of seedlings, and pay them careful attention. Some of these sprays have nearly thirty good-sized flowers on them of a very pretty shade of colour. I am going to save the seed of my Primula sinensis this season, and the pods are swelling nicely. The varieties are Princess May, King Edward VII., and a nearly blue flower whose name I forget."



THE LAWN AT HADLEY MANOR, BARNET.



DENDROBIUM THYRSIFLORUM, GROWN AT HADLEY MANOR, BARNET.

How to Grow Streptocarpus.

"Do you use Streptocarpus for cutting?"

"No, only for conservatory work. It is grown from seed, and wants carefully handling in the seed-pan. The compost I use consists of leaf-mould, sand, and loam. When the plants are big enough to move, I prick them off into boxes an inch apart. Subsequently they go into 'sixty' pots, and are afterwards transferred to 'thirty-two's.' Sown in February, they will bloom the following July or August. In the early stages they want a little warmth."

"You get a satisfactory result anyhow, and the same applies to your Cinerarias."

"The Cinerarias are raised by us. We sow in April, grow in cool frames till November, and then bring them into a cool house. To keep up the flowering season, we work two batches, and by this means have an unbroken supply of blooms from Christmas until May."

"What sections are represented in your Orchid house?"

"Dendrobiums and Cattleyas chiefly. The former include D. thyrsiflorum now in flower, D. Wardianum, D. Devonianum, D. Brymerianum, and D. nobile. The Cattleyas include Trianæ, Gaskelliana, marginata, Skinneri, gigas, Mendeli, and Mossiæ. Then we have some Cœlogyne cristata, Cypripediums in variety, and four or five plants of Phaius grandifolius. The undivided flower will last three weeks in water. In the stove there are chiefly Crotons and Dracænas, which we use for table work and decorative purposes."

"I observe you have inside borders in your Vineries."

Grapes and Strawberries

"Yes, now; formerly they were outside. We have done much better with the Vines since the roots were blocked from outside. In one house there are Muscats only, and in the other Gros Maroc, Gros Colmar, Black Alicante, Madresfield Court, and Black Hamburgh. In the later Vinery we grow the first batch of Tomatoes in pots on the stage. One variety was raised here, and is not named. It is a fair size and a good cropper. Underneath the stage we start a few Dahlias early, for cuttings; they should be struck in January. We introduce some of the new varieties with heat, and I am inclined to think that is the best way—to grow from cuttings rather than from the old tubers."

"The fruit in the Peach house seems to be setting well."

"The varieties are Alexander, Early Albert, Early York, and Noblesse; the Nectarine, Rivers' Early. As to the rest of the inside flowers, Begonias Carriere (white) and Rosy Queen are grown for bedding, and the double blue Lobelia Katherine Mallard is forced in pots, and planted out into the beds. We have a few Malmaison Carnations. You will see more flowers in the vegetable garden."

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"Including a large number of Daffodils."

"All the bulbs are planted here for cut flowers. The collection of Hybrid Perpetual Roses includes Reynolds Hole, Frances Mickleham, Ulric Brunner, Mrs. John Laing, Her Majesty, Herr Schaltz, Madame Gabrielle Luizet, and Marie Baumann. In the adjoining frame ground, with the cool Peach house, are about two hundred and fifty Chrysanthemums for big blooms, and the same number of singles. The best varieties of the singles, which are most useful for cutting, are Irene Craig, Merstham Jewel, Felicity, Reginald Godfrey, Cannell's Yellow, Mensa, Cloth of Gold, and Sylvia Slade. Here is a dozen of the best for big blooms: Algernon Davis, George Mileham, (1908), Hon. M. Lopez, Lady Talbot, Martin James, A. T. Miller, Mrs. George Mileham, Reginald Vallis, Splendens, F. S. Vallis, Mrs. Charles Penfold, and Mytchett Beauty."

"Do the hedges round your kitchen garden protect you sufficiently?"

"The trees protect us from the north, but the hedges hardly suffice to keep out the east wind. Still, we do very well with some of the fruit, especially Apples (standard and bush) and Pears."

"Is the soil here different from the pleasure grounds?"

"Yes, it is black soil, rather sandy, but well manured, and grows very good crops. Raspberries, Gooseberries, and Black Currants do fairly well, but Red Currants not so well."

The Cherry Plum.

"What about vegetables?"

"All the leading kinds of Peas are grown, and we keep up the season till October. The Victoria Spinach is grown between Sutton's May Queen Peas. The other varieties are Record, Matchless, Century, Duchess of Albany, Duchess of York, and Autocrat. Only early Potatoes are grown, but Seakale occupies a good deal of space, and most of the vegetables yield good results. You may like to mention that we grow the Cherry Plum, but we seldom get a crop, as it blooms early in March, and is usually cut with frost. It is used as a stock for grafting. If you add the outside border of annuals, of which Coreopsis, Shirley Poppies, Mignonette, and summer-flowering Chrysanthemums are the chief features, I think you will have a very fair idea of the contents of the gardens."

"I think you have been a successful exhibitor, Mr. Jones?"

"I cannot complain of the results of exhibiting in the autumn at the Highgate, Finchley, and Barnet shows. There is usually very keen competition, and I have won a good many trophies for fruit, Chrysanthemums, and foliage plants. I used to exhibit at the summer shows, but summer showing involves more work than I can manage."

"Where did you start your gardening career?"

"I am a 'proud Salopian,' and began my gardening experiences at Dudmaston Hall, near the lovely town of Bridgenorth. I went next to Llannerch Park, North Wales, and before I came here, seventeen years ago, I was head gardener at Hillcrest, Castlebar, Ealing."

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE public gardens of Bermondsey will be dealt with next week, in the course of an interview with the superintendent, Mr. Walter H. Aggett.

The Codlin Moth.

OWNERS of fruit trees—the Apple in particular—must now renew their precautions against one of their most persistent and destructive foes, the Codlin moth. This insect, although small and insignificant in appearance (it measures only about four-fifths of an inch at the spread of the brownish forewings), contrives to do an immense amount of harm to the fruit. It makes its appearance on the wing at about the same time that the Apple is in blossom, and when the petals drop, revealing the tiny fruit just forming, lays its eggs, usually at the "eye" or blossom end. In the course of a few days these eggs hatch out, and the resulting maggot proceeds to make the best of its way towards the core of the fruit. Here it remains, feeding on the seeds and core until it is full grown, which takes about four weeks, when it bores its way to the side of the Apple, making its exit in this manner.

The fruit thus mutilated by the grub or maggot falls, sooner or later, to the ground. The maggot, if still inside, promptly makes its escape, hiding beneath loose rubbish, or sheltering among the crevices in the bark of a tree. If the Apple has not fallen by the time the maggot is ready to leave it, the insect either lowers itself by a fine thread, or crawls along the branches and down the stem, where many of them pass the winter, making for themselves protective coverings or cocoons. In colour the maggot is at first a dirty white, with a black head; later it changes to flesh-pink, with a brown head. It attains a length of three-quarters of an inch.

Remedies.

There are several remedies which may be adopted against this pest. In the winter the

A TRAP FOR THE CODLIN MOTH.

bark of the tree may be scraped and a winter wash used. At the present time, spraying with an arsenical wash is most effective. This should be done as soon as the blossom has fallen—certainly not later than a week after—to reach the maggot before it can enter the fruit. This remedy may be compounded at home, but is better bought ready prepared from a horticultural sundriesman.

"Hay-banding."

Still another remedy is "hay-banding." Bands of hay or coarse sacking are tied tightly round the trunks of the trees to intercept the insects going up or down. The bands should be pushed up and down about fifteen inches at least once a week—up the first time, down the next—to crush any of the maggots which have hidden there, and at the end of the season, when they are taken off, they can be burned to destroy all which have not been so crushed. No time should now be lost in fixing these bands, for the insects will shortly be commencing their journey earthwards.

As a further precaution, all windfalls should be carefully collected, and destroyed or used up. If mixed with other fruit, the maggots (which may still be lurking there) may take refuge in the store room, to emerge as moths the following season. If there is doubt as to whether the windfall is the result of insect attack, or is due to the weather or other causes, the Apples should be examined. The maggot of the Codlin moth leaves its traces in the shape of a tunnel to the core, where will also usually be seen a mass of brownish excreta.

ILEX.

Cucumbers and Melons in Cold Frames.

THERE is still a large number of people who do not know how easy it is to grow Cucumbers and Melons in cold frames during the summer-time, and many frames lie idle which might be utilised for this purpose.

Get Good Plants.

Success depends a great deal on having good plants to start with, and these should be raised or obtained in readiness. The Improved Telegraph is one of the best, and there are few better Cucumbers grown under glass.

The Melon mostly grown in cold frames is the Cantaloupe. The flavour is not so good as many others, but it is very hardy, succeeding when some of the better-flavoured varieties fail. But, as the flavour is of most importance, I find it best to take the slight risk, and grow other kinds. Read's Scarlet-flesh and Blenheim Orange are two good-flavoured varieties which are also hardy, and almost as sure to succeed in the cold frame as the Cantaloupe.

Where there are no hothouses to rear the young plants, they may be raised in a frame on a hotbed. Two or three barrow-loads of fresh horse droppings put into a cool greenhouse will give sufficient heat to cause the seeds to germinate quickly at this time of the year. Light, turfy loam is the best; failing this, leaf-mould and sand should be added to the same amount of soil.

Sterilising the Soil.

I always find it best to sterilise the compost before sowing the seed. Put it into a big shovel, and hold it over a fire until it is heated through, so that you cannot hold your fingers in it, or to about a temperature of two hundred. This will destroy all insects and fungi which may be in it. I have heated enough in one shovel to fill a dozen small pots. Another way is to pour boiling water on the compost, but this makes it very wet, and there is some little danger of the seed rotting instead of coming up if the temperature should be rather low.

The Cucumbers and Melons are best sown singly in small pots. The soil should be pressed down gently, and the seed covered with about half an inch of the soil, which should be left lightly on them. When the seedlings are up, and have made two leaves besides the seed leaves, they should be potted into a size larger, using the same kind of material. When they have filled these pots with roots they will be ready for planting out in the cold frames, the plants then being from ten to twelve inches high. When such plants as these are obtained for planting out the first week in June, there will not be much doubt about them succeeding.

Planting Out.

The soil in the frames should be made very rich by digging in three or four inches thick of well-rotted manure. In addition to this a hole is dug out in the centre of each light, about a foot deep and as much wide, and this is filled up with some well-rotted manure. The soil which was taken out is put over the manure to form a raised mound. I have also used fresh horse manure which has been thrown into a heap and heated, and turned over two or three times to sweeten. If the hole is filled up with this manure when it is hot, it will keep warm for some little time, and assist the plants in starting root action and growth.

One Cucumber plant is enough for each light, and is better than when more are used. The Melons are best with three plants in each light, these being put in the centre over the manure. When hot manure is used it should be trod firm before the soil is put on it. The soil should not be trod firm for Cucumbers, but for Melons should always be made firm all over the frame.

ROSEUM.

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for though some weeds are common to all lawns, others have their special localities in which they thrive and multiply. At one time I was inclined to regard Daisies as the worst, but I have since found that one or two dressings of sulphate of ammonia, carefully applied, will get rid of most of them, and then a knife will dispose of the rest. Plantains yield to the same treatment; but they flower and seed when very small, the stalks carrying the seed-pods often lying quite flat, thus escaping the lawn-

MR. G. JONES.

mower, so that they are apt to pass unnoticed until they are the centre of large colonies. Dandelions are not so readily killed. Though the sulphate does destroy the leaves, they soon grow again, and, as the roots are long, it is difficult with a knife to do more than cut off the tops, which operation merely causes a number of shoots to grow where previously there was only one. No doubt, persistent cutting weakens Dandelions so much that they must eventually die, but in my experience they take a long time about it. When they are few, the quickest method is to cut out a small sod around each, and to remove the root completely. If the work is done properly, no sign of disturbance is noticeable afterwards. This is the best time to do it. Buttercups are very troublesome, because of the runners which proceed from them in all directions. I know of no other way of getting rid of them than cutting them out, but it may be simplified by first scratching the patches with a sharp rake and thus dragging the runners out of the ground. Prunella vulgaris, All-Heal, a creeping plant with purplish flowers, is very difficult to eradicate from a lawn when once it gets a firm foothold. Fortunately, however, it is less objectionable than many of the other weeds. The rake is useful here, also.

A Gardener's Dove-cot.

September 24th.—It is not everybody who would care to introduce doves or pigeons into his garden, but if they are properly tended, they do very little harm, and a dove-cot may be a most interesting feature, especially of the wilder part of the grounds. It may be said that extraneous objects have a tendency to make the plants around them a mere setting. But is that any argument against their use? Is not the whole garden a mere setting for the house? But we want more centres of interest to group our plants, and it is just here that a dove-cot, like a summer-house or arbour, may often be useful.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

THE curious moss-like growths frequently seen on the wild Brier (Rose) are the work of an insect called Rhodites rosa. They are known as Rose-burrs, and in some parts of the country as "Robin's pincushions."

The Gardens of Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. G. JONES, AT BENACRE HALL, WRENTHAM.

ON the occasion of my visit to the gardens at Benacre Hall, early in August, I had the pleasure of meeting the owner, Sir Thomas Gooch, who accompanied his head gardener, Mr. Jones, and myself in a part of the inspection of the pleasure grounds, and courteously supplied some of the information which is gathered up in this interview. Both Sir Thomas and Lady Gooch take a great interest in their beautiful gardens, and in the development of improvements under the auspices of Mr. Jones.

As I observed soon after my arrival, one of the charms is that the gardens gradually merge into the extensive woodland, which itself stretches down to the sea. The whole estate, in fact, is bounded on one side by the sea, besides which in the very extensive park is a great expanse of water, on which are some of the duck decoys rarely seen in England now. Near the west front of the imposing mansion is a splendid cricket ground of four acres. The bedding here is a modern innovation.

"Nineteen years ago," said Mr Jones, "when I came to Benacre, this was bare ground, and the carriage drive was the boundary of the park.".

BENACRE HALL FROM THE PARK.

The Flower Beds.

"You have a fine display of flowers in the beds now."

"There are twenty beds in all. Two of them contain Geraniums Paul Crampel, edged with Little Pixie, silver variegated; two have Geraniums Colonel Babinet, a very strong grower, salmon colour, edged with Flower of Spring."

"And, by way of contrast, two with Heliotropes?"

"Yes, Heliotropes dotted with white Asters, a Dracæna indivisa in the centre, and an edging of single blue Lobelias. Of course, the object is to secure combinations of colours which harmonise."

"I see that you have more Geraniums in the round beds."

"Two are Souvenir de Charles Turner, and two Ryecroft Surprise, both being edged with Echeveria secunda glauca. The two other round beds are filled with Heliotropes, and have a Grevillea robusta in the centre, Tricolor Geraniums, and an edging of Echeverias. Then, there are two beds of seedling Petunias, and two of Verbenas, both edged with Alyssums; two beds of Geraniums Henry Jacoby, edged with Little Pixie; and two of seedling Begonias, edged with Alyssums."

"What is your scheme for the spring?"

"We use Tulips, Hyacinths, and Wallflowers, chiefly, with edgings of either double Arabis or Myosotis. There are mixed Roses in the border, which runs right round, and they are even better now than they were in June. The borders on each side, with flowering shrubs behind—such as Lilacs, Deutzias, Hollies, shrubby Spiræas—are chiefly filled with Montbretias, Cosmos, Delphiniums, and Marguerites (yellow and white), with an edging of Alyssums (Snow White). In tubs on both sides of the Hall are Hydrangeas, Geranium Raspail (double), Heliotrope, and Marguerites."

"You have some fine specimens of evergreen Oaks."

"The Limes also are rather notable; and on the lawn east of the mansion are some good specimens of Acacias and Chestnuts."

"On this side, I see, there are tubs with Agapanthus umbellatus, and Geraniums Dr. Nansen."

"Also Hydrangeas Hortensis. We keep these outside until Christmas, take them in then, and bring them on quickly. The beds on this side are chiefly made up of Salvias (Sutton's Scarlet Queen), Iresine (Wallisii and Lindenii), Humea elegans, and Centaurea ragusina as one combination, another being Calceolaria Golden Gem and single blue Lobelias, while one bed consists exclusively of single Begonias of various colours."

"When did you plant the standard Roses all round the lawn, with Mignonette at the foot?"

"Only last autumn. The varieties include Countess of Rosebery, Caroline Testout, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Dorothy Perkins, Reynolds Hole, Killarney, Mrs. John Laing, Hiawatha (one of the principal), Dr. Andry, Xavier Olibo, Ulrich Brunner, and Duke of Edinburgh. But most of the Roses are in the Rose garden."

A Charming Bowery.

This we next visited, and my attention was at once attracted by an admirably-arranged bowery, about eighty yards long, formed of climbing Roses (Crimson Rambler and Blush Rambler), Honeysuckle, Jasminum, Clematis flammula, and Ceanothus Veitchianus.

"We use Blush Rambler for decorating tables indoors," said Mr. Jones, "and the flowers last in water for four or five days."

"What is the variety of Viola with masses of flower in the border?"

"Cornuta. Those Violas have been in flower since June, and will go on till September. The Roses in the beds are for the most part mixed. They were only put in two years ago. The light soil suits them very well."

Some of the Best Roses.

"I should like to know the names of some of the best varieties here represented."

"Baroness Rothschild, La France, Madame Abel Chatenay, Lady Battersea, Frau Karl Druschki, General McArthur, Mrs. Edward Mawley, Madame Hoste, Killarney, Bridesmaid, Liberty, Gustave Regis, La Tosca, Mrs. John Laing, Richmond, Captain Hayward, John Hopper, and Lady Clanmorris. As standards, Madame Gabriel Luizet do extremely well."

"You do not by any means limit the Rose garden to Roses?"

"No; we try to make it as attractive as possible by varying the contents. Here is a bed of East Lothian Stock, red, white, and pink, which will last till the frost cuts them down."

"And the oval bed of early-flowering Chrysanthemums—what are the varieties?"

Herbaceous Borders at Benacre Hall.

"Champ d'Or, Marie Masse, Flambeau, Goacher's Crimson, Maggie Boyes, and Horace Martin. In the centre of this bed, in the bed with Asters of the Comet section, and also in the bed with white Asters, is a Yucca gloriosa. There are more early-flowering Chrysanthemums in the border underneath the bowery, the varieties there being Madame Desgrange, Soleil d'Octobre, and G. Wermig. These are mixed with Pentstemons, and in front, besides Violas, are Alyssum and Candytuft. In the border underneath the outside wall of the kitchen garden are clumps of Anemone japonica, Delphiniums, Gaillardias, Hollyhocks, Pæonies, Gypsophila paniculata, Agrostemma, and Tree Lupins (yellow and white)."

A Splendid Show of Dianthus.

"Then there is the border under the wall on the other side of the tennis courts."

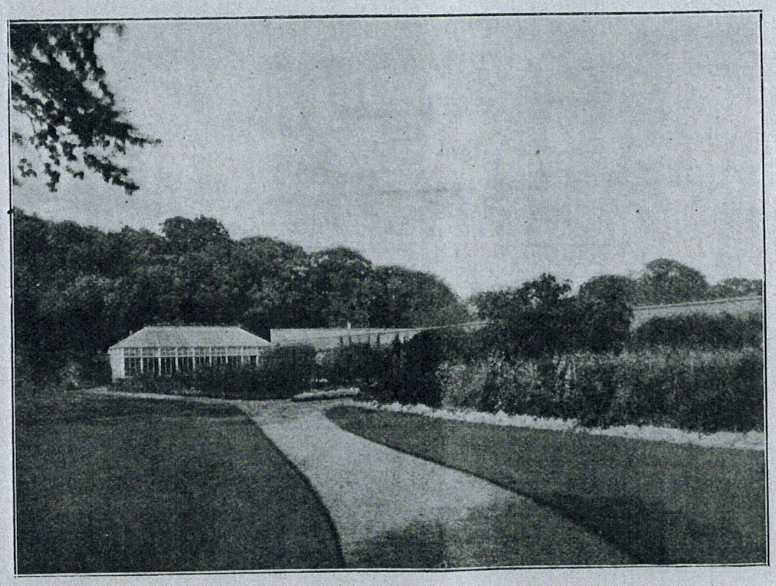
"On the wall itself are Banksian Roses, and W. A. Richardson and Dorothy Perkins, with Clematis William Kennett (semi-double, mauve, which flowers in June); also Honeysuckle. Underneath, the golden Tagetes and yellow Antirrhinums both thrive."

"The fragrance of the Tagetes is very perceptible. But what is the variety of Dianthus which gives such a striking display of various colours, at the end of the garden?"

"D. Hedewigii. They were all raised under glass from one mixed packet of seed. I kept them in a frame until the middle of May. They want a south border like this, and will then last in flower three or four months. On the wall behind are the early Roses, some of which we were cutting in May. The varieties are Madame Alfred Carriere, Madame Falcot, and Souvenir d'un Ami. In the corner are Lilies of the Valley, and these we began to pick on May 4th."

Then we entered the stove house, where I observed a nice collection of Amaryllis. On my asking how many flowers were obtained on a stalk, and the length of the flowering season, Mr. Jones replied,

"Six, and there are often two spikes. They flower from January to May. Ferns are grown here in various sizes. The Adiantums are Farleyense and Williamsii; the Nephrolepis, exaltata superba, todæoides, Amerpohli, and Piersonii. As to Palms, the six best varieties are Cocos Weddelliana, Kentias Belmoreana and Fosteriana, Phœnix rupicola, Latania borbonica, and Rhapis flabelliformis. Other contents of the stove include a nice specimen of the Tree Fern, Cyathea dealbata, a few Orchids (Calanthes Veitchii, Cypripediums, and



A Walk in the Gardens at Benacre Hall.

Cœlogyne cristata), Begonia Rex, mixed with Ferns on the wall, hanging baskets of Asparagus Sprengeri and deflexus, and, on the roof, Stephanotis, which is almost always in flower, and Ficus repens."

The Finest Wall Pear.

Having noticed behind the bowery a number of Chrysanthemums grown in pots, and planted out, in order to get flowers in November, the fruit on the west wall of the kitchen garden claimed attention.

"Which do you consider the finest wall Pear?" I inquired.

"Doyenne du Comice, if you can get it to fruit well. This year the fruit crop is disappointing, especially as there was a mass of flower. Pitmaston Duchess has some fine fruit; Marie Benoist has a good crop, also Marie Louise and Josephine de Malines. The Plums are Victoria, Golden Drop, Kirke's, Reine Claude de Bavay, Transparent Gage, and a variety called Drap d'Or, the label of which is dated 1793, but I am not quite sure that it is the original tree. It is a very good Greengage. Victoria generally crops well, whether the aspect is north or west. The Apples here are Charles Ross, Brownlee's Russet, and Benoni. In beds here are Spiræas and Azalea mollis."

"Do you force Spiræa Queen Alexandra?"

"No, but we get nice flowers in May without forcing. The Azaleas are planted out after forcing. We rest them for a year or two, and then they do well. Violets are grown largely under the wall, Prince of Wales and Marie Louise being the chief varieties."

The Cultivation of Gladiolus.

"How large is the kitchen garden?" I asked as we passed in and began looking at the herbaceous border in the centre walk.

"Two acres inside the walls. The tall-growing varieties embrace Hollyhocks, Hyacinthus candicans, Michaelmas Daisies, Alstrœmerias, Chrysanthemum maximum, and Gladiolus Childsii, which also form one border."

"The Gladioli are remarkably fine. How do you treat them?"

"We lift them about the end of October, and lay them out to dry. Later, we cut off the tops, and put them in sand in shallow boxes. The boxes are kept in a dry shed, and we plant out at the end of March in fresh ground in each year."

"What is the name of the tall, spiky pink plant in the border?"

"Chelone glabra. It has been in flower for a month. No special treatment is required."

Sweet Peas and Chrysanthemums.

"When do you sow your Sweet Peas?"

"In autumn and spring. We grow about fifteen varieties, of which the best are Dorothy Eckford, The Queen, Gracie Greenwood, Sybil Eckford, Henry Eckford, Mrs. William King, Colonist, King Edward, Black Knight, Countess Spencer, and Frank Dolby. In this garden are a few Rose beds, containing only one variety each. These are Mrs. John Laing, General Jacqueminot, Prince Arthur, Black Prince, and Baroness Rothschild."

"How many large-flowering Chrysanthemums do you grow?"

"Two hundred. Twelve of the best are A. J. Norris, Beatrice May, Bessie Godfrey, British Empire, Dora Stevens, E. J. Brooks, F. S. Vallis, Lady Henderson, Magnificent, Mrs. A. T. Miller, and Reginald Vallis. There are also a hundred bush plants, of which the best are Guy Hamilton, Lady Selborne, Mrs. G. Mileham, Moneymaker, Madame R. Oberthur, E. Canning, W. Duckham, Merstham Yellow, Mrs. C. Beckett, Princess Victoria, Ladysmith, and Mrs. Filkins."

Hardy Fruit.

"Which varieties of Peaches do you find answer best on the south wall?"

"Royal George, Dr. Hogg, Grosse Mignonne, Dymond and Crimson Galande. Apricots do fairly well, the varieties being Hemskirk and Moor Park. We do not grow Nectarines outside. Tomatoes are grown on the wall beneath, the varieties being Sutton's A1, Best of All, and Satisfaction. Morello Cherries do well on the north wall, but we cannot get Sweet Cherries to do well, except in pots. From these we get nice crops of Early Rivers and Governor Wood."

"Are all your Apples grown in the kitchen garden?"

"Yes; but the crop this year is very indifferent. The best varieties on standards are Irish Peach, Devonshire Quarrenden, Beauty of Bath, Lady Sudeley, and King of Pippins. On espaliers, the six best are Claygate Pearmain, Court Pendu Plat, Sturmer Pippin, Annie Elizabeth, Cox's Pomona, and Bramley's Seedling."

"I see that you go in for Gooseberries largely on the cordon system?"

"We get much the finest fruit from the cordons. There are numerous varieties, including Dan's Mistake, Lord Derby, Clayton, Speedwell, Golden Gem, Langley Beauty, Marlborough, Keepsake, Thompson, Whinham's Industry, and Warrington. As to other fruit outside, we keep Strawberry plants for three years, growing Royal Sovereign, Latest of All, Givon's Late Prolific, and Vicomtesse Hericart de Thury. Raspberries and Loganberries are also grown."

"Before we go into the fruit houses, you might like to say something about vegetables?"

"We begin to pick Peas about June 20th, and keep on until the end of September, the varieties being Sutton's Early Giant, Royal Standard Bearer, Telegraph, Ne Plus Ultra, Gladstone, and Latest of All. Of Potatoes, Sutton's White City looks very well, and I think they will do all right. Duke of York is forced in pits, and we also grow, in the garden, Ashleaf and Ninetyfold. Two acres of Potatoes are also grown, in a field, from Scotch seed, the varieties being Abundance and Reliance. Seakale is rather a feature, and Onions include Sutton's Exhibition and others. Salsafy is a favourite vegetable, and a quantity of Endive is grown for winter salads."

"Melons seem to be rather a feature with you?"

"We have two houses devoted to them, the varieties being Best of All, Universal, and Royal Jubilee. Now we come to the Vineries."

Fruit Under Glass.

"This, I presume, is the late Vinery?"

"Yes. Here we grow, for the shooting season, Lady Downe's Seedling, Black Alicante, Mrs. Pince, and Appley Towers. On the wall, at the back, are Marechal Niel and Niphetos Roses, which, with the Roses in the other Vineries, give us blooms from April up till Christmas. In the early Vinery are Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, Muscat, Gros Maroc, and Gros Colmar. Another house, which was planted in 1884, is devoted entirely to Muscats. There are borders inside and outside, and I find it is a distinct advantage to have both."

"How do you describe the next house?"

"This is our orchard house, where we grow Apples, Pears, Peaches, and Cherries in pots. The Pears include Doyenne du Comice, Souvenir du Congres, and Pitmaston Duchess; the Apples, Peasgood's Nonsuch and Ribston Pippin; the Peaches, Princess of Wales and Sea Eagle. There are Figs—Brown Turkey and White Ischia—on the back wall, and also in pots. Then, there are two Peach houses, in the early one being Dr. Hogg, Grosse Mignonne, and Alexandra Noblesse Peaches, and Pineapple Early Rivers, and Balgowan Nectarines. This house also contains Tomatoes planted in boxes in front of young Peach trees. The late Peach house contains only Lady Palmerston, which ripens at the end of September, and is a very large variety, of fine flavour. Growing in frames, in a shady part of the frame ground, are batches of Cyclamen, Primula stellata, Cinerarias, and Mignonette for flowering in winter and early spring."

THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE AT BENACRE HALL.

Choice Cactus Dahlias.

"What about Dahlias?"

"They are grown in an outer garden, just outside the first gate, where, also, are more herbaceous plants, while planted in the grass are Narcissi and other bulbs for cutting in spring. The single Dahlias are not named, but the Cactus are Duchess of York, Goldfinder, Marjorie, John Bennett, Delicacy, George Rawlins, Dr. Keynes, Sailor Boy, Juarezii, Mrs. Langtry, and Mr. Charles Noyes."

"I noticed, in the drive approaching the gardens, that variegated Sycamores and Rhododendrons are planted on either side."

"The drive is a mile long, and contains no fewer than six thousand Rhododendrons, and three hundred Sycamore trees. Many of the former are named."

"What appointments have you held before you came here, nineteen years ago, Mr. Jones?"

"I was first at St. Fagan's Castle, near Cardiff, then at Knowsley; and, before I came here, at Childwickbury, Hertfordshire."

ALFRED WILCOX.

stages of growth of these fungi are more checked by low temperatures than are the later stages, and therefore immediate storage in low temperature is the best means of checking the development of Apple rot fungi.

A VETERAN GARDENER.—Mr. HENRY JONES celebrated his jubilee of service at Carrow House, Norwich, a couple of years ago. Forty-four of the fifty years had been spent as gardener to the COLMAN family, one of the most distinguished members of which is Sir JEREMIAH COLMAN, Bt., so well known to our readers for his successful Orchid cultivation at Gatton Park, Reigate. Mr. JONES is a native of Surrey, and in his early years he was employed in Messrs. ROLLISON'S nursery at Tooting, and in the nursery of Messrs. B. S. WILLIAMS AND SON, Holloway, from which place he went to Carrow in 1865.

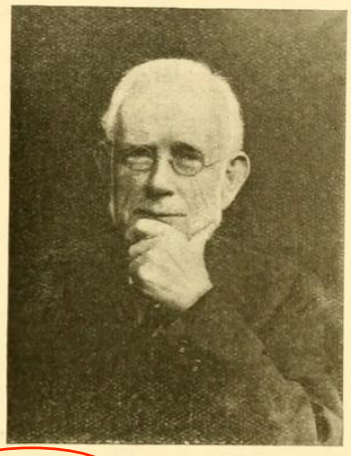
PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.—***Artificial Manures for Allotments and Gardens.*** By George A. Cowie. (London: Henry Munro, Ltd.) Price 3d.—***British Wild Flowers: Their Haunts and Associations.*** By William Graveson. (London: Headley Bros.) Price 7s. 6d. net.—***Labour and the State.*** By George Radford. No. V. of "Our Land" supplements. (London: Adelphi.)—***Journal of the Board of Agriculture,*** March, 1917. Vol. XXIII., No. 12. (London: Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, Whitehall Place.) Price 4d.—***Addenda to Sanders' List of Orchid Hybrids, 1915-1916.*** (St. Albans: Sander & Sons.) Price 2s. 6d.

HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

(The Editors do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.)

EXPERIMENTS WITH HUMOGEN (see p. 113).—I read with interest Dr. H. E. Durham's remarks on the effect of humogen. The use of lime in conjunction with bacterized peat in the Wisley experiments sometimes raised, sometimes depressed, the yield according to the sample of peat used. In no case was quite fresh slaked lime used—it had always been exposed to the air before use, and had therefore become more or less "mellow," to use Dr. Durham's term; indeed, in the 1916 series, lime had been added to the soil many months before, and had certainly become wholly converted into carbonate. (Lime was never added "during growth" as Dr. Durham says.) Here the results were worse than in any other series. But my main reason for drawing further attention to the Wisley trials is that Dr. Durham, in saying that we were able to show no marked benefit from the use of humogen, has overlooked what is perhaps the most important point of all. The experiments in Series I. (1914) gave extraordinary results, equal to anything that has been secured elsewhere (see *Journal R.H.S.*, XLI., p. 320); Series II. and III. (1914) fell far short; Series IV. (1915) was somewhat inconclusive taken by itself; and in Series V. (1915) practically no effect was produced; while in Series VI. (1916) the effect was positively harmful. The evidence goes to show that humogen is not of even approximately constant composition; either variations have occurred in the initial peat substratum, in the cultures and materials added subsequently, or in the mode of manufacture, and the result is that at present humogen is not a standardised article, and can be used with profit only on an experimental scale. Assuming, as the results obtained suggest, that nitrogen is the active principle in the humogen, published analyses from various sources confirm the view which experiments in the garden have led us to adopt. Dr. Durham gives hardly sufficient particulars to enable one to gauge the meaning of the results he gives. If the experiment which he quotes with Potatos, for instance, was the result of comparing one peat-dressed plot with one control plot, the 12 per cent. increase on the ridged land would probably mean nothing, for it would not be outside the probable bounds of differences due to uncontrollable causes. This seems the more likely in that on the "ridge-trenched" land the same dressing of humogen caused a depression in the yield (? of the same variety) of 12 per cent. Did the humogen (even though used at the high rate of two tons to the acre) really have any effect whatever? *F. J. Chittenden.*

R.H.S. AND THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS (see p. 127).—The majority of the Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society will, I should say, uphold the action of the council in refusing to purchase expensive books at the present time, however rare they may be. Before condemning the Council, it should be borne in mind that horticulture is now passing through a very severe crisis. Perhaps, as the Rev. Joseph Jacob says, "the Council's ways want mending"; but this is not the time for it to commit itself to further outlay. It would be better in present conditions to reserve the money for any unexpected call upon the society's funds. As old books are the hobby of your correspondent, one can understand his looking upon the matter as of the first importance, but the Council has to consider the matter from a business point of view. *Cautious.*



MR. HENRY JONES, GARDENER FOR FIFTY YEARS AT CARROW HOUSE, NORWICH.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL

MARCH 27.—As is to be expected, with the advancing season, the fortnightly meetings of the above society at the London Scottish Drill Hall, Buckingham Gate, are assuming greater importance, both the number of exhibits and the number of visitors being on the increase. The Perpetual-flowering Carnation Society held its spring show in connection with the R.H.S. meeting, but the response was small, only four exhibits being forthcoming in eight classes.

In the floral section of the R.H.S. exhibition, a fine feature was a group of Alpines, chiefly Saxifragas, from the Society's Gardens at Wisley. It is only on rare occasions that such superb pans of these beautiful spring flowers have been seen at the London shows; indeed, we doubt if the variety Gloria has ever before been shown so well. The flowers were as large as those of Primroses, and formed an unbroken sheet the width of the large pan. Very charming, too, were S. lilacina, S. Irvingii, S. oppositifolia and S. o. splendens, for which latter the Committee awarded a Cultural Commendation. Besides the plants in pans there were some delightful little specimens in pots, including S. Burseriana minor, S. lilacina and others. Perpetual-flowering Carnations, Cyclamens, Ferns, forced shrubs, and Roses, comprised the remaining subjects. The Roses were shown by Mr. ELISHA J. HICKS, who was exhibiting a new H.T. variety named Mrs. Elisha Hicks, blush-pink in colour, deepening at the base of the petals to shell-pink. The bloom is long and pointed, of good shape, and has exceptional fragrance; it is borne on a stout stem, and the foliage is robust—altogether a Rose of great promise. From the Society's Gardens at Wisley there was a plant in bloom of Parrotia persica (see fig. 47), which is very seldom seen in flower in this country, and aroused a good deal of interest. The inflorescence consists of a group of crimson stamens enclosed in brownish scales.

The largest group before the Narcissus Committee, which was also, incidentally, the largest and most prominent individual group in the hall, was exhibited by Messrs. R. H. BATH, LTD., and consisted of Tulips, Daffodils and Crocuses in bowls of fibre. The same firm also exhibited some excellent Daffodils in a separate group, and Daffodils were also shown by Messrs. J. R. PEARSON AND SONS. Both collections of Daffodils were remarkably good, of bright, clear colour and excellent form. In Messrs. BATH'S collection, the golden Trumpet variety King Alfred was represented by model blooms, with perfectly formed perianth of pale yellow, and short, wide, frilled trumpet of a deeper tone. Silver Dawn, Great Warley, Flame, and Lowdham Beauty were also well shown. The finest of Messrs. PEARSON'S varieties were Florence Pearson, Mme. de Graaff, Louise L. Linton, and Mrs. B. Farmer.

The Narcissus Committee recommended an Award of Merit to Narcissus Bonaparte for its value for pot cultivation.

As in the floral section, the Society's Gardens contributed the most interesting exhibit before the Fruit and Vegetable Committee. It consisted of Carrots and Beets which were lifted on the 26th inst. from sowings made on July 19 last. Notwithstanding that 36° of frost had been registered in the gardens, the roots were perfectly sound, and excellent in every respect. There were also from Wisley some Cabbages raised from seed sown on July 21 last, the varieties being First and Best and Harbinger.

At the 3 o'clock meeting of the Fellows, Mr. JAMES C. HOUSE gave an address on "Violets and Violet-growing."

Floral Committee.

Present: Messrs. H. B. May (chairman), W. J. Bean, J. Hudson, R. C. Notcutt, J. Green, W. B. Cranfield, G. Reuthe, J. Heal, E. F. Hazelton, W. Howe, T. Stevenson, C. E. Pearson, J. F. McLeod, J. Dickson, C. E. Shea, C. Dixon, A. Turner, R. Hooper Pearson, C. Elliott, W. P. Thomson, E. H. Jenkins and W. G. Baker.

GROUPS.

The following medals were awarded by the Floral Committee for collections:—*Silver Flora Medal* to Mr. J. C. JENNER, Rayleigh, Essex, for Perpetual-flowering Carnations; Messrs. STUART LOW AND CO., Bush Hill Park, Enfield, for Perpetual-flowering Carnations and Cyclamens; and Messrs. H. B. MAY AND SONS, Edmonton, for Ferns. *Bronze Flora Medal* to Messrs. R. TUCKER AND SONS, Oxford, for Saxifragas. *Bronze Banksian Medals* to Messrs. BARR AND SONS, King Street, Covent Garden, for Alpines and bulbous plants; Messrs. J. CHEAL AND SONS, Crawley, for Alpines and shrubs; Messrs. W. CUTBUSH AND SON, Highgate, for Alpines and forced shrubs; Mr. ELISHA J. HICKS, Twyford, for Roses; Mr. G. W. MILLER, Wisbech, for spring flowers; and Mr. G. REUTHE, Keston, Kent, for Alpines.

Orchid Committee.

Present: Sir Jeremiah Colman, Bart. (in the chair), Sir Harry J. Veitch, and Messrs. Jas. O'Brien (hon. secretary), R. A. Rolfe, R. G. Thwaites, E. R. Ashton, T. Armstrong, A. McBean, J. Cypher, J. Charlesworth, J. E. Shill, H. G. Alexander, Walter Cobb, S. W. Flory, W. Bolton, C. H. Curtis, C. J. Lucas, R. Brooman-White, and W. H. Hatcher.

AWARDS.

FIRST-CLASS CERTIFICATE.

Cypripedium Eurybiades The Baron (*Hera Euryades* × *Alcibiades*), from Mr. J. E. SHILL, The Dell Gardens, Englefield Green. A noble flower, of large size, the markings and colour following C. Hera Euryades. The dorsal sepal is white with an emerald-green base and heavy blotching of dark purple. The petals and lip are yellow-tinged and spotted with dark mahogany-red.

AWARDS OF MERIT.

Brasso-Cattleya Lady Jellicoe (*B.-C. Digbyano-Schröderae* × *C. Gaskelliana albens*), from

LGM, 1831

Art. VII. *Obituary.*

Died, at Dulwich, July 25. in his 68th year, *William Clark, Esq.*, of Croydon, an eminent florist in his time, and an honourable and upright man. He raised many tulips from seed, among others, Lawrance's La Joie (p. 601.). It was broken by Mr. Lawrance, and hence the cause of its bearing his name. The merit of selecting the best-formed flowers, saving their seeds, sowing them, and raising the plants, belongs to Mr. Clark. He was an amateur, and never received money for flowers; but, when he gave a seedling bulb away, he generally arranged to have one bulb of every flower that broke. — *N. Aug.* 1831.

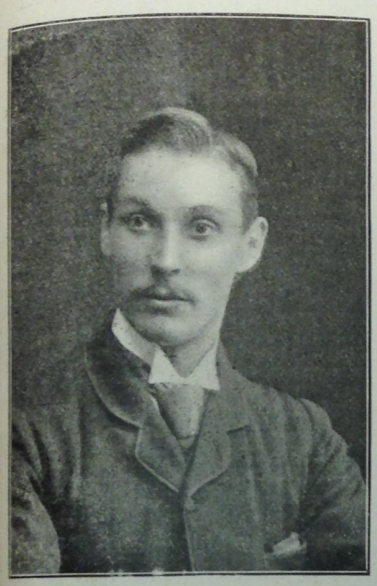
Died, at Packington, Warwickshire, August 5. in the 92d year of his age, *Mr. Richard Jones*, who, during a period of more than thirty years, filled the situation of gardener to the late Earl of Aylesford, at Packington Hall. This excellent man was the eldest son of Mr. Thomas Jones, a maltster and brewer of Morvil in the county of Salop, and was born May 2. O.S. 1740. When about 12 years old, his father placed him under the care of a Mr. Farmer, gardener to Sir Richard Acton, Bart., at Aldenham, near Bridgenorth, to whom he served an apprenticeship of seven years. In this situation his good conduct happily acquired for him the favourable notice of that most eminent and highly gifted man, Launcelot Brown, Esq. (then principal gardener to King George II.), who, at the expiration of his apprenticeship, engaged him to work in the royal gardens, under his own immediate superintendence and tuition. With this gentleman (who may be justly styled the father of his profession, and who was, in fact, the founder of a new era in landscape-gardening), Mr. Jones continued about three years, his time being at first chiefly divided between the gardens of Kensington Palace and Hampton Court, and subsequently among those of Richmond, Kew, and Buckingham House. Mr. Brown afterwards procured for him the situation of gardener to Lord Holland, at Holland House, Kensington, where he saw much of the celebrated Charles James Fox, in whom (although he was then a mere child) Mr. Jones's penetration led him to discover the germs of that noble and independent spirit for which he was afterwards so much distinguished in public life. About the year 1766, he quitted the service of Lord Holland, and (at the recommendation of his friend, Mr. Brown) was engaged by Lord Sandys to superintend the gardens attached to Ombersley Court, Worcestershire. In this latter situation he had resided about three years, when Lady Torrington prevailed upon him to enter the service of her brother, the Earl of Cork and Boyle, at Marston House near Frome, in Somersetshire, whither, accordingly, he now removed. Here it was his happiness to form a matrimonial connection with Mary, the eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Ball, a respectable farmer, residing at Postlebury House, near Frome, by whom he had fifteen children. She died on the 23d of May, 1829, after having shared with her husband, for more than half a century, the vicissitudes of an active and a happy life. In the discharge of the arduous duties of a wife and mother her conduct was most exemplary; and she enjoyed, with her husband, the peculiar gratification of witnessing the marriages of twelve of their children, and the births of fifty-five grandchildren and great-grandchildren. After retaining his situation under the Earl of Cork for about twelve years, during which time he acquired the esteem and confidence of his noble employer, he was engaged by the Marchioness of Bath, of Longleat House, Wiltshire, to undertake the management of the extensive gardens of her son-in-law, the late Earl of Aylesford, at Packington Hall, near Coventry, to which place he removed in the spring of the year 1781. In the quiet and retirement of this rural spot (the site of the ancient forest of Arden, some of whose oaks, contemporary with Henry VIII., are still to be seen in the park) Mr. Jones was destined to pass the remainder of his days; and he had already been actively engaged in the

service of the Earl of Aylesford, upwards of thirty years, when, the sudden death of that nobleman dissolving the connection, he soon afterwards retired upon a handsome pension, which his lamented patron had previously settled upon him.

Mr. Jones was eminently formed for social life: by his engaging manners he had the happy facility of commanding, even at a first interview, the favourable opinion of all who saw him; and, when a more lengthened acquaintance ensued, he rarely failed to become the object of strong and lasting attachment. His hospitality was unbounded, and his highest delight consisted in seeing his table surrounded with happy faces, and in promoting (as none could more effectually do) "the feast of reason and the flow of soul." Although a most conscientious believer in the doctrines of the church of Rome, yet so far was he from being bigotedly attached to his own peculiar tenets, that he freely permitted all his children to attend the public services of the neighbouring parish church, there being no place of worship belonging to his own communion within less than six or seven miles of his residence. Nevertheless, he was himself for many years, a very frequent attendant at the Catholic chapels of Coventry, Solihull, and Birmingham; and when his increasing age and infirmities rendered these journeys inconvenient, he continued his devotions at home, appropriating to them daily, during the last few years of his life, a considerable portion of his time. His last visit to Birmingham was for the express purpose of attending public worship at the Catholic chapel, at Easter, 1830 (being then 90 years of age), on which occasion he spent a week with the writer of this notice, who will ever retain a most lively recollection of the pleasure it afforded him. Mr. Jones became, in early life, devotedly attached to the study of natural history in all its branches, and his collections were at one time very numerous, and attracted great admiration; his long residence in Somersetshire affording him frequent opportunities of examining the geological features of that beautiful and romantic country, whence a considerable proportion of his finest specimens were derived; and the writer has frequently heard him declare that in all his excursions he never once passed a stone-quarry without minutely inspecting it. His contributions to the collections of the most eminent naturalists of his time were extremely liberal, and obtained for him the friendly regards of Sir Joseph Banks (then president of the Royal Society), Sir Ashton Lever (the founder of the Leverian Museum, as it was afterwards called), the Lord Chancellor Thurlow, and many other distinguished persons; among the latter was the Marquess of Donegal, who was so smitten with Mr. Jones's collection, that he offered him a considerable sum of money for the purchase of it, but which Mr. Jones declined. Many years afterwards, however, he presented the major part of his specimens to a noble lady, to whose family he had been indebted for many acts of kindness; other portions were bestowed upon different members of his own family, and the remnant of the collection has since fallen into the hands of him who now records its dispersion. — *Thomas Clarke, jun. Birmingham, Sept.* 8. 1831.

We called on Mr. Jones early in May last, and found the venerable gentleman seemingly in good health, though rather deaf. We were surprised at the strength of his mind and at the liberality of his observations. In short, we found nothing in his intellect which indicated the infirmities of age. He mentioned a number of anecdotes respecting the celebrated landscape-gardener Brown, to whom he had been foreman, and who placed him as head gardener at Packington, and he made some remarkable observations respecting the Gardener's Magazine, which we shall give in the details of our tour. — *Cond.*

consequence, for the general practice is to cut them down after planting to a few inches from the ground, but I wish to get a crop from some of them next year. I have, therefore, planted them, not singly as usual, but in pairs, and while one of each pair has been cut down in the ordinary manner, to produce a strong stock, the other has been left at nearly full length, to bear fruit. I do not recommend the plan as economical, for the money spent on the canes



MR. F. JORDAN.

would probably purchase far more fruit than they will yield, but it will be one's own fruit. Moreover, as the variety is new to me, I wish to test it.

December 22nd.—The prevalence of what is called sclerotium disease is an additional reason for not allowing any heaps of decaying vegetable matter to remain in the garden. The disease is caused by various minute parasitic fungi called sclerotinia, which differs from the majority of other fungi in one essential respect—that they do not confine themselves to any particular species or genus, but attack indiscriminately almost every kind of plant, Potatoes, Turnips, Carrots, Peas, Cucumbers, Snowdrops, Lilies, and Tulips. The symptoms are thus described in a Board of Agriculture leaflet:—"An early indication of the disease is wilting and yellowing of the leaves, followed by drooping of the stem when present. When this stage is reached, the stem or leaves just above ground are covered with a whitish, fluffy mould, which soon changes to a brownish colour, and liberates clouds of minute spores when rubbed. This is the earliest and most frequent form under which the fungus appears, and is called the botrytis stage. In Potatoes, Beans, etc., the fungus passes up the inside of the stem, and there forms numerous solid bodies varying in size from a Turnip seed to a grain of wheat. These bodies, called sclerotia, are at first pale in colour, becoming black outside when mature. Rotting of Turnips or Swedes, and yellow blight of Potatoes, are instances of the injury caused by this disease. In bulbous plants the sclerotia are formed in the bulb." As usual in cases of the sort, there is no cure, for the fungus, developing inside the tissues, cannot be reached. All diseased plants should be burnt, and all accumulations of decaying vegetable matter, which serve as nurseries for the fungus, should be cleared away, or well mixed with plenty of quicklime.

December 23rd.—When the trees are leafless, and the ground is bare, it is often pleasant to look at illustrations of summer scenes in the garden, like the one showing the rows of beautiful Pansies. So we get new ideas and form our plans for the future. The gardener who does not take "Time by the forelock" when he gets the chance will presently find himself out of breath.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 221.—MR. F. JORDAN, AT IMPNEY GARDENS, DROITWICH.

IN consequence of the owner of Impney Hall having let the place, Mr. F. Jordan, who has been head gardener for nine years, will shortly bring to a close his association with the gardens, which he has maintained in a condition reflecting the highest credit upon him. He has also achieved in the same period remarkable successes at leading fruit shows, and in Worcestershire and elsewhere his scientific skill and practical knowledge have received the most cordial recognition. When I visited Impney at the beginning of November, the important range of glass at first claimed attention, and I began my questions in the early Peach house by asking Mr. Jordan the varieties forced for pot trees.

"The Peaches," he replied, "which I find best for early work, are Royal George and Bellegarde, with Alexandra, Duke of York, and Duchess of Cornwall, for very early forcing pot trees. I think that the Duke of York and Duchess of Cornwall, introduced by Messrs. Rivers, will be an improvement upon any other early variety for potting. This is the first season I have rooted them. The only two Nectarines I use for potting are Cardinal and Early Rivers."

Taking the houses in the order of inspection, we went next into a small stove, with Pines in a bed in the centre.

"The three varieties," said Mr. Jordan, "are Queens, Smooth Cayenne, and Rothschild."

"What is the age of your Vines?" I inquired, in the Muscat house.

"All the Muscats are thirty years. In fact, they have been here ever since Impney was built and the grounds laid out. By the way, in this house I work Chasselas Napoleon on the Muscat stock."

"And in the early Vinery?"

"Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, and Foster's Seedling. In the late Vinery the varieties are Appley Towers, Gros Colmar, Alicante, Barbarossa, Lady Downe's Seedling, Gros Maroc, and Veitch's Prince of Wales. I think that the last is very likely to be a fine Grape. The bunches of Barbarossa are remarkably large, but size is the best point about them."

"You have a house devoted to Bananas?"

"Yes, and the plant here is the finest we have ever had, although it is only seven months old. The variety is Cavendishii, the plant is from ten to twelve feet high, and it has fruit, which, when matured, will weigh over a hundred pounds."

"What is the essential point in the treatment of Bananas?""

"The most important thing is to feed the plant when it is bearing. It is almost impossible to overfeed Bananas at the proper times. These are when it throws the fruit out, and when it begins to swell again."

"What do you consider the features of your cool greenhouse?"

"It is used for winter plants, which are wanted in great number for the Hall and for church decoration. We provide scarlet and white flowers for the church all the year through. Thus, we grow between three and four hundred Chironica exifera during the year; they flower from June to September. Then, on the stage, there are three hundred Schizanthus Wisetoniensis, which is nearly hardy, and requires to be grown in a cool greenhouse. We get some fine specimens of flowers in the spring. As you see, there are a few Dendrobiums in this house which have been grown and flowered here for three years. The varieties are Wardianum and nobile. In the second Peach house, where we grow Dymond, Bellegarde, and Princess of Wales, and Pineapple Nectarine, are our earliest batches of Cinerarias, which are nearly all the stellata variety; and in a cool house we have Violet Hative Peach and Spencer Necta-

THE TERRACE AT IMPNEY, DROITWICH.

Impney was formerly the home of the late Mr. Thomas Corbett, for many years known as "the Salt King."

rine, both excellent. From the former we get some magnificent fruit."

Passing into a new range of houses, we came to a fine show of Malmaisons, and Mr. Jordan said, "We grow the chief of Mr. Martin Smith's varieties, such as Calypso and Martin Smith—the majority, however, are Princess of Wales—and altogether between five and six hundred. Above the stage, in the Carnation house, are some batches of Tracheliums and Francoas; both are flowers that amateurs can easily grow. We have about a hundred and fifty of each. Here we have another type of Schizanthus. The varieties are retusus, r. alba, and r. Grahamii. These can all be used for pots and table decoration, and only require cool treatment, and to be protected from frost. The seed is sown either in the autumn or very early in the spring, and we get flowers in June and July."

"How many Pelargoniums do you grow?"

"About three hundred, and two hundred double Primulas. These continue flowering from now until March, and provide us with plenty of white blooms throughout the winter. I consider that it is a gardener's duty to cater for the winter, even more than for the summer."

"Do you grow Cucumbers and Melons largely?"

"We devote three houses to them. The Cucumbers are Rochfords' Market and Telegraph, which thrive during any season of the year. We grow the earliest and latest batch of Melons in 12-in. pots, and have cut them without interruption from April till November for five years."

"That is a very good record. What varieties are they?"

"I have grown most varieties, but with the exception of Hero of Lockinge and British Queen (a small Melon, but one of the finest in flavour), they are all my own seedlings."

With a glance at another house of Pines, and a mixed house of Orchids, with Cattleyas, Cypripediums, Cœlogynes, and Odontoglossums, we stayed for a while in another house containing a later batch of Cinerarias.

"This house," observed Mr. Jordan, "is used for Strawberries in spring, and for Tomatoes in summer. With regard to Strawberries, I chiefly depend upon Royal Sovereign for early fruit, and Leader for late. The four best Tomatoes, in my opinion, are Carter's Sunrise, Frogmore Selected, Lister's Prolific, and Perfection. On the shelves you see an earliest batch of Freesias. We keep up a succession of fifty pots of these through the winter. The variety is F. refracta alba, and an amateur can grow it without difficulty. Moreover, the expense is small. The bulbs, which can be obtained for four or five shillings a hundred, will continue to yield flowers for years."

"How many Gloire de Lorraine Begonias do you grow?"

"About four hundred; and I always grow young plants, never going beyond 6-in. pots. Each plant constitutes a specimen, and I strive to get both flower and foliage perfect. Some were struck at the end of last March, and others in May. With regard to Crotons, I do not go beyond 7-in. plants, and I like them on single stems, two and three feet high."

"You seem to devote a house entirely to Cyclamens?"

"Yes, they are quite a feature with us. We grow four hundred, all seedlings."

"How long have they been in the house?"

"Only a month. They are grown outside, in cold frames. We shall pick thousands of the flowers between now and the end of March."

"Even now I see that you have some grand bloomers?"

"On one plant, in a single pot, there are thirty-two flowers fully developed, and this is only November 4th. I generally try to get the best for January. There are varying shades of colour, from pink to scarlet, though most of them are white, and all are either Sutton's or Veitch's gigantea strain. In this house we have also more specimen plants of Gloire de Lorraine and fifty of Turnford Hall Begonias."

"When do you intend your Tree Carnations to flower?"

"They were grown to flower at Christmas and onwards. The house contains nearly four hundred, and we grow most of the American varieties, including Mr. Lawson, Madame Melba, Pride of the Market, Winter Cheer, Harry Fenn, and Enchantress."

Close to the range is an orchard on the slant, which Mr. Jordan has worked up and grafted himself.

"There are," he said, "about four hundred young trees in bearing and coming on just now. I have grafted some every year for seven years. This is also a fine place for winter greens and Brussels Sprouts."

"Speaking of vegetables, you might mention some of any special varieties you recommend."

"We go in very largely for vegetables. I have had Onions weighing from two and a half to three pounds each. We also have about two acres of Potatoes, on which many varieties are grown, but I depend upon Factor, Crofter, Dalmeny Beauty, Dalmeny Hero, Sutton's Discovery, Sharpe's Express, Royal Kidney, May Queen, and Sir John Llewellyn. Of Seakale, I depend upon the Old Purple and Lily White."

"How many Violets are there in the adjoining frames?"

"There are about thirty lights. The varieties are Princess of Wales, Marie Louise, and Comte de Brazza. They have just been put in, and are doing well."

We next visited the fruit house, and here Mr. Jordan showed me an exceedingly fine collection of Apples and Pears which he intended to show at Birmingham.

"This seems an appropriate time," I said, "to ask you which you consider the best varieties of Apples for exhibition purposes."

"I am showing fifty, but the best are Bramley's Seedling, Stirling Castle, Stone's Seedling, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Golden Noble, Newton Wonder, Charles Ross, King of the Pippins, Hoary Morning, King of Tomkins County, Rival, Lord Hindlip, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Tyler's Kernel, Chelmsford Wonder, Ribston Pippin, Sandringham, Empress Alexandra, Hambling's Seedling, Warner's King, Lane's Prince Albert, The Queen, Royal Jubilee, Cox's Pomona, Lady Henniker, Gloria Mundi, Bismarck, Blenheim Orange, Beauty of Kent, and Mère de Menage. Here are a few of the best Pears: Pitmaston Duchess, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise, Doyenné du Comice, Gansell's Bergamot, Duchesse d'Angouleme, Marie Benoist, Beurré Clairgeau, Beurré Diel, Beurré Bachelier, Winter Nelis, Easter Beurré, Josephine de Malines, and Catillac, the well-known stewing Pear."

"I see that you have a number of Chrysanthemums in your early Vinery."

"There are two hundred and fifty grown for large blooms, and two hundred and fifty bush plants. The Grapes grown here are Muscat, Madresfield Court, Hamburgh, Alnwick's Seedling, Barbarossa, and Gros Maroc."

As we proceeded to the winter garden, I inquired the extent of the grounds.

"They are between fifty and sixty acres, and there are six acres of kitchen garden. In addition to the work here, I am responsible for the bedding plants, and, in fact, for the supervision, of the Park at Droitwich, where I have four men working under me. The winter garden was laid out by Messrs. Clapham, of Stockport, and, as you see, it is lighted by electric light. Tree Ferns, hardy varieties of Maidenhair Fern, Agathæas, Phormiums, Pteris, and Begonias (Rex variety) are among the principal features of this beautiful place, which always excites the admiration of visitors."

The terrace below the imposing mansion next claimed notice, and from this point of vantage can be seen not only the beds, but some of the ornamental water, which tends so much to enhance the attractions of the grounds.

"At present," remarked Mr. Jordan, "the beds are filled with Wallflowers and Arabis. In spring there is a blaze of yellow Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, etc., and in summer the beds usually look gay with Pentstemons, Geraniums, Verbenas (Miss Willmott), and Antirrhinums, the centres being filled with Lobelia cardinalis, the Castor-oil plant, and Indian Corn."

"I suppose the borders of the herbaceous walk, with a belt of Wellingtonias, and the Rugosa Roses and Sweet Briers in front, contain mixed varieties?"

"Yes, including Michaelmas Daisies, which are still in flower, and East Lothian Stocks. On the Pear wall, facing the herbaceous walk, are some of the varieties I have mentioned."

"How long ago was the Rose garden made?"

"I made it when I came here, and replanted it. The scheme is one variety in each bed, and I think it is the most effective. The varieties include La France, White La France, General Jacqueminot, Madame Victor Verdier, Laurette Messimy, Gloire de Polyantha, Little Pet, Mrs. John Laing, and Ulrich Brunner. These constitute the cream of them. Laurette Messimy, a beautiful Rose in the spring, occupies the large centre bed, and several deciduous trees, such as Acers, form a background to the Rosery."

Then we went into the kitchen garden, which was practically planted by Mr. Jordan, one of the features being fruit on cordons. Along the walk in the centre I was surprised to see Stocks in flower, and I asked how it was done.

"They are sown early," replied Mr. Jordan; "and, though in flower now, are at their best in the spring. They want a little extra attention to get them on. The East Lothian seed is, I find, the best. The blooms on each side are all white."

"You have some fine, young fruit trees in this garden."

"The first dozen of these I bought were Lane's Prince Albert, but I did not let any of them fruit the first year or two."

"You seem to have several Apricot trees on your walls."

"There are three varieties—Large Early, Hemskirk, and Moor Park. I think that the reason why people often fail to obtain crops of Apricots is that they let the roots get away, which causes gross growths, and gumming follows. There are only a few Peaches grown on the wall; the variety is the Salway, but I only use it for cooking purposes."

"What are the varieties of Peaches grown outside?"

"The best are Dymond, Walburton Admirable, Barrington, Bellegarde, and Prince of Wales. The Nectarines are Early Rivers, Lord Napier, and Humboldt. I am growing in the little reserve garden outside the range, young Apple trees, including Houblon, King Edward VII., and others I have already named. The trees are not kept here more than four years, and sometimes we move them earlier."

"Is there any other feature of interest which we have time to talk about?"

"Our orchard house trees may interest you a little. I go in for a considerable quantity of fruit in pots outside. For instance, I grow several varieties of Figs—Brown Turkey, Brunswick, St. John, and Grizzly Bourgeois, the latter of fine flavour; of Plums, the Early Transparent Gage, Old Gage, Jefferson, and Kirk; of Apples, Lady Sudeley, Gascoyne's Scarlet, and Washington; of Pears, Pitmaston Duchess, Triomphe de Vienne, Marguerite Marrilat, Dr. Jules Guyot, and Souvenir du Congrès. I fruit these at different times, and watch them with great attention."

"There is one more question about fruit which I should like to ask you. How do you work your Strawberries in the kitchen garden?"

"On the two-years' system. I plant them a foot apart, two feet between each row, and root every other one out after the first season. The varieties, in addition to those I force, are Laxton, Waterloo, Latest of All, Loxford Hall (a fine late variety), and Givons' Late Prolific, which I have tried for two years. It did very well last season."

"Where did you start your gardening career, Mr. Jordan?"

"At Grimston Garth, in Yorkshire, whence I proceeded to Wooton Hall, Malton. Then I went to Osberton, where I was under one of the finest fruit growers for two years, and for ten years afterwards I was foreman at Welbeck Abbey."

"You have done a good deal of showing, I believe?"

"Yes, since I have been here. I generally show large collections of fruit at Shrewsbury, York, and Birmingham. At Shrewsbury I had a decorated dessert table, with fifteen varieties of fruit, and I have also exhibited sixteen dishes of fruit, bunches of Grapes, dishes of cooking Apples, table plants, Pines, dishes of Pears, Nectarines, Peaches and Melons."

"You appear to have a vast number of prize cards."

"Chiefly firsts, and largely for fruit, which has always been a great feature in my showing. I do not care to enumerate prizes, but I am rather proud of the fact that on three occasions I won the first prize at Birmingham for a collection of British-grown fruit. I have also done a good deal of judging, as far as my time would permit.

ALFRED WILCOX.

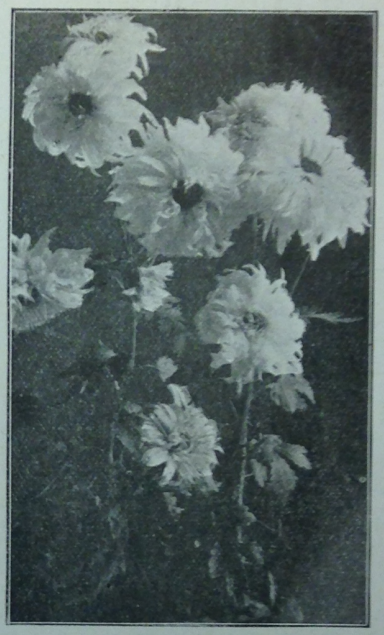
Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 177.—SINGLE CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND GLOXINIAS.

DEAR KATE,—How much more desirable these pretty single Chrysanthemums are than the large-flowered varieties! This year we have grown a number of single Chrysanthemums, and we are charmed with the result, for we have never before had such a quantity of most decorative blossoms for cutting at this time of year, and the beautiful Daisy-like flowers are so much more elegant than the great pincushions of the giant varieties. If you have not yet tried the single ones, you should now order cuttings, or rooted plants can be had later on, if you don't want the trouble of striking them.

One of the earliest to open its blossoms in October is called Mary Richardson, and a wonderful colour it is—pure coral-red—exactly the shade of those beads you wear, and this is a very rare tint amongst these flowers, most of the pink varieties inclining to magenta, and therefore to be avoided. But Ladysmith, a dwarf plant with clear pink blooms, which are really quite single (most of them have several rows of petals), is really lovely, too—very much like a pink Pyrethrum, in effect. Then the exquisite curly petals of Miss F. K. Charlton begin to unfold, in the purest white, and this is a real beauty, the blooms being about six or seven inches across, if you disbud the plant to two or three on each stem. Most of the single varieties are the better for a little disbudding, but one has not the fuss of "taking the bud" in August in growing these, and August is a time when many of us are holiday-making. Lady Margaret Douglas is also a fine white variety, with straight petals which open shortly after Miss F. K. Charlton, and the splendid golden blossoms of Kitty Bourne are a delightful contrast to it. Pretoria is a later yellow, a wonderfully glowing tint, with a greenish-gold eye; both are most useful for cutting, we find. Star of Honour is in creamy white, with a beautiful anemone centre in soft apricot; and J. T. Angus is the name of the best late variety in pink. At Christmas the fine flowers of Dorothy Fortescue are available, and also the smaller blossoms of Treasure, in bright yellow—a most useful plant at this time. Nora Davies, too, is a valuable late variety in terra-cotta-red, and it really is nice to have plenty of these flowers in mid-winter.

You can easily grow them without fire heat; in fact, they are much more robust without it, and last longer, besides which blights do not worry them so much in a cold or a sheltered verandah as in a warm conservatory, and the cuttings can be rooted in a room (or any place free from frost) without much difficulty. Where the air is dry (*i.e.*, in a window), it is better to arrange a cutting box for them by getting a common deal box (from the grocer's), about ten inches deep, and not too wide to be easily handled. At the bottom of the box you should put two or three inches of fine ashes, and as these must always be kept moist it is as well to lay down a piece of oil-cloth under the box, to prevent any injury to the window-sill. The cuttings can be placed separately in thumb pots of light soil (loam, leaf-mould, and sand, with a little charcoal dust), making them quite firm with the thumbs, and using the compost in a moist state, though not too wet. Then you can arrange the pots in the box (having wetted the ashes with luke-warm water), and cover the whole with one or two pieces of glass, taking care to leave a little air at the corners, for absolute closeness will end in mildew and destruction.



SINGLE CHRYSANTHEMUM—MISS F. K. CHARLTON.

A WELL-GROWN GLOXINIA.

You must try to keep the *juste milieu* between great dryness and too much moisture; the foliage of the cuttings should not droop, but it is better to keep it upright by moisture in the air (from which all foliage feeds) than by soaking the soil in the pots when already wet. Always use tepid water when it is necessary to give it, and turn over (or wipe) the glass covering every morning, for if the drops which accumulate on this fall again on the plants, they are likely to cause mildew. Then you must be on the look-out for any decaying leaf or other débris on which mildew (which is the great winter enemy of plants) can settle, and remove every scrap of rubbish from the box at once. On a bright, sunny day a piece of paper may be needed for a few hours to prevent the cuttings from drooping, but they must have all the light and air they can bear without flagging, and, as they begin to grow, you should give them more air, tilting up the glass on one side, and eventually taking it off altogether, for the hardier the cuttings are made from the first the better for them. Then they will want a shift into a 4-in. pot, with slightly richer soil, and for a day or two after that shock to their nerves, it may be necessary to put them again into the box and shade them, to prevent flagging. But, after that, don't coddle them any more, and grow them entirely in the open air, potting them on (as

FAMOUS GARDENS :: IN WAR TIME. ::

HOW THEY ARE BEING MAINTAINED WITH REDUCED STAFFS.

VII.—Interview with Mr. F. Jordan, at Ford Manor, Lingfield.

FOR many years past Mr. F. Jordan has been well-known for his skill as a cultivator; and, especially in the growing and showing of fruit, he has proved himself second to none. At all the leading shows in the Midlands, and farther North, his exhibits have been among the most interesting staged, and have won unstinted praise—and the principal prizes—both for their high quality and their tasteful arrangement. His services have also been in requisition as a judge; while the Royal Horticultural Society elected him a member of its Fruit and Vegetable Committee. It was not until September, 1913, however, that he exhibited in London, when he brought to the Royal Horticultural Hall a representative collection of pot-grown fruit which proved the outstanding feature of the show, and secured the gold medal. He was then in charge of the gardens of Warter Priory, York, the residence of Lady Nunburnholme—a position he relinquished at the close of last year, when he came South to the gardens of Ford Manor, Lingfield, the country seat of Captain and the Hon. Mrs. Spender-Clay. That is why he remarked, when I called on him a short time back:

VEGETABLES IN QUANTITY.

"I have not been here long enough to get fully acquainted with the gardens and grounds, which are of considerable extent. At present the great thing is food production, and working with a reduced staff does not give many opportunities to attend to the more ornamental side of gardening. We are raising enormous crops of vegetables, Potatoes especially. Captain Spender-Clay is very keen on this, and has asked me to grow Potatoes everywhere, as, in view of a possible shortage of corn, they will at least help to tide over the scarcity. So I think we cannot do better than start with the kitchen gardens."

"What area have you under vegetables?" I asked, as we went along.

"It is not easy to say exactly," was the answer, "for we are growing them in several places. Lower down we have one plot of six acres, and altogether we cannot have less than twelve acres."

"And what is the number of your staff?"

"At present it consists of six men and two boys, with five women, and as two of my daughters also help regularly, this brings the total to fifteen. After the war I hope to have from twenty-five to thirty."

Here we entered a walled-in kitchen garden, about four acres in extent, with promising fruit trees—Peaches, Pears, Red Currants, etc.—on the walls.

"This we call the bog garden," said Mr. Jordan, "on account of the nature of the soil at the bottom. You can see there are blanks in the rows of Potatoes—that is because the ground is waterlogged. I did not know it at the time of planting; but in places the water stands three inches under the surface. However, I will drain it later on, for it should grow splendid vegetables."

"Is there no risk of the Potatoes getting disease?" I asked.

"A few in the far corner have it," was the reply; "but I am lifting them now, as they are earlies—Sharpe's Express—and are quite ready. It is only at this end of the garden that we have any trouble; at the top the plants are doing well."

"You have some excellent rows of Runner Beans," I remarked, indicating four double rows, each about forty yards long.

"The first two were sown in pots. They are Hackwood Park Success, a grand Bean, very prolific. The next row is Ne Plus Ultra, and the other is Carter's Champion and Red Giant."

PEAS—PRODUCTIVE AND OTHERWISE.

"They are all showing well," I observed, "and your Peas also, although I see you have trouble with birds."

"Jays are the culprits," replied Mr. Jordan; "they very soon make short work of a row. But the Peas are not all so good as they look. Here is one variety, Early Morn, that you would think very productive, judging by the large, swelling pods; yet it is a very poor yielder, for there are very few Peas in a pod, although what there are are of delicious flavour"—and examination proved the justice of this remark. "On the other hand, these two rows of Gradus are very good. Quite Content is another fine variety when done well—that is, it wants plenty of room, and deeply trenched ground, and it is best in a late summer. Then we have Glory of Devon and Royal Salute, both first-class varieties."

"What are your favourite Dwarf Peas?"

"Stratagem is an excellent variety; so is Laxtonian; while Sutton's Excelsior is one of the best earlies, a great cropper, and very fine quality."

"You have a useful range of heated frames here," I remarked, observing a row running the width of the garden, with others at right angles to it.

"Yes," was the answer, "we are well equipped; and another advantage is that there is plenty of water obtainable all over the gardens."

"What did you have in the frames before the Carrots, Turnips, Lettuces, and other crops that now fill them?" I enquired.

"We raised crops of early Ptoatoes, and later shall sow all sorts of winter salads."

"For market?" I suggested.

"No; practically all our produce is sent to certain hospitals for the wounded. We make large consignments two and three times a week. Captain and Mrs. Spender-Clay are interested in these hospitals. In addition to this, they gave up their town house for the benefit of Canadian soldiers."

Working our way to the top end of this garden, I stopped for a moment to admire a good breadth of ground planted with Bedfordshire Champion and James' Keeping Onion, which gave evidence of skilful cultivation. Beyond these is another large bed of Potatoes, mostly Sharpe's Express, with no trace of disease whatever.

"The soil at this end is not so wet, and the Potatoes have done better," explained Mr. Jordan.

"Have you sprayed them at all?" I asked.

"They have all been sprayed once, as Captain Spender-Clay is a warm advocate of spraying. But they will be lifted very soon—they are nearly ready now—so there will be no risk of their being affected."

MR. F. JORDAN, WITH HIS TWO DAUGHTERS AND THE GARDEN STAFF AT FORD MANOR, LINGFIELD.

Before leaving this garden, Mr. Jordan invited my attention to a thriving patch of Giant White Mignonette. "This is evidently self-sown," he remarked. "In Yorkshire we grew this as a half-hardy perennial, but in the South it seems perfectly hardy. Many things do well here that would fail up North. But I think herbaceous plants and perennials are seen at their best up there, and they last longer in bloom—probably because it is cooler and moister."

LARGE PLANTING OF POTATOES.

We next visited the six-acre plot that Mr. Jodran had mentioned, passing on the way a splendid specimen of the Tulip-tree, eighty to ninety feet high, carrying many flowers. This, I was told, does not bloom well in Yorkshire. This plot is some distance from the first, and is enclosed only by trees. Here are more Potatoes, row upon row, all with healthy-looking haulm, and of even, sturdy growth.

"The principal variety is Eclipse, and we have also more Sharpe's Express and May Queen, which are ready for lifting," said my guide.

"And where do you grow your maincrops?"

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"We do not grow any, except the rows of King Edward VII. which you see here," was the reply. "This was a bed of late Broccoli, and we got in the Potatoes after it was taken off."

"They look very satisfactory," I remarked, "and I see you have plenty of space between the rows."

"There is two feet nine inches between the rows, and when planting we try to leave three good eyes to each set—not more, although, of course, if we are much pressed for time we cannot take that trouble."

"What do you regard as a good crop per acre?"

"If we get seven tons per acre it is a very fair yield, I consider," said Mr. Jordan. "Speaking of maincrops, some people think Up-to-date is out of date, but I can show you tubers from last year that are of splendid quality, and cook as well now as they did at Christmas. They were grown on the farm, where the late Potatoes are raised."

"You have a number of Apple and Pear trees here," I remarked, "and they promise excellent crops."

"The Pears are better than the Apples," was the answer; "but all the trees want overhauling, and I shall give them particular attention this autumn and winter."

"Onions seem to do well on this soil," I said, noticing a good breadth of ground given over to them.

"They are the same varieties as in the other garden," said Mr. Jordan; "Bedfordshire Champion and James' Keeping."

"And those Peas on the other side of the ditch are also thriving."

"There are three rows seventy-eight yards long, and each row took two quarts of seed. The varieties are Alderman, Duke of Albany, Glory of Devon, and Magnum Bonum. They will follow the lot in the first garden."

"You have more Potatoes in this corner. You must have planted a great quantity."

"All told, we have used two and a half tons of seed Potatoes," was the answer. "We had a lot in pots, and also have them in the flower beds. This piece of ground was covered with rubbish and weeds, but I thought it might as well be turned to account, with the result that you see."

THE PEACH HOUSES.

After pausing to inspect a number of rows of Carrots—New Red Intermediate is the only maincrop grown—and a few of Beet Dell's Crimson and Globe, which, though old varieties, are, in Mr. Jordan's opinion, still the best, we entered the first range of houses, with Peaches bearing excellent crops.

"The varieties here are Royal George and Bellegarde in front, and on the back wall is an old tree of Barrington, which is doing very well," said Mr. Jordan.

"The trees evidently receive good attention," I remarked, "for they are very healthy in appearance, and I see they have just been thinned."

"My daughter has been looking after these houses—in fact, they both give me much help," was the reply. "The house we are now entering"—we were passing through them quickly—"is the earliest, and here we have Hale's Early and Peregrine."

"The fruit is colouring well, and there is plenty of it," I observed.

And now we entered a fresh range, where Vines are growing, carrying numerous bunches of handsome appearance.

"The varieties here are Muscat of Alexandria and Madresfield Court," explained Mr. Jordan.

"This is a heated house, of course?" I enquired.

"We have had no heat except sun heat," was the answer. "The Muscat set well without heat, and in consequence, as you see, we have had no trouble whatever with red spider. With heat they would have been ready by the end of May; but they are going on very well, and although they will be later they will have very good crops. The house faces south-west, so we get plenty of sun-heat, and I have utilised that for these Vines."

Next to this is a house with Brown Turkey Figs in front (these were nearly ripe), and on the back White Marseilles, both carrying heavy crops; and on emerging from this we entered the second Vine house.

"This aspect is not so sunny," I remarked. "Is the house also unheated?"

"The only time we put on a little heat is when it is wet and cold. Except for that, it is unheated. We shut early, and regulate the heat. The varieties are Black Hamburgh, Alicante, Gros Maroc, and Muscat of Alexandria. As you see, they have set well, and are cropping well."

From this house we emerged into a third kitchen garden, where one of Mr. Jordan's daughters was busily engaged in thinning and tying in shoots of a Nectarine on the wall.

A GOOD FRUIT YEAR.

The principal walk in this garden is bordered with cordons—on one side Apples Cox's Orange Pippin and James Grieve, and on the other Pears Conference and Doyenne du Comice. Remarking on their fine appearance, Mr. Jordan said:

"This is going to be a good Pear year, although all fruit looks promising. The flower borders here had early Potatoes this year, and we have followed some of them with Carrots, while the plot of Midlothian Early we are now lifting will have Turnips."

"And you have some remarkably fine rows of Onions here, too," I said.

"Yes," was the answer; "they are certainly very fine. It is Dickson and Robinson's Premier, which is always a good, reliable sort. It is something like Cranston's Excelsior."

At the end of the kitchen garden a series of arches, covered with Wichuraiana Roses in full beauty, led us up to the houses formerly devoted to plants.

"I am afraid there is little for you to see," said Mr. Jordan, "for we have cleared most of the things out in order to grow food products. This first house has nothing in it now, but has already had two lots of Beans this season. Here is a house with seedling Amaryllis on the stages. They have been very fine, but are now resting. Planted out in the middle of the house we had Potatoes, and now have Tomatoes Ailsa Craig and Fillbasket."

"How do these varieties go with you?" I asked.

"Well," was the answer, "Fillbasket is, I think, the heavier cropper; but Ailsa Craig is of finer quality. They are both good, however; and so is Moneymaker, which I find gives splendid crops, with fruit of even size, and not too large. I will show you this in the next house."

So to the next house we went, where I saw the plants were well set, with good trusses of fruit.

"We also grow two other varieties of Tomato," said Mr. Jordan, "Sunrise and Aviator, and I have no fault to find with either."

"These houses," I observed, as we came to another range, "are, I presume, where you grow your Melons and Cucumbers?"

"Ordinarily that would be so," was the answer; "but we are growing no Melons this year, and have only one house of Cucumbers. We used the houses for Dwarf Beans earlier in the season, and now they also are filled with Tomatoes."

"Your frames are fully occupied as well," I said, as we passed down a long row, and paused before some filled with Lettuce.

"We try to turn everything to account for food production," came the answer. "The Cabbage Lettuces here are Commodore Nutt and Golden Queen, and the Cos, White Heart. Commodore Nutt is a grand little Lettuce for frame work."

FLOWERS HAVE TO GO.

Having completed the round of the kitchen gardens, Mr. Jordan suggested that we might walk across the lawn to the flower gardens. The lawns, I noticed, were of considerable extent, with many grand Oaks and other specimen trees in the foreground. The grass had been left to go for hay, which had lately been mown.

"It must take a good deal of labour to keep these lawns in good condition," I suggested.

"Under normal circumstances two motor mowers are kept going regularly," I was told. "We shall do no more to them this year, except to run over them with the reaper in autumn."

Approaching nearer to the house, the first garden we came to, circular in shape, is enclosed by a high hedge of shrubs.

"This," said my guide, "was especially arranged as a scented garden for Mrs. Spender-Clay, but she is so keen on food production that she has had the beds planted with Potatoes."

Next to this is the old English garden, where Potatoes now take the place of bedding plants, save for an occasional touch of colour afforded by a clump of herbaceous perennials, or the dark green of a large patch of Pernettya mucronata, well set with berries.

"You have some handsome Water Lilies here," I remarked, pointing to the pond in the centre.

"They are very fine varieties," was the answer, "but the pond wants replanting. The Lilies were, I believe, originally in baskets, but by now they have outgrown them, and have taken hold of the soil at the bottom. We shall have to put off seeing to them until times are better. You will find the effects of lack of labour in the other gardens here also."

Winding round through a shrubbery walk, we pass under a substantially-built pergola, with climbers of every sort growing in profusion, and the grass knee deep on the path. Among the subjects that I noticed particularly were some Figs bearing fruit, and quantities of Roses and Clematis. Then, following the windings of a natural stream that flows down from the hills a little way off, we noted on the banks on either side beds of bush Roses, Fellenberg being especially prominent.

THE ROSE GARDEN.

"These," said Mr. Jordan, "were not pruned this year, and we have been unable to attend to them, so that the beds are covered with grass. You will notice the same trouble with the Rose garden further on."

And when we came to it I was fain to confess that the Rose garden was in a sad state. It is on the sloping bank of the stream, and there are hundreds of plants, in beds now overrun with weeds. But, with all its wildness, it is still beautiful.

"A little later on," explained Mr. Jordan, "work will not be so pressing in the vegetable gardens, and then I shall get the women to come up and make things tidy. I managed to do this with the Heather garden, next to this, as you can see. It is a most beautiful spot in spring."

Beyond these is the rockery, which is planned on a large scale, and when at its best is evidently a charming feature of the gardens. Here, again, weeds bear evidence, by their overwhelming numbers, of how stringent is the labour problem; and the Iris garden on the banks of the stream is little better. But succeeding these is a long walk, with wide herbaceous borders on each side, and in these the tale was different.

"All this work has been done by the women, who have proved themselves very useful. The pleasure grounds, as you have seen, are of considerable extent, but up to now I have had little time to see to them. Captain and Mrs. Spender-Clay are both deeply interested in the gardens, but just now they want food production to be the main thing."

"Do you do no indoor decorating?" I asked.

"Not at present. A few Sweet Peas and Roses are grown, and Mrs. Spender-Clay arranges them herself, to save labour."

"It cannot be denied that everything is done that can be done here to help in winning the war," I acknowledged, as I bade Mr. Jordan good-bye.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Next week: The gardens of Rear-Admiral Sir Hedworth Meux, Theobalds Park, Waltham Cross, Herts.

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DOUBLE v. SINGLE FLOWERS.

May 16th.—Some persons object to double flowers. They contend that they are much less graceful than singles. There is something to be said for that contention. When the petals are few in number, they can be arranged much more effectively than when they are crowded together. We see this even in Roses. The very large flowers of some varieties are confused masses of petals, and in form are not to be compared with the single flowers of such varieties as Irish Elegance. Still, even those who can see no beauty in some of the doubles which have been produced by cultivation must admit that a charming flower may still be charming with a few additional petals. Last year I obtained a packet of seed of some new Poppies called Ryburgh Hybrids, and was very pleased with them. They might be described as double Shirley Poppies, but only slightly double, with a wide range of colour, salmon, yellow, orange, rose, carmine, and white. They are certainly beautiful, and they have the advantage of lasting rather longer than the singles. It is not unlikely that they will become popular.

THE SURVIVAL OF THE UNFIT—APHIDES.

May 17th.—The chief factor in determining the survival of the fittest would appear to be, not the strength or hardiness of the individuals of a race, but their rapidity of propagation. The larger wild animals of a country, with their slower rate, disappear long before the smaller animals with their faster one. The weeds which spread most quickly are those which produce the greatest number of seeds and ripen them in the shortest time, generation following generation in swift succession. So it is with insects. With many of the species which destroy our garden plants, there are cycles of infestation. They are terrible pests for some years; then follows a period when there are but few of them; and gradually they increase in numbers until they become serious pests again. It is generally unfavourable weather which thins them out, and their normal rate of increase is not sufficient to allow them to recover all at once. With others it is different. Aphides, for example, throw off their young like boys throwing out scraps of paper in a paper-chase, and the young almost immediately begin to do the same, with the result that in a single season the offspring from one individual may number many millions. What chance has the gardener against such productivity as this? He must spray to keep the hordes in check, but he cannot hope to exterminate them, as in the case of insects with a slower rate of propagation.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

SEEDS OF HARDY PRIMULAS.

The great popularity of hardy Primulas at present has led a good many to sow seeds of some of the best of the species and hybrids. It may be useful to these to say that they are not to be disappointed if seeds produce a small number of seedlings this spring and summer.

When these seedlings are large enough to handle, *i.e.*, when they have made a pair of their second or true leaves, they should be taken out carefully with the point of a penknife or a sharp piece of wood, so as to disturb the soil about them as little as possible. The earth in the pots ought to be gently pressed down and kept moist, though not in a soaking condition, until next spring, when a considerable number of seedlings will probably appear. I have even seen some germinate in the third spring from sowing, but, as a rule, it is sufficient to keep the pots until well into the second spring. Raising these Primulas from seeds is a cheap method of securing a number of plants. If they are procured after this is in print, they should be sown as soon as possible, even if no seedlings are expected until another year. Many more will appear than if left over.

S. ARNOTT.

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FAMOUS BRITISH GARDENS.

FORD MANOR, LINGFIELD, SURREY.

Interview with Mr. F. Jordan.

A WAY up on the Surrey Hills lies Ford Manor, the home of Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Spender Clay. For some time past the house has been at the disposal of the American Red Cross, who used it as a convalescent hospital for U.S. officers, and it would be difficult to find a more suitable place for this purpose. It is on high ground, but not too high, open to the health-giving sun and air, but screened from cutting winds. Here many wounded have recovered health and strength; but the hospital need has fortunately passed, and the soldiers have gone.

"You must not expect to see well-kept gardens or grounds," Mr. Jordan warned me, "because, when war broke out, Colonel and Mrs. Clay, although intensely keen on gardening, decided that all the grounds should be untended, so that there should be no unremunerative labour employed. Consequently, until quite recently, literally not a stroke of work has been done, except for vegetable and fruit growing."

But there are many beautiful effects that well repay the journey. The impressions made by bold masses of many different hardy Heaths, with Magnolias and Cherries rising above them, will long remain. Imagine a wide bank—almost a hillside—sloping down to a stream and closely clothed with large, intermingling groups of rosy Erica carnea, just budding into purple, blush white Erica, and Cotonotes glowing in the bright May sunshine beneath bushes of the starry white Magnolia stellata, the faintly blush-tinged Magnolia conspicua and white Cherries, with, in the background, just an occasional glowing scarlet Rhododendron arboreum. Away on the sky-line a wood forms a fitting frame to this enchanting picture.

WOODLAND EFFECTS.

Woods, planted with taste and skill, enter largely into the charm of Ford Manor. There are some 500 acres all told of park and woodland, so there is ample scope. Just now trees were never so beautiful. Even though the recent blizzard did bring down with a rush a hefty limb of a huge Cedar of Lebanon and tear away some leafy branchlets of Horse Chestnuts and Sycamores, and one feared for all the young leaves which spring had called forth from the resting trees, no apparent harm has been done, for Nature has wisely fashioned these foliar babies so soft and tender, yet elastic, that they bend to the storm and give to the pelting rain, to recover as soon as the bad time is past and the air becomes soft and kindly and the sun shines warm and gladsome again. A few real spring days and the Sycamore, which only yesterday, it seems, was just bursting forth, has leaves as large as a man's hand. Already the pendulous racemes are showing and the Sycamores are fully furnished, foreshortening the distance and hiding objects that were in full view. The Maples have a different plan, but are even more welcome and beautiful. Their rounded heads bear countless thousands of greenish-yellow flowers, erect in short-stemmed umbels. These contrast so well with the black green of the Spruces, or the pale delicateness of the feathery Birch.

Then at a turn one sees on the margin of the wood Horse Chestnuts in all their grandeur of ample leafage, topped with candelabra-like racemes of flowers on the point of bursting, giving promise of a magnificent display a fortnight hence. Another turn in the grassy path and, wonder of wonders, a glorious vision of a fifty-foot high Cherry clothed in bridal white arrests one, speechless in admiration; a common thing, just a wild Jean tree, to be seen on the outskirts of many a wood, but how beautiful it is, and more beautiful every spring.

Of such are the woodland effects at Ford Manor in May-time. A little later, and the story is continued by countless hybrid Rhododendrons and Ghent Azaleas—even now the plump flower buds are pushing off the sticky scales which have so effectively preserved the embryo blossoms from frost and snow and cold rains—which the late Mrs. Clay had planted so lavishly in the broad woods.

THE ESSENTIAL WATER.

Formerly one of the chief garden effects was obtained from the lawns. In front of the house there is a broad rolling lawn, which loses itself in the distance, and this, with various other ample greenswards, used to be mown regularly; two men with motor lawn mowers were continuously engaged throughout the season. But, though no longer close shaven, the effect of free and open space flanked by undulating groups of mixed trees is very fine, and to the Nature-lover more beautiful than when mown.

Ford Manor is well supplied with open water, which Loudon and earlier writers rightly contended was indispensible to the complete country residence. On the left front of the house lies a valley, through which runs a never-failing stream. Splendid use has been made of this great natural advantage, and now there are connected ponds and waterfalls which, particularly on a sunny day, are so grateful to the senses. At the margins of the ponds Nymphæas and other aquatics were liberally planted, while the banks of the stream made a fitting place for Primulas, Rodgersias, Astilbes, Senecios, and many other moisture-loving plants. On the gently sloping bank towards the house is the admirable grouping of Heaths and flowering trees; opposite, bold groups of cluster-flowered Roses, Berberis, Philadelphuses, Escallonias, and many other beautiful flowering shrubs, brilliant hued Maples, and a host of free-growing herbaceous plants make telling effects. These have, of course, become sadly overgrown during the four years' neglect, but since Armistice Day Mr. Jordan has been as busy as labour limitations allowed in recovering the hidden treasures, so that they are fast assuming a cared-for appearance. The acre or so of rambler and bush Roses had become almost a hopeless brake. As Mr. Jordan remarked, half measures would have been worse than useless, so it was decided to sacrifice any bloom that might have opened this year, to cut the tangle of growths to the ground and make a fresh start. This has been done, and the ground dug to get rid of perennial weeds, and already strong shoots are pushing up from the stools, so that next summer there will be a gorgeous display.

THE SUNK GARDEN.

From the western front across a paved terrace the way leads between a tall, slim pair of Roman Cypresses to a most charming sunk garden. I know of no other quite like unto it. Flagged steps of comfortable broad tread and low, easy rise go down to the oval pool, where fat, lazy goldfish bask in the sun-warmed surface water. The pool is enclosed by a spacious rectangular pavement, the borders are just the right breadth for effect, and the surrounding wall is nicely ornamented, without being unduly ornate. A pair of handsome dark green and gold gates of Italian design, and probably workmanship, is not the least fascinating part of the

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garden. Around the walls there is a splendid collection of the best varieties of Japanese Quince and other appropriate wall shrubs, while masses of such Alpines as Aubrietia and Arabis hang down in charming disorder. A wide range of Polyanthuses in the borders is very brilliant. Later many scented-leaved Pelargoniums, Heliotropes and such like will be planted for summer perfume, but there is no studied flower gardening practised anywhere at Ford Manor.

"We have no fine collections of plants to show you," remarked Mr. Jordan as we made our way to the enclosure where the glasshouses are, pausing to admire the beauty of the single-flowered Kerria japonica growing in a shady corner. "The houses and frames are devoted to fruit and vegetables almost entirely; the only exception being quite a small house with the Oak-leaved Pelargoniums and Heliotropes. We have had no coal or coke, and the only fire heat has been derived from wood." The principal crop under glass is Potatoes, and I never before saw so many, or so healthy, in houses and frames as at Ford Manor. I learned that they are chiefly of that splendid variety Midlothian Early, which forces well and is also so good for outdoor culture.

"I've no men to spare for indoor work," said Mr. Jordan, "and for a long time my daughter has done all the work under glass." When I saw Miss Ida Jordan a few minutes later, I was glad to congratulate her. Of the excellence of the hundreds of Potatoes I have already written. The Vines in the several houses have broken strongly, and the laterals, tied down skilfully, have most promising bunches, which will soon be in flower. A large house of Figs, principally Brown Turkey, is in an equally praiseworthy condition, and half a dozen Cucumber seedlings just ready for planting out were in splendid health.

"These," said Mr. Jordan, "were raised in this little makeshift place absolutely without artificial heat." Tomato seedlings were raised likewise.

There are two large kitchen gardens at Ford Manor, and there is every evidence of well-being and expert cultivation. Mr. Jordan is a firm believer in deep digging, draining when necessary, liberal manuring, and, on his heavy soil, of using abundance of lime as a spring dressing. Potatoes, he told me, had been slightly touched by frost. Where there are so many, it is impossible to protect them when frost threatens, but as the soil had been drawn up around the growths and only the tips of the leaves were exposed, no serious harm will accrue.

Besides large quantities of Potatoes, Onions are extensively grown, and if only one sort was to be sown, Mr. Jordan favours Premier. A small trial planting of Spring Cabbage was made last autumn, with the result that April and Webb's Emperor are distinctly the best.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS.

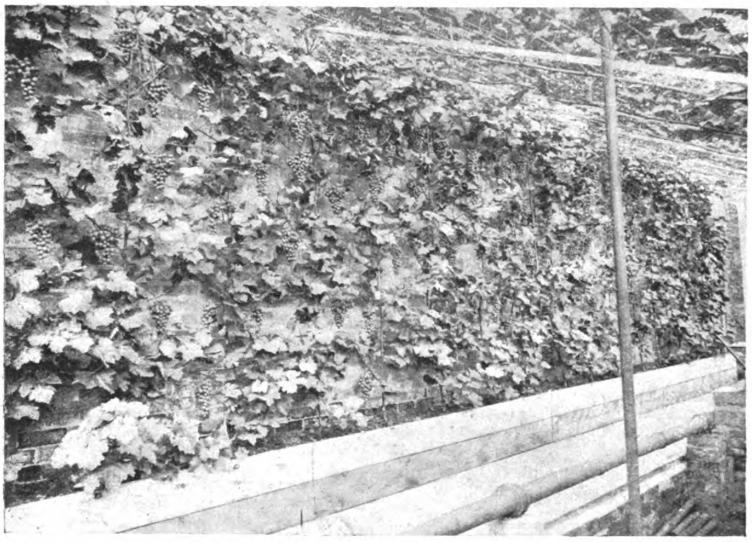
Mr. Jordan has long been known to all professional gardeners as an unusually successful exhibitor of first-rate fruit, and his gold medal collection at the R.H.S. meeting on September 9th, 1913, called for the highest praise, so I felt that his views on the qualities necessary for success would be interesting and valuable.

"Competition in the highest classes is always very keen, and to hold his own the would-be first prize-winner should be young and strong, for it is very hard, wearing work. The ability to concentrate his mind and energies is, as in other walks, absolutely essential. He must decide what particular classes he wishes to win, and then restrict his aims to them. It's better to win three first prizes at Edinburgh and Shrewsbury, for example, and to show nowhere else in the same season, than to exhibit at all the possible shows and to win more but minor awards. Many sacrifices of leisure and pleasure have to be made, but to the right temperament it is well worth it when the highest awards come one's way."

It was when head gardener to Lady Nunburnholme at Warter Priory, Yorkshire, that Mr. Jordan reached high water mark as an exhibitor. His first prizes of importance would make too long a list, but mention must be made of the International Class at Edinburgh, first prizes at Shrewsbury for sixteen dishes of fruit, and a similar honour at the great York Gala. Three R.H.S. gold medals have been awarded to Mr. Jordan—one for each exhibit he has staged in London—the distance from Yorkshire precluded regular showing in the South. Two of these high honours were for fruit, and the third for a wonderful collection of Ixoras. Only a few days after receiving the 1913 gold medal Mr. Jordan was awarded a second by the R.H.S. deputation, with a silver cup for a superb collection at the Kendall Fruit Congress.

As already remarked, Mr. Jordan has been in charge at Ford Manor for only two years. Previously he was at Warter Priory for ten years, and for a similar period was head of the famous Imprey Hall gardens, and, his life seems to run in tens, he was foreman in various departments at Welbeck for just ten years. Before going to Welbeck he served at Osberton, Notts, under Mr. S. A. Woods, "the finest all-round gardener I ever knew."

A. C. BARTLETT.



A VINERY PLANTED BY MR. JORDAN.
The "eyes" were put in during the first week in March, 1910, and the result in August, 1911, is shown by the photograph.

ROCK PLANTS FROM SEED.

During summer many lovely rockery plants can be quickly raised in beds made up in frames in semi-shade—indeed, total shade is not detrimental, sun-scorching being the evil to avoid. A six-inch depth of a compost of loam, leaf-mould, and coarse silver sand is the most suitable, and it is wise to mingle crushed charcoal to ensure the soil keeping sweet. Nine inches in depth is needed for large plants, but the smaller rock subjects do not require this. Sowing should be done when the compost is just moist, and this must be carefully maintained. Atmospheric warmth in July and August is sufficient to cause germination.

Suitable familiar plants are Aubrietia, Arabis, Bellis perennis, Oxalis, Asperula odorata or Sweet Woodruff, Sedum (silver, gold, and purple), and mossy and other Saxifrages. Aubrietia Moerheimi is a delightful large blooming pink; A. Leichtlini, crimson; A. Hendersoni, rich purple; and A. Eyrei, blue-violet.

Hardy dwarf Geraniums are very valuable in rock gardens, having spreading and attractive foliage. Geranium sanguineum is magenta-carmine; G. lancastdiense, fleshy, veined with purple; and G. Endressi, bright rose.

Two uncommon blue flowers are Globularia nudicaulis and trichosantha, the latter being nine inches tall, the former six inches, with compact heads of daisy-shaped blossoms. Both will thrive in sheltered nooks among stones.

SUN-LOVING SUBJECTS.

Jasione perennis is a nine-inch, blue Scabious, excellent for dry, poor soil, from which it will send up hundreds of nodding blooms. Another sand and heat-loving subject is Kernera saxatilis, white, cross-shaped, forming a thick carpet four inches high. A third sunny rockery beauty is Linum viscosum, a Flax, six inches tall, of dull magenta.

A sky-blue Alpine that comes well from seed is Lithospermum graminifolium, six inches high. Lithospermum angustifolium is yellow; L. longifolium is also yellow, with gray foliage; and L. petræum has spikes of pale blue out of silver leaves.

PLANTS FOR SHADE.

Shady nooks can be catered for by Mimulus, which must be protected from slugs and snails during winter by a layer of sharp cinders above the roots. M. Langsforffii is a large yellow; M. ringens, a rather tall red-violet. Viola cornuta, in all its varieties, is easy to raise, and very charming.

Œnothera missouriensis is a queen of trailers for a sunny rockery, yielding long-throated yellow flowers; Œ. cæspitosa is a six-inch white; while Œ. Howardi is an uncommon kind, gold that fades to brick-red.

Lastly, all rockeries should show forth the daisy-like beauty of the white Pyrethrum Tchihatchewi.

HOBBY GARDENER.

To introduce a new button-hole flower-holder, the Rubber Growers' Association have promised to present on 25th June, to the organisers of "Alexandra Day," five thousand real Roses, each in a tiny rubber tube filled with water. The novelty, it is hoped, will be the means of raising a considerable sum for the fund.

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Daniel Judd

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1875 n.s. 3

This worthy gardener, whose portrait is annexed, was born at Edmonton, Middlesex, in October, 1815. At the age of seven years his father, who was gardener to Charles Campbell, Esq., of Bury Street, procured for him from that gentleman, who was a trustee of a grammar school founded by Edward Latimer, Esq., a presentation to this school, where he remained until he was fourteen years old. During that time young Judd's father made him spend all half-holidays—the Wednesday and Saturday afternoons in each week, also the Christmas and Midsummer holidays in the garden—cleaning out stokeholes, and in doing any job that fell in the way under any of the men, in each of the departments, from the lowest grade unto the highest. "Well," he says, "do I remember how proud I was when I could prune and nail a Peach tree tolerably well, and build a Cucumber bed some 4 feet high at back and 3 feet in the front, with somewhat short dung, on which to place a three or four-light box. The dung in those days used to be worked and turned some six weeks before using to get it tolerably sweet, and to be able to keep these beds upright and square was considered a specimen of good workmanship; this was my great aim. So particular was my father in these matters that he would even take the fork out of my hand and show me how to take the dung up with it and place it on the bed so that it could not slip off, trying to instil into my mind the utility of combining theory and science with daily practice. He would try to make me study angles and parallels in all my operations, more especially when nailing and at new ground-work. I could accomplish these jobs pretty well before I left school"

Mr. Judd speaks with just pride and veneration of his father, to whose practical lessons and grounding in the science he attributes his subsequent success as a gardener. "It was my lamented father," he observes, "who before I left school taught me the secret of root-pruning. Those fine Blenheim Pippins which the Horticultural Society had modelled in wax, presenting him with one of the models, were grown by the aid of root-pruning. I well remember looking on as he told his foreman where to dig for a strong root, and the spot—generally in the same direction and directly under a strong branch—was generally the correct one; in fact, I never knew him wrong. The trees were orchard trees, or, more correctly, 12 to 15 feet high bush trees. His practice was to cut one or two large roots every alternate year for a few years, and then to allow the trees to rest for a time, say five or six years. So that root-pruning is of much older date then some people imagine." There are several communications on practical gardening by Mr. Judd's father in the early volumes of the Transactions of the Horticultural Society.

"My father," continues Mr. Judd, "was a great admirer of the late Thomas Andrew Knight, Esq., and Sir Joseph Banks; and, being a Fellow of the Horticultural Society, he occasionally would ask leave of absence for me from school on Tuesdays, in order to take me with him to the meetings of the society, then held at 21, Regent Street, to see the plants, &c. , exhibited, and to hear the discussions thereon. Many a useful lesson I learned in this way; one in particular impressed my young brain. The great Mr. Oldacre exhibited two Pine-apples, the one grown in a house with a wooden roof and the other under an iron roof, and showing how the different juices or acids under the excessive heat produced under the iron roof had run together. The fact was that fermentation had commenced. This was at a time when iron roofs were in their infancy, and ventilation but imperfectly understood.

After leaving school I spent six months under my father, and was put to assist in laying-out a small place he took charge of, and that gave me an insight into new groundwork, in fact he made me a kind of foreman of the job under his guidance. Honoured be his name, for to him I owe the groundwork of the feeble efforts I have been able to make in the pursuit of horticulture, and in making my position in the world as a practical gardener.

My first start in life was to Brockett Hall, in Hertfordshire, the seat of Lord Melbourne, at the time he was Secretary of State for the Home Department. Mr. Dawson, sen., his gardener, who was considered in those days a 'great gun' and a very good gardener, was

very strict, and not over considerate with young men. I cannot say much for the comforts we experienced there. The bothy was a wretched place, situated between and joining two stokeholes—one miserable room at the back of the houses, and looking out on a high grassy bank about 10 feet distant, the roof covered with the old-fashioned pantiles, without any ceiling, so that when there came a drifting snow it found its way to us as we lay in bed. I remained there between two and three years, and spent many happy days with one of my master's sons to share with me all the hardships we had to undergo.

The Royal kitchen garden at Kew was my next venture; there it was my lot to serve some three and a-half years in the several departments. The degrees to pass through, and the rules to observe in that place were of a strange character, such as being chained up before the bothy fire, and going through a process of being branded with the letters K. G.—Kew Garden, while the constable of the garden read over the rules to be observed, and woe betide the young fellow who attempted to resist the tomfoolery.

Although there were certain stages to pass through, such as wallman, Melon-groundman, and day fireman, before reaching the houses and bothy, I was not long in getting to the top of the tree; and when that eminence was reached, plenty of hard work was found, also much scope for reflection for an active mind. The style of gardening was very loose. Forcing was carried on in the true sense of the word; both day and night; Pines had not time to form fruit for want of rest—report said that some of them were seven years old, and certain it was that I found some there when I went, and I left the same plants there when I left, with fine long legs and well furnished with bug. I looked upon it more as a place of 'all work' than a school for young gardeners. The young men had to carry all the coals into waggons from barges moored off Kew Bridge, and from the waggons into the stokeholes, and make heaps of them at the back of the houses, some 60 tons per day. I myself have had 118 sacks on my back in one day. We also had to dig and wheel the loam from the park across the ha-ha opposite Sion House, that divided the towing path from the park, into barges moored in the river, and such adepts were some of the men at navying that occasionally one or two went off the plank along with the barrows into 6 or 7 feet of water. What would the present race of young gardeners think if they were asked to perform such work? I fear they would look upon it as degrading. We in those days looked upon it as a lark, obeyed orders and were happy over it. It is well that young gardeners should know what was expected of their class in years gone by. At the present clay their ideas appear to be that they ought, to a certain extent, to be fine gentlemen, and they fancy if they can only get into the 'houses' for a time they will become gardeners 'ready dressed;' a grand mistake, for without intelligent study and close persevering observation, they will no more make gardeners worthy of the name than would have been the case in days of yore.

The one thing done well at Kew was forcing Cherries; some fair Peaches and Nectarines were also grown.

My next adventure was at Gunnersbury, under the late Mr. Mills, whom I served as foreman for twelve months. There I got my first ideas about forcing Figs, and which have proved a lasting boon to me; there also I saw the foundation laid for those famous Providence Pines that he grew, and some of which he cut unripe to send over to Frankfort to the then Baron Rothschild, the possessor of Gunnersbury. Mr. Mills was a good gardener, and his was a good school for a young gardener.

From this I went to the Duke of Devonshire's garden at Chiswick, and after a time was appointed foreman, which post I filled three years. During that time my old friends the late Robert Fish, then of Tattersall's, Hyde Park Corner, and John Caie, then gardener to the Duchess of Bedford, at Bedford Lodge, Campden Hill, formed the Mutual Instruction

Society for young gardeners at Hammersmith; of this I became a member, and gathered some very useful lessons from the papers read, and the discussions that ensued.

On February 3, 1840, I entered the service of W. H. Whitbread, Esq., Southill Park, Bedfordshire, as head gardener, and remained with him upwards of seven years, during which time I used all the means in my power to make myself a gardener.

On February 16, 1848, I was engaged by the late Earl Spencer, Althorp Park, Northampton, and remained with him ten years until his death, and with the present Earl five years. Here my motto was — 'Onwards,' and I succeeded in growing some Figs, which much pleased his lordship (he being very fond of that fruit), and took several prizes at the Horticultural Society's garden at Chiswick with them, as also with Peaches, British Queen Strawberries, Melons, &c. But the greatest triumph I achieved at Althorp happened in the year of the termination of the Crimean War. On January 1 of that year I placed new and old Black Hamburgh Grapes on the table for dessert, and so good were they that the guests (amongst whom was the late Earl Cardigan) paid me a very high compliment, as they did not think such a thing could have been accomplished.

I claim no credit for this achievement further than that of having taken advantage of Nature's teachings. In the June of the year preceding, the Vines in my early vinery were as bare of leaves and as dormant as any Vines could be in mid-winter; I pruned them the first week in June (they did not bleed), closed the house, and treated them exactly as I should a spring crop. The result was, a good crop of Grapes; so much so, that a brother gardener who came to see them told the late Mr. Forbes, of Woburn, that the worst bunch in my house was better than the best in his, he having some at the same time which were making a great noise in the gardening world.

This state of things was brought about by continual early forcing, which caused the Vines, as it were, to gain a season; and so soon as I saw Nature determined to assert her rights I used all my efforts to assist her. Such should be the object of all young gardeners, and if it were we should by that means get far better men.

For the present Earl, at Althorp, I laid out a new flower-garden, a portion of which consisted of one of those fanciful foolish polychrome gardens, with monograms, butterflies' wings, &c., planned by Mr. Thomas, the landscape gardener. Certainly there is no accounting for taste, but it is a delusion to think that broken bricks, slates, &c, can vie with or harmonise with the beautiful colours Nature has implanted in flowers, or produce such pleasing and softening influences.

On March 1, 1864, I entered on my present situation—Hawkstone Park, Shropshire, and very recently have had to lament the death of one of the best of masters, the late Viscount Hill. He loved Nature in all her doings, and was passionately fond of his garden. From him I received every kindness, and in return my utmost endeavours were exercised to please him. Learning from him that he was fond of Figs, I lost no time in procuring him some, greatly to his satisfaction. It has pleased the present Viscount Hill to ask me to remain with him, and sincerely do I hope he will prove as good a master as was his lamented father.

I have all through my life worked for the love of gardening, and done my best to make others love it; and I hold my honoured father's name in reverence for giving me so thorough a groundwork and such wise counsel."

Of his practice at Hawkstone Mr. Judd has said but little, but we may say we have nowhere seen a better example of thorough practical gardening. Everything is handled with the skill of a master. Amongst what we should call the specialities of Hawkstone gardening we must give the first place to the Pines, which are admirably grown, and we should be glad to lay before our readers an outline of Mr. Judd's practice. Poinsettias,

again, are superbly grown, and in such quantities as are seldom, if ever, met with elsewhere; while at the time we had the pleasure of seeing the gardens at Hawkstone, a short time before the death of its noble proprietor, the crops in the kitchen garden — the foundation of a gardener's reputation—were among the finest we have ever met with. Celery and Broccoli being amongst the prominent examples at that season. We only do justice to the subject of our portrait when we say it represents the genial face of one of the best of British gardeners."

duty on the part of the American Government. A writer had stated in a recent number of a scientific magazine that the basis of national wealth was not gold, but wood, and in support of this proposition the following facts were adduced:—The great tableland of Central Asia was in historic times as fertile as a garden, and produced food for the support of great and populous nations. The reckless destruction of the forests had converted the great plains and valleys of that part of the world into dreary deserts, which afforded sustenance to only a few scattered tribes of nomads. Immense herds of sheep and goats, computed at 15,000 in each herd, were the instruments which brought about this terrible transition. These immense herds cropped the seedling trees, so that natural production was arrested, and the mature trees in the course of time decayed. The climate became arid; the watercourses dried up; and the land, ceasing to bear its fruit in due season, finally became a howling desert. It was his opinion that it was a national duty to provide a supply of timber for the coming generation; and he hoped it would rest with a Government of England to clothe our mountains with timber either by the loan of money at a low interest to proprietors, or by taking the matter into their own hands. If the Cumberland fells were clothed with the Larch and the Pine tribe what a mighty change would come over the hills and dales, now left to support a few blackfaced sheep in summer, in respect to the advantages he had referred to, let alone the value of the timber when it arrived at the stage of maturity. M. Boppé, Inspector-General of Forests in France, recently paid a visit to this country to report on the Highland forests, and in the course of his report he stated that if a line were drawn from Greenock to Perth there would be found north of the boundary no less than 5,000,000 of acres, at present regarded as mere waste, which were capable of being converted into valuable timber forests. If that were done, and the forests worked on the German system, they would supply an annual growth of timber fifty or sixty years hence more than double that imported from Russia, Norway, Sweden, and America. One half of this area under trees would also be open for grazing purposes, and from the shelter and the superior quality of the grass found in the forests ample food would be afforded to twice as many head of cattle and sheep as the same quantity of moorland or exposed pasture would supply. Still further, the working and management of the forests and the development of hundreds of industrial enterprises connected with them, and their products would afford a steady means of employment and subsistence to a large proportion of the inhabitants of the Highlands who at present eked out a precarious living as crofters. We required a trained class of men for our Indian plantations, and if forestry was now fully and intelligently pursued in this country we could furnish any number of competent men. Hence it became a national question to be able to teach our own candidates. And this could only be done by raising forestry to a higher place than it had yet occupied in this country. In conclusion he advised the Society to increase their membership, and the interest of landowners and all others connected with land in the subject of forestry, in order that something might be done to promote that progress in the matter which they all desired.

Royal Caledonian Horticultural.—The annual meeting of this Society was held in one of the side rooms of the Music Hall on December 4, Mr. John Downie presiding. Mr. P. Neil Fraser, Treasurer, submitted an abstract of the accounts for the year ending November 30 last, from which it appeared that the income had amounted to £1551, and the expenditure to £1491, showing a surplus revenue of £60. The receipts included £469 from member's subscriptions, and £1008 from the drawings at the spring, summer, and autumn shows, while the expenditure in connection with the shows was £633, and in prize money £753. At November 30 the funds amounted to £1249, an increase of £43 as compared with last year. The report was considered very satisfactory, and on the motion of Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Lamont, was unanimously adopted. Office-bearers were then proposed and elected as follows:—President, the Marquis of Lothian; Vice-Presidents, the Duke of Buccleuch and the Earl of Stair, in place of two retiring; Members of Council, John Capperton, of Gilsland, and George McKinnon, gardener, Melville Castle, in place of two Councillors retiring by rotation; Secretary, Mr. John Stewart; Treasurer, Mr. Neil Fraser; and Auditor, Mr. J. Turnbull Smith, C.A. The Chairman, in proposing that a winter Chrysanthemum show should be held by the Society, said that winter shows were now held in various places throughout the country, and had proved very successful. Mr. Dunn, Dalkeith, thought they could afford at least to try the experiment, and with an open winter like that of last year there was little fear but that it would be successful. They would, of course, include autumn fruit and plants in the show. He moved that the Council be empowered to carry out the necessary arrangements for holding a winter show next year. The motion was carried unanimously.

Obituary.

DANIEL JUDD.—We regret to announce the decease of this well known gardener, at the age of sixty-nine, after a long and painful illness, at Shefford, in Bedfordshire. The deceased was widely known and much respected in the horticultural world, not only on account of his kind and genial nature, but also as a thoroughly practical and skilful gardener, especially in the cultivation of fruit. He was born at Edmonton, in Middlesex, and after spending his time to the age of fourteen in a grammar school, he was employed by his father, also a gardener, in doing light work about the garden. After six months' employment at home he went to Brockett Hall, in Hertfordshire, and after two or three years to the Royal Kitchen Garden at Kew. After various minor situations at Gunnersbury and Chiswich, he entered the service of W. H. Whitbread, Esq., Southill Park, Bedfordshire, as head gardener, and remained with him seven years. He afterwards (in 1848) was engaged by Earl Spencer, at Althorpe, where he stayed ten years, where he achieved in 1853 or 1854 the feat of placing new and old Black Hamburgh Grapes on his employer's table on January 1. Mr. Judd served Lord Hill, at Hawkestone Park, where he remained till his lordships's death in 1875, and was afterwards gardener to the Earl of Warwick at Warwick Castle, and latterly at Mr. Seely's, Brook House, Isle of Wight. He was held in high esteem by the late Mr. James Veitch, and also by other members of the firm, and he was selected to judge the Veitch Memorial Prize at Carlisle, besides acting in a similar capacity at Edinburgh and other leading exhibitions. A fuller account, with a portrait of Daniel Judd will be found in our issue for June 19, 1875.

The Weather.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AT BLACKHEATH, LONDON
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1884.

Month and Day.	Barometer. Mean Reading Reduced to 32° Fahr.	Barometer. Departure from Average of 18 years.	Temperature of the Air. Highest.	Temperature of the Air. Lowest.	Temperature of the Air. Range.	Temperature of the Air. Mean for Day.	Temperature of the Air. Departure of Mean from Average of 50 years.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 6th Edition. Dew Point.	Hygrometrical Deductions. Degree of Humidity. Sat. = 100.	Wind. Average Direction.	Rainfall.
Dec.	In.	In.	°	°	°	°	°	°			In.
4	29.23	−0.52	51.0	40.0	11.0	44.5	+ 2.7	39.9	84	S.W.; W.S.W.	0.18
5	29.58	−0.18	46.5	37.0	9.5	42.9	+ 1.2	37.1	81	W.N.W.	0.17
6	29.54	−0.22	54.5	44.0	10.5	50.7	+ 9.1	46.8	88	S.W.	0.03
7	29.68	−0.09	53.5	46.2	7.3	50.7	+ 9.2	45.8	84	S.W.	0.25
8	29.70	−0.08	54.0	43.0	11.0	47.4	+ 6.0	42.0	83	S.S.W.	0.00
9	29.80	+0.03	44.0	35.0	9.0	38.6	− 2.6	36.0	92	S.W.; W.N.W.	0.15
10	29.74	−0.05	49.0	34.0	15.0	43.6	+ 2.6	40.5	89	WNW.; W.S.W.	0.11
Mean	29.61	−0.16	50.4	39.0	10.5	45.5	+ 4.0	41.2	86	S.W.	0.89

Dec. 4.—Rain in early morning, hail at 11.30 A.M.; dull afternoon, fine clear night.
5.—Fine day, cloudy at times; dark night, rain in evening.
6.—Drizzling rain in morning, very dull day; dull till 10 P.M., fine and clear afterwards.
7.—Fine and bright till noon, dull afternoon; frequent rain at night.
8.—Dull day, partly cloudy at night.
9.—Rain from early morning till 3 P.M.; fine cold night.
10.—Fine bright morning, rough wind in afternoon and night, rain falling in evening.

LONDON: *Atmospheric Pressure.*—During the week ending December 6, the reading of the barometer at the level of the sea increased from 29.97 inches at the beginning of the week to 30.06 inches by 9 A.M. on the 30th, decreased to 29.87 inches by 3 P.M. on the 1st, increased to 29.93 inches by midnight on the same day, decreased to 29.63 inches by 3 P.M., and increased to 29.69 inches by midnight on the 2d, decreased to 29.42 inches by 3 P.M., increased to 29.49 inches by midnight on the 3d, decreased to 29.27 inches by 9 A.M. on the 4th, increased to 29.76 inches by 9 A.M., increased to 29.81 inches by midnight on the 5th, decreased to 29.69 inches by 3 P.M. on the 6th, and was 29.76 inches by the end of the week.

The mean reading for the week at the level of the sea was 29.70 inches, being 0.36 inch lower than last week, and 0.22 inch below the average of the week.

Temperature.—The highest temperature in the shade in the week was 54°.5, on the 3d and 6th; the highest on November 30 and December 1 was 37°. The mean of the seven high day temperatures was 46°.9.

The lowest temperature was 29° on November 30; on the 6th the highest was 44°. The mean of the seven low night temperatures was 36°.7.

The greatest range of temperature in one day was 16°.5, on the 2d; the smallest was 5°, on December 1. The mean of the seven daily ranges was 10°.2.

The mean temperatures were—on November 30, 32°.5; on December 1, 34°.8; on the 2d, 41°; on the 3d, 49°.5; on the 4th, 44°.5; on the 5th, 42°.9; on the 6th, 50°.7; of these the first three were below their average by 9°.2, 6°.9, and 0°.8 respectively, the rest were above by 7°.7, 2°.7, 1°.2, and 9°.1.

The mean temperature for the week was 42°.3, being 5°.7 higher than last week, and 0°.5 above the average of the week.

The highest reading of a thermometer with blackened bulb in vacuo placed in the full rays of the sun was 69°, on the 4th. The mean of the seven readings was 58°.4.

The lowest reading of a minimum thermometer with its bulb placed on grass was 21°, on November 30. The mean of the seven readings was 27°.4.

Rain.—Rain fell on every day in the week to the amount of 0.99 inch.

ENGLAND: *Temperature.*—During the week ending December 6, the highest temperatures were 56° at Truro, 55°.8 at Cambridge, 54°.5 at Blackheath; the highest at Preston was 49°.5, at Bolton 50°.6, at Sunderland 51°. The general mean was 52°.8.

The lowest temperatures were 22° at Wolverhampton and Hull, 23°.3 at Bolton; the lowest at Truro was 33°, at Liverpool 30°.3, at Plymouth 29°.8. The general mean was 26°.

The greatest ranges were 31°.4 at Cambridge, 30° at Hull, 29°.8 at Bristol; the smallest ranges were 22°.5 at Preston, 23° at Truro, and 23°.1 at Liverpool. The general mean was 26°.8.

The mean of the seven high day temperatures was highest at Truro, 53°, at Plymouth 50°.4, at Bristol 49°.7; and was lowest at Preston, 42°.2, at Bradford 43°, at Wolverhampton 43°.2. The general mean was 45°.8.

The mean of the seven low night temperatures was highest at Truro, 41°.7, at Plymouth 39°, at Liverpool 37°.8; and was lowest at Wolverhampton, 30°.9, at Bolton 31°.6, at Nottingham and Hull 32°.7. The general mean was 35°.

The mean daily range was greatest at Bristol, 13°.1, at Wolverhampton 12°.3, at Bolton 11°.9; and was least at Preston, 7°, at Liverpool 8°.5, at Bradford 9°.2. The general mean was 10°.8.

The mean temperature was highest at Truro, 47°.2, at Plymouth 44°.6, at Bristol 43°; and was lowest at Wolverhampton, 36°.9, at Bolton 37°.4, at Hull and Bradford 38°.3. The general mean was 40°.3.

Rain.—The largest falls were 2.71 inches at Bolton, 2.29 inches at Truro, 2.17 inches at Brighton; the smallest falls were 0.56 inch at Sunderland, 0.60 inch at Hull, 0.87 inch at Nottingham. The general mean was 0.31 inch.

SCOTLAND: *Temperature.*—During the week ending December 6, the highest temperature was 51°, at Glasgow, at Dundee the highest was 45°.5. The general mean was 48°.7.

The lowest temperature in the week was 15°.8, at Aberdeen; at Greenock the lowest temperature was 26°. The general mean was 22°.5.

The mean temperature was highest at Leith, 38°.3; and lowest at Dundee, 34°.7. The general mean was 36°.8.

Rain.—The largest fall was 2.82 inches, at Greenock, and the smallest fall was 0.73 inch, at Edinburgh. The general mean fall was 1.21 inch.

JAMES GLAISHER, F.R.S.

Answers to Correspondents.

BOOKS: *J. Y. & G. P.* Chapman & Hall. *Plant Life* (Messrs. Bradbury, Agnew, & Co., Bouverie Street, Whitefriars).—*G. K. G. De Candolle* and *Nyman.* We do not know the price: publishers should advertise the prices. Williams & Norgate will procure *Nyman* for you. *Bentham and Hooker*, 3 vols. (Williams & Norgate).

GARDENERS' ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION: "*A Becoming Member, if Suitable,*" who "has not yet seen the particulars of the said Institution," should apply to the Secretary, E. R. Cutler, Esq., Tavistock Row, Covent Garden.

HOT-WATER PIPES AND TAR: *W. J. Mitchison* writes:—"I think Mr. Bishop will be able to remove the tar from his hot-water pipes by first coating them with muriatic acid, or with vitriol diluted in water, and then afterwards washing them with water. It would be the best plan to wash them with a brush, as great care must be taken that none of the mixture touches the hands."

INSECT: *G. Potter.* A species of Weevil.

NAMES OF FRUIT: *J. Brown. Apple:* Cox's Orange Pippin.—*W. W. and S.* 1, Beurré d'Anjou; 2, probably Josephine de Malines; 3, not recognised.—*W. Pilgrim.* 1, Winter Nelis; 2, Beurré Clairgeau; 3, Bergamotte d'Esperen; 4, Beurré Diel; 5, Easter Beurré; 6, Beurré d'Anjou.—*Wm. M.* 1, Jersey Gratioli; 2, probably Winter Crassane; 3, not recognised; probably a stewing Pear.—*W. R. Fryer.* The sort probably was not recognised.

NAMES OF PLANTS: *R. H. B.* Euonymus europæus.—*H. A. H.* Phalaris arundinacea.—*T. C.* Aspidium lobatum.—*Henry Bissett.* Pholidota imbricata.

at **Ipswich** by Charles Richards Steward Gentleman and Alfred Edwards China Dealer both of Ipswich the Executors.

JUBY William Frederick.

Personal Estate £4,014 2s. 3d.

30 March. The Will of William Frederick Juby late of Wivenhoe in the County of **Essex** Draper who died 26 January 1885 at Wivenhoe was proved at **Ipswich** by Eliza Ann Juby of Wivenhoe Widow the Relict and Henry Juby of Norwich in the County of Norfolk Grocer the Executors.

JUCKES Robert.

Personal Estate £315 18s. 2d.

23 December. Administration of the Personal Estate of Robert Juckes late of Moreton-terrace Belle-Vue-road Shrewsbury in the County of **Salop** Gentleman a Bachelor who died 18 November 1885 at Moreton-terrace was granted at **Shrewsbury** to Richard Juckes of Allscott Farm near Bridgnorth in the said County Farmer and James Juckes of Sundorne Seaforth Liverpool in the County of Lancaster Provision Merchant the Brothers and two of the Next of Kin.

JUDD Daniel.

Personal Estate £1,344 6s. 11d.

19 February. The Will of Daniel Judd late of Clifton-road near Shefford in the County of **Bedford** who died 3 December 1884 at Clifton-road was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Daniel Frederic Judd of 22 Clissold-road Stoke Newington in the County of Middlesex Bank Cashier the Son one of the Executors.

JUDD Edwin.

Personal Estate £1,974 19s. 5d.

11 May. Administration of the Personal Estate of Edwin Judd late of Newhouse Farm in the Parish of Beaulieu in the County of **Southampton** Widower who died 17 December 1882 at Newhouse Farm was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Ellen Jane Judd of Newhouse Farm Spinster the Daughter and one of the Next of Kin. The **Administration** granted at the Principal Registry March 1883 having ceased and expired.

JUDD Edwin.

Personal Estate £110 5s. 9d.

8 December. The Will of Edwin Judd late of 2 Ehren-place Southfield-street in the City of **Worcester** Army Pensioner who died 22 November 1885 at 2 Ehren-place was proved at **Worcester** by Robert Gilham of St. Nicholas-street in the said City Sergeant-Major of 2nd Volunteer Battalion Worcestershire Regiment the sole Executor.

JUDD Elizabeth.

Personal Estate £224 2s.

10 February. Administration of the Personal Estate of Elizabeth Judd (Wife of John Judd) late of Brynmawr in the County of **Brecon** who died 21 June 1884 at Brynmawr was granted at **Hereford** to John Thomas of Brynmawr Clerk to Local Government Board the surviving Executor of the Will of the said John Judd.

JUDD Elizabeth.

Personal Estate £43.

2 April. The Will of Elizabeth Judd (Wife of John Judd) late of Laurel Cottage Park-street Maidenhead in the County of **Berks** who died 9 March 1885 at Laurel Cottage was proved at **Oxford** by Amelia Cutcliffe of Laurel Cottage Spinster the Sister the sole Executrix. Probate being granted under certain Limitations.

THE GARDENS OF MRS. HUMPHRY WARD, AT STOCKS, TRING.

Interview with Mr. D. Keen.

AS may be imagined, the gardens of Mrs. Humphry Ward are full of interest. Visiting them by her courtesy a few weeks ago, under inauspicious conditions so far as the weather was concerned, I found them none the less charming, and in the brilliant sunshine which followed a deluge of rain, they looked their best. Stocks—the quaintly named country house where Mrs. Ward spends most of her time, and writes most of her books—is between three and four miles from Tring. There are old stocks in the village of Aldbury, in which the estate is situated, but that may only be a coincidence. The house itself is approached on one side through an avenue of glorious Limes, and adjacent is a lovely walk through a wood, which in spring is carpeted with all kinds of seasonable flowers. Mr. Keen, the head gardener, who showed me round, conducted me from this walk to the pleasure grounds, and on the wide expanse of the beautifully-kept lawn, I noticed a very fine bed of Roses, Lady Gay and Alberic Barbier. The most striking feature of the lawn, however, is a fine specimen of Cedrus deodora feathered down to the ground. The Austrian and Weymouth Pines are also well represented, and a Copper Beech of fine proportions, with a Thuja Lobbii, are worthy of note. The bedding which faces the house is on a very large scale, and is of quite recent introduction.

"In fact," said Mr. Keen, "we only started it twelve months ago last winter, and finished in November, 1909."

The Bedding Combinations.

"Before we talk about the present arrangement of the beds, perhaps you would tell me how they were occupied in the spring?"

"Tulips were largely used—about four thousand. We had beds of single colours—crimson, scarlet, white, and yellow, four hundred in a bed. The scarlet Tulips were edged with Polyanthus, two of the four beds of Keizerskroon with Arabis, and the others with Myosotis. The border near the house consisted of a row of Myosotis, three rows of Keizerskroon Tulips, a row of Golden Feather Pyrethrums, and three rows of Hyacinths, the whole edged with double Primroses. A great quantity of Wallflowers and Crocuses were also used for spring bedding."

"With regard to the summer bedding, you have a fine collection of Violas under the low wall covered by Rambler Roses and variegated Ivy."

"Some of the Violas were raised from seed. They include Admiration, which is the best blue variety I know. Countess of Hopetoun is a good white, and another is White Bedder. Bullion is an excellent yellow, Cliveden Blue and Cliveden Purple are other good varieties; and the white-ground, laced variety is Skylark. Several of the varieties, including a good purple and a good yellow, are not named. The border opposite the wall consists entirely of China Roses of different shades of colour, Madame Eugene Resal being one of the best."

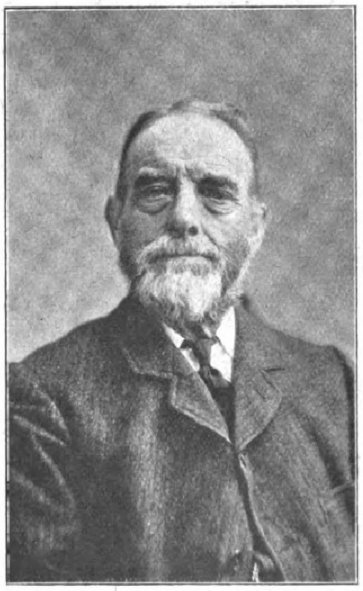
"Then you have a number of beds of Roses of one variety?"

"Eight, and the varieties are Caroline Testout, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Madame Ravary, Corallina, Viscountess Folkestone, La Tosca, Richmond, and Frau Karl Druschki. No edging is used for these beds."

Violas and Mildew.

"What is the combination in the four oblong beds?"

"The centre row of two of them embraces Marguerites, Ivy-leaved Geraniums, Daturas as dot plants, and Acacia lophantha. On either side is a row of Salvia patens, and a row of Miss Willmott Verbenas, the edging being the variegated Geranium, Little Dandy, and purple Violas alternating. Violas suffer from mildew



MR. KEEN.

about August, so that they cannot be depended upon in that month, and for that reason we mix variegated Geraniums with them in the summer bedding.

"As to the centre of the oblong beds," continued Mr. Keen, "Heliotropes (tall growing), and a deep pink Verbena (raised here), are used, and the edging is of the deep blue Viola, Admiration. The other beds include two of double Geraniums (King of Denmark), and of Geranium Phyllis, a rose shade, both edged with blue Lobelias. The border under the house has a back row of Stagshorn sweet-scented Geraniums, and in the scollops are Centaurea candidissima (pink), and Geranium Queen of Belgians (white), alternating. In the border alongside the terrace, but out of sight of the house, are scarlet Geraniums, Rev. A. Atkinson and Paul Crampel. The vases on the terrace wall contain Marguerites (Coronation), and Geraniums (King of Denmark), alternating."

"There are numerous shrubs on the low wall of the terrace?"

"The Ceanothus does well there, and Diplanthus nepalensis; also Buddleia, Lonicera, and Roses (Bennett's Seedling). The two beds at the bottom of the flower garden correspond in size. One is filled with variegated Phloxes, Marguerites, and scarlet Lobelias, with patches of Verbenas (pink, purple and white), and pink Geraniums, edged by Admiration Violas, and Little Dandy Geraniums. The other has Daturas, Begonias multiflora rosea (a very free-flowering variety, always in bloom), and a groundwork of mixed Verbenas, edged by Flower of Spring Geraniums, and Cliveden Purple Violas."

"And the two round beds, with their charming combination of colour, and striking contrast?"

"One has variegated Phloxes, and bronze double Begonias, edged with white Petunias. The other is filled with Fuchsias, edged by Crystal Palace Gem Geranium, and a purple Viola raised here."

Schizanthus in the Open.

Standing in one of the two pretty summer-houses at each end of the terrace walk, I observed Roses climbing on trunks of Fir trees, and an umbrella of wire trellis, clothed with Roses, with a group of Delphiniums between them, and herbaceous Phlox on the front.

"Your Hollyhocks in the border look flourishing," I said.

"They did very well last year," rejoined Mr. Keen, "but they require plenty of sunshine and air. The Roses and Solanum jasminioides thrive on the wall above."

"So, apparently, do the Roses and Ampelopsis on the fence."

"They, and the Ivy-leaved Geraniums, were planted to cover the trellis until the plants in the border, which is quite new, mature. The latter include Phloxes, single Pæonies, double Rocket, Anchusa italica (the Dropmore variety), Campanula pyramidalis, Spanish Irises, pink Malopes, and Cactus Dahlias, while I am trying a few Schizanthus in the open for the first time. Sun and daylight are really better for Schizanthus than much heat."

"What varieties of Roses do you grow on the chains facing the border?"

"Philadelphia Rambler, Bouquet d'Or, and Hiawatha. There are also Roses in the border itself, with a number of Raby Castle Carnations."

Mrs. Ward's Favourite Flowers.

"It would interest our readers to know which are Mrs. Ward's favourite flowers?"

"Mrs. Ward is a lover of all kinds of flowers. But she likes Roses best, and she is especially fond of Carnations, whether Malmaisons, Trees, or hardy Border varieties; also of Violets, Mignonette, Violas, and Pansies."

"Has she any dislikes?"

"She does not like scarlet flowers. That is why the scarlet Geraniums are not seen from the

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house. Mrs. Ward's study windows command a full view of the whole of the flower garden."

Shrubs in Corners.

The front of the house, which is approached by a short carriage drive, has not much in the shape of decoration, but a border underneath contains Fuchsias, Myosotis, Ageratums, Nicotiana affinis, a double row of Geraniums (Rev. A. Atkinson), with Admiration Violas and Flower of Spring Geraniums in front. In one corner, shrubs, such as Japanese Acers, Box, Golden Yews, with a plant of Gunnera, and standard Roses dotted in, are a feature; and on the other side, Thujas, Lilacs, and the Bird Cherry, interspersed with Rosa rugosa and Penzance Briers, prevail. On the wall here are Cotoneasters, Clematis, and a Morello Cherry, with Ampelopsis Veitchii. From the front we proceeded to cross the road and inspect the kitchen garden on the other side.

The Cultivation of Sweet Peas.

But there was much more than the kitchen garden to claim my attention. Outside its walls is practically another flower garden, with a grass path in the centre. Here, on one side, were Sweet Peas in clumps, and I asked Mr. Keen the names of the varieties.

"Nora Unwin and Etta Dyke, white; Mrs. Collier and Primrose Queen, yellow; Jeannie Gordon, Evelyn Hemus, and Countess of Lathom, cream tinted; Gladys Unwin, Countess Spencer, Dainty, and Mrs. Alfred Watkins, rose; Miss Willmott, Janet Scott, Prima Donna, Agnes Johnson, and Bolton's Pink, pink; King Edward VII., Queen Alexandra, John Ingman, and Salopian, scarlet; Flora Norton and A. J. Cook, mauve; Captain of the Blues; and Black Knight. A mixture of the best large-flowered varieties is also grown in rows."

"I should like to know your system of cultivation."

"For the clumps, holes are taken out and filled in with manure, the soil replaced, and the Sweet Peas planted out from pots. For the rows, we take out a trench the same as for Celery, fill in with manure, replace the soil, and then sow the seed."

Flowers for House Decoration.

"Do you cut from these beautiful borders for house decorations?"

"Yes, largely, and from all quarters in the kitchen garden and precincts. The annuals, perennials, and herbaceous plants chiefly used for this purpose are Alstrœmerias, Antirrhinums, Aquilegias, Asters, Campanulas, Canterbury Bells, Coreopsis, Dahlias (Cactus and singles), Delphiniums, Dianthus, Foxgloves, Gaillardias, Gypsophila paniculata, Heleniums, Helianthus, Heliotropes, Larkspurs, pink Malopes, Mignonette, Pansies, Pentstemons, Phloxes, Rudbeckias, Stocks, Sweet Peas, and Wallflowers. We change the flowers in the house every three days."

"It is difficult to particularise any of these, but your Canterbury Bells are perfectly splendid in size and colour," I said, as we made our way inside the kitchen garden, which also has green paths, noting on the top of the slopes by the Peach house, a large Rose border for cutting.

"We find that they last well in water, and that they are very useful for decorating. But now you will like to see the houses. Here is a little forcing and propagating house, in which Tomatoes in large pots are grown, until the beginning of August, when we get them outside."

Pockets for Ferns.

"What varieties do you favour?"

"I trust almost entirely to Sutton's Princess of Wales, growing it both inside and outside. When I find a good thing, I keep to it. For instance, for twenty years I have only grown one variety of blue Lobelias, because I do not think that it can be beaten. The pockets for Ferns in this house are rather a feature. We pack them with moss, and fill with soil. As you will have observed, there is no conservatory, and we use both Ferns and cut flowers for decoration in the rooms."

The Best Grape for General Use.

"Your Vinery must have been in existence for some time?"

"It was old thirty-seven years ago when I came to Stocks, but it is a good size—forty feet by fourteen—and the Vines have yielded crops continuously the whole of the years since. We do not get the same weight in the bunches as in the case of young Vines, but it runs from one to three pounds. We begin cutting about August 1st, and go on until the end of October. The variety is Black Hamburgh, which, if only one Grape is grown, is the best for general use. There are both inside and outside borders. The greenhouse we are now entering is modern, and was built by Messrs. Boulton and Paul four years ago It is heated, and its size is forty feet by eighteen."

"Do you get many blooms from the Rose trees on the roof?"

"They are in flower all through March and April. The Ivy-leaved Geraniums in pots are Jubilee and Madame Crousse. Earlier, we had a quantity of Schizanthus Wisetoniensis. The Malmaison Carnations are principally Calypso, Iolanthe, and Maggie Hodgson; the Trees, Robert Craig, Enchantress, Mrs. Brookes, Sir Charles Beresford, Mikado, H. Elliott, Britannia, and Mrs. Lawson. On the stage, in pots, are Begonias Wiltoniensis and multiflora rosea, and a few of the tuberous section. We use green Dracænas for table work."

STOCKS, TRING, THE HOME OF MRS. HUMPHRY WARD.

A Reliable Nectarine.

"You have two Peach houses?"

"Yes. The tree of Stirling Castle in the first house was planted thirty-eight years ago, and still bears good fruit. The Nectarine, Elruge—one of the best old varieties, because it can be depended upon—is rather younger, and bears nice fruit. Both of them grow right to the back wall, on which, the house being only twelve feet wide, nothing else is planted. As it is, the growth of the trees is rather restricted. In the second and later house, the Peach is Royal George, with Elruge Nectarine. Royal Sovereign Strawberries are forced, and we pick fruit the first week in April."

"You seem to make good use of your frames."

"Cucumbers, Sutton's Improved Telegraph, are coming on now after the early Potatoes—Veitch's Ashleaf and Sharpe's Victor. Here are two lights of Coleus, with Cyclamen, and Melons. Our only variety of the latter is Hero of Lockinge. Daturas are grown in pots."

"When do you sow the seed?"

"Early in January, and in June I put them out of doors. They want a sheltered corner. Chrysanthemums are a considerable feature, the usual number flowered being between four and five hundred."

"You have a good collection of hardy fruit. Which varieties of Apples do you find thrive most?"

"The best dessert varieties are Irish Peach, White Juneating, Worcester Pearmain, Mr. Gladstone, James Grieve, Langley Pippin, Colonel Vaughan, Fearn's Pippin, Golden Pippin, Allington Pippin, Brownlees Russet, and King of the Pippins. The best kitchen varieties are Alfriston, Annie Elizabeth, Beauty of Stoke, Bismarck, Bramley's Seedling, Ecklinville Pippin, Frogmore Prolific, Golden Noble, Hambledon Deux Ans, Hanwell Souring, Lane's Prince Albert, Lord Grosvenor, Mere de Menage, Newton Wonder, Nonsuch, Pineapple Pippin, Warner's King, Hawthornden, and Herefordshire Pearmain."

"I notice a number of very old standard Apple trees, with Roses and Clematis growing up."

"Yes, they are Blenheim Orange, but, being old, do not fruit well. The Roses are Crimson Ramblers and Thalia."

Pears on Walls.

"Pears appear to be doing well?"

"Very well, I think. The varieties on the walls and elsewhere include Beurre d'Amanlis, Beurre Diel, Beurre Hardy, Beurre Fouqueray, Bergamot d'Esperen, Durondeau, Doyenne du Comice, Conference, Emile d'Heyst, Josephine de Malines, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise, Seckel, Williams's Bon Chretien, Charles Ernest, Clapp's Favourite, Jargonelle, Thompson's, Triomphe de Vienne, Van Mons, and Olivier de Serres. They are grown chiefly on the walls."

"Do you grow many varieties of Plums?"

"Yes, all the favourite varieties."

"What about Peaches?"

"In warm seasons only, Dymond, Gros Mignonne, Violette Hative, and Stirling Castle

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bear successfully. Sweet Cherries are grown as standards, with Morellos on the walls."

"Does the soil suit Strawberries?"

"No, it is chalk, and rather dry; but Givon's Late Prolific does well on a north border; and Royal Sovereign and Viscomtesse Hericart de Thury are also grown. Gooseberries and Currants are only grown as bushes."

Wonderful Asparagus Beds.

"In respect to vegetables, I judge that Asparagus is a big feature."

"Yes, in spite of the fact that the beds are more than fifty years old, or perhaps because of it. We cut quantities from the middle of April until Peas are ready in the second week in June. After cutting down in the autumn, we give the beds a good dressing of old hotbed manure, lightly forking this in during March, and giving a dressing of salt occasionally until the middle of June."

"How do you plant Peas?"

"Peas are sown in rows eight feet apart, with Spinach between, followed by Celery in double rows. We find that May Queen and Sharpe's Express are good early Potatoes. The Broad Beans are Bunyard's Exhibition, Green Longpod, and Giant Windsor; the French Beans, Sutton's Plentiful, Ne Plus Ultra, and Canadian Wonder; the Runner Beans, Sutton's Best of All; and the Onions, Sutton's A1 for spring sowing, and Giant Rocca for autumn sowing."

"You have not mentioned Seakale."

"We grow our own Seakale, and take up for forcing in the Mushroom house as required. We commence cutting indoors at Christmas, and continue until about the middle of March. After that date we cut from beds in the open, covered with litter and leaves, until the beginning of May. Neither vegetables, fruit, nor flowers are exhibited. But there is a very heavy demand on the garden for all, and I think I may say that, for ordinary use, vegetables of various kinds are quite up to the average quality."

"As you have been head gardener here for thirty-seven years, your experience elsewhere in that capacity must have been limited?"

"I have not been head gardener anywhere else. But I was foreman at Earl Brownlow's (Ashridge) for six years before I came to Stocks. I started at Berkhamsted Place, and was subsequently at Titsey Place, Westerham, and Stoke Edith Park, Herefordshire. But most of my life has been spent in this locality."

ALFRED WILCOX.

MR. WILCOX'S article for next week will describe the gardens at Castle Hill, Englefield Green

THE GRASS WALK, STOCKS, TRING.

GARDENING EXPERIENCES.

A free subscription for one year (value 6s. 6d.) will be given each week for the most interesting and useful contribution to this page. The contribution must be original, and should, if possible, be descriptive of the writer's gardening practice.

The prizewinner this week is Miss M. Sharp

ASTER GRANDIFLORUS IN THE COOL GREENHOUSE.

AMATEUR gardeners like myself may be glad to hear of a cheap and most effective way of furnishing the stages of the cool greenhouse during the dull months of November and December. The old variety of Michaelmas Daisy, Aster grandiflorus, is only two feet high, and, in the open, flowers so late as to merit for itself the name of Christmas Daisy, but, unfortunately, its rich colour becomes washed out by the winter storms. In the greenhouse, however, it opens its lilac-purple blooms in all their beauty, giving just that touch of warm colour which we want during the winter months. The rich hue of a dozen potfuls of this charming plant, associated with some good, late-blooming Chrysanthemums, in deep yellows and pure white, gives to the greenhouse a wealth of colour that will, I am sure, be fully appreciated by those of your readers who are unacquainted with the resources of Aster grandiflorus as a pot plant.

Cultural Directions.

Clumps may be purchased now at 9d. or 10d. each, and broken into quite small pieces, one clump furnishing material for half a dozen 6-in. pots. The compost for Chrysanthemums suits them very well, and, after careful watering and shading, they may be stood outside in a sheltered and fairly sunny spot. No disbudding or stopping is required. A weekly dose of fertiliser is useful when the flower-buds appear, and the plants may be moved into the greenhouse when the colour shows. Clear water only, with an occasional supply of weak soot-water, is all that is needed after that.

So adaptable to circumstances is this Daisy, that it may be truly styled the amateur's own flower. It may be increased by cuttings taken in spring, and potted on during the summer, or divided in early autumn, as I advise above, or merely lifted from the open as late as November, when the buds are about to burst, and before the plants get damaged by wind or storms.—(MISS) M. SHARP.

A REMEDY FOR BLACK SPOT.

IN GARDEN LIFE for August 20th, I read with interest the article under the heading, "Leaves from a Gardener's Notebook," wherein it was stated that there is no remedy for the black spot on Roses. Two years ago I had the spot appear very badly on a Gloire which covers a verandah, and also on a few of the Roses in the beds, especially the Teas. Having found a very good remedy, which after a few applications proved very effectual, I thought the formula would perhaps be very useful to some of the readers of GARDEN LIFE. It is as follows:—Two pounds of sulphate of copper, dissolved in two gallons of hot water; two and a half pounds of carbonate of soda, dissolved in a separate vessel. Mix the two solutions together, then stir in one and a half pints of ammonia, and afterwards add enough water to make twenty-two gallons. With this mixture, thoroughly syringe the trees all over.—F. COX.

"IF'S."

THE following are a few of my gardening experiences. I have put them in a bundle of "If's," and pass them on to those who, like myself, have only a bit of garden and a small purse, and are obliged to make a little go a long way. The first tip is not original.

Cats do not like Orange peel, and they won't attempt to scratch up the flower beds where Orange peel has been put down. (Louis Wain.)

If you want to have a garden, and have only flags, bricks or stone to work upon, an easy, cheap way is to get some wooden boxes, knock the bottoms out, and fill with soil, or, when the ordinary zinc water-bucket is past use, make a hole or two in the bottom, and fill with soil. These last are very handy and convenient, as the handle enables them to be moved about, the soil can be easily turned out when necessary, they are strong and last a long time, and, lastly, when you find it necessary to move into a fresh house, you can take your garden with you.

If Mustard and Cress are cut over, and not pulled up, a second crop will grow.

If you want to grow Mint, and cannot buy roots, when the Mint sauce is being made, ask for the stalks with the tops left on to be saved for you, and stick them in the ground. You will find before winter that some have taken root, and will be fit to transplant the following spring. Or, if the stalks are bare, without tops, bury them in the ground, near the surface, and in due time there will be a good supply of Mint.

If you want a change in salads, the thinnings of Radishes are a nice change from Mustard and Cress, while the thinnings of Leeks, from Spring Onions, and young Spinach leaves, are an agreeable change from Lettuces.

If plenty of soot is sprinkled on the soil in winter, and left for the rain to wash in, there will not be much trouble with soil pests.

If you want a cheap fertiliser for the small and easily-grown crops and salads, use, after rain, house slops one week, and a sprinkling of dry soot the next, but be careful not to let either touch the leaves of the plants.

If you cannot afford to buy extra soil every year, save all the household vegetable refuse, garden waste, straw, leaves (if near a wood), and seaweed (if near the sea), chop up small (the smaller the pieces the sooner they decay), and in the autumn dig into the soil, with a sprinkling of soot and salt, and some horse manure, and in spring mix well up before sowing the seed.—LLANDUDNO.

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FAMOUS GARDENS :: IN WAR TIME. ::

HOW THEY ARE BEING MAINTAINED WITH REDUCED STAFFS.

X.—Interview with Mr. D. Keen, Stocks House, Aldbury, Tring.

IT would be difficult to imagine a more peaceful spot than the little village of Aldbury, or one presenting a greater contrast to the noise and bustle of town. Nestling at the foot of a long, low range of hills, which are clothed with trees whose foliage runs the gamut of all the shades of green, its quaint cottages preserve an old-world aspect, accentuated by the stocks and whipping-post still standing on the village green, and by the adjacent ducking-pond, though the ducking-stool no longer remains. Through the winding high street, and half a mile or so further on, one comes to the entrance lodge of Stocks House, the gardens of which, by the courteous permission of Mr. and Mrs. Humphry Ward, I was privileged to visit in the middle of July, being shown round by the gardener, Mr. D. Keen, who has been in charge for upwards of forty-four years.

Stocks House stands on rising ground, and is a substantial building dating back to about the middle of the eighteenth century. Alterations and additions carried out within recent years have somewhat changed its appearance, but it still retains many characteristics of the original building, and is altogether in keeping with the village lying below it. Even in the garden the stone ornaments are mellowed by age, and some on the terrace were pointed out to me as having been removed from an old house in the neighbourhood, which was demolished about a century ago by the Duke of Bridgewater, who, having purchased Ashridge, another large house in the same locality, and not caring to have as neighbour a house rivalling his own in size, acquired it merely for the purpose of having it pulled down.

The gardens of Stocks House comprise about an acre and a half of pleasure grounds and lawns, and two acres and a half of kitchen garden. But, though small (and Mr. Ward told me he scarcely thought they were worthy to be included among "Famous Gardens"), they are of considerable interest, and the kitchen garden is fully a hundred and fifty years old.

ANTIRRHINUMS FOR BEDDING.

The flower garden is on the south-west front of the house, and the beds on the lawn are planted chiefly with Roses, with Violas as an edging.

"We used to fill some of the beds with summer bedding plants," explained Mr. Keen; "but this year we are employing Antirrhinums instead, and the effect is so good that it is possible we shall not go back to the old plants, although we are keeping a few for stock. The Roses being permanent, there is not much labour required in this part of the garden."

"You are no doubt short-handed?" I inquired.

"Our staff is never large, but now it consists of two elderly men and two women, one of whom is my daughter, who has been helping me for some time, and when I was ill looked after things very well indeed. Then Miss Ward also gives us much assistance, and she and my daughter did the pruning of the Roses between them."

"They have seen a good show of flowers for their labours," I remarked.

"Yes; the Roses have been very fine this year. We lost a few plants as a result of the severe winter, and have not replaced them, which accounts for the gaps you see here and there."

LAST WINTER'S RAVAGES.

Tall trees serve as a framework on either side of the flower garden, and some choice specimens on the lawn called for special notice. Mr. Keen drew my attention to a Cedrus deodara, which had been feathered down to the ground, but now is shorn of its beauty.

"This tree," he said, "is probably eighty to ninety years old, and thirty years ago was a perfect specimen of its kind. But it was badly damaged by last year's blizzard, and the snows of the past winter broke down a branch here and there."

"Other trees also suffered from the bad winter," I remarked, indicating a few of them.

"Its effects are not only to be seen in the trees here," was the reply, "but in the kitchen garden—only there it is by the number of grubs which abound. The birds died by the hundred, and they are not nearly so numerous now as they were, so that the grubs have not been held in check."

Crossing the lawn, we passed the only examples of bedding, narrow borders around the house being filled with Heliotropes, Verbenas, and Lobelias. On the walls are many fine climbers and shrubs, including Buddleia veitchiana and Ceanothus veitchianus.

"Clematis montana was lovely," said Mr. Keen, "but it has been cut back after it had finished flowering. One climber that used to do well here was Solanum jasminoides, but last winter nearly killed it. In fact, I thought it was killed, but it is now breaking out from the base."

The path led us through the Walk Wood, a cool and delightful spot, with magnificent Beeches on the one hand and Oaks on the other.

"The trees here are as fine as any you will see in this part of the country," said my guide. "But you will note further evidences of the effect of the great blizzard. In the spring the ground beneath the trees is thickly carpeted with Snowdrops, and it is a beautiful sight."

Emerging from the wood, passing a fine avenue of Limes, and crossing a road, we entered the kitchen garden, an acre and a half of which is walled in.

"You have two splendid borders of herbaceous plants," I observed, as we strolled along.

"They are a hundred and fifty feet long," was the answer, "and contain a good assortment of perennials. Miss Ward and my daughter are largely responsible for the clean condition of the borders, for they have done most of the staking and weeding. We have dug up the plants at the top half on each side, and have filled the ground with vegetables. Our collection of Michaelmas Daisies is especially choice, and we are keeping them; but we have saved only a few of the other things for stock."

"What is the variety of Potato you have here? It makes an excellent show."

"That is Sharpe's Express, which we rely on for early work. But for forcing we use Sharpe's Victor, which is dwarfer in growth."

MR. D. KEEN AND THE STAFF AT STOCKS HOUSE.
Mr. Keen's daughter is sitting on his left hand.

"And the Cauliflower?" I asked.

"Here we have Autumn Giant. The Broccoli is Winter Mammoth. You will notice we have several rows of Swedes—Mrs. Ward likes these. The varieties are Garden White and Yellow."

Passing along, still on the outside of the walls, a thriving plantation of Rhubarb attracted attention.

"The varieties," said Mr. Keen, "are Prince Albert for the earliest, and The Sutton and Linnæus for the main crop. We force a good deal, and take up two long rows every year."

A GOOD POTATO YIELD.

Further round, a large plot of ground is devoted to Potatoes, sturdy and clean in foliage, and giving promise of excellent crops.

"The variety is Up-to-Date. We find this is the best maincrop for table-quality."

"Do you get good returns?" I inquired.

"We lift as many as eighteen to twenty good-sized, eatable tubers from one plant—that is about twenty-fold," was the reply.

"The ground is, I presume, well manured, to give a result like this?"

"We dig in refuse from the rubbish heap, and supplement that with Wakeley's Hop manure. Then, later on, a sprinkling of sulphate of ammonia is given."

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"What distance do you allow between the rows?"

"For the Up-to-Dates, two and a half feet; and for Sharpe's Express two feet, with one foot from plant to plant."

"You spray, of course?"

"We have not done so yet this season, but shall be doing so shortly."

Peas were the next thing to be noticed, the variety being Sutton's Acquisition. These are grown at eight feet between the rows, with Brussels Sprouts Sutton's Perfection between.

"We allow this distance between the Peas in the other parts of the garden, as you will see when you get round," said Mr. Keen. "The other varieties—we are growing these for main-crop and late—are Gladstone and Autocrat, and between the rows we have Celery in trenches. Before the Celery we had Cauliflower Veitch's Extra Early, which did wonderfully well with us this season—of course, it was sown indoors—and also early Lettuces and Turnips."

Moving on, we pass a couple of rows of Sweet Peas, grown to give flowers for cutting, with Lettuce All the Year Round between the rows; a good breadth of ground carrying Dwarf French Beans Sutton's Plentiful, which did not belie its name; and a broad patch of Seakale, concerning which my guide said:

"We get good crowns here at one year, but we prefer to let it go for two years, and then we are able to obtain two crowns instead of one, and, in addition, have stout thongs for planting. We force in the Mushroom house, also out of doors, covering it there with leaves and manure, and keep up a good supply from Christmas till May."

OLD ASPARAGUS BEDS.

"Asparagus seems to be a feature with you, too," I said; "for I do not remember ever having seen a finer and healthier bed than this."

"We get really splendid Asparagus," was the reply. "The beds here are very old, and you can see that the growths now are wonderfully thick, and at least six feet tall. In autumn we shall top-dress with leaves and manure."

Further round, outside the walls, are numerous beds of winter greens of all sorts.

"This," said Mr. Keen, pointing to the first one, "is Sutton's Hardy Sprouting Kale. It is one of the very best for cropping. The Broccoli are Knight's Protecting and Sutton's Satisfaction; and here is a good patch of Savoys, the two back rows Drumhead, the next three Sugar-loaf, and the two in front Sutton's Perfection. Further on we have Autumn Self-protecting Broccoli, which is especially useful in November."

"You are going to have a good crop of Morello Cherries," I remarked, noticing some fine trees on the north wall.

"They are promising well," was the answer. "Usually we have a lot of trouble with the birds, but this year we have had none, and there do not seem to be so many about. As a result, we are plagued with grubs on the other fruit trees."

A DWARF TOMATO.

And now we entered the enclosed kitchen garden, where one of the first things to catch the eye were some rows of Tomatoes, along the front of one of the houses.

"We have only two varieties," explained Mr. Keen, in response to my enquiry. "Those at the back are Sutton's Princess of Wales, while in front we have King's Early, which is, as you see, very dwarf, and does not shade the others."

"They are both showing plenty of fruit," I remarked, "and it is colouring well. King's Early is, however, not a handsome fruit."

"It is certainly corrugated, and not so fine in shape as Princess of Wales," was the reply; "but the flavour is first-class, and both are very satisfactory varieties. Princess of Wales is also grown under glass, and I do not know another so good."

"This bed of Onions is as good as you could wish for," I observed, as we walked on.

"That is a very fine variety," replied Mr. Keen. "It is Sutton's A1, and I prefer it to Ailsa Craig, as it is a much better keeper."

"And you have here a splendid bed of Cabbages."

"In the winter the frost and birds riddled them," it was explained; "but as soon as they began to move in spring we gave them a dressing of sulphate of ammonia, which started them growing again, and we are now cutting some excellent Cabbages. The variety is Flower of Spring, which is a very dependable sort, for it does not bolt like so many others. Out of twelve hundred plants we did not have one that bolted. Of course, it depends on the date of sowing. We sow about the 6th or 7th of August, and start to cut in April."

That all available labour is devoted to vegetables and fruit was clear from the condition of the flower borders, which this season have been left to take care of themselves, and are in consequence overcrowded, two beds of Roses, grown to supply cut flowers, being all that have received attention in this part of the garden.

But if the flowers were lacking, brilliance was given by a long row of Runner Beans, Sutton's Best of All. Ten to twelve feet high, it was a mass of pure scarlet from bottom to top, and at a little distance looked as vivid as a bed of Geraniums stood on end. Farther back were other rows, sown later, and naturally not so effective in appearance at this time. Not far off was a bed of Broad Beans, from which, I was informed, good crops had already been picked.

"We shall clear these off in about a fortnight, fork up the soil, and plant Coleworts. Last year we had over four thousand, and we have already eight hundred planted out. We send all our surplus of vegetables and fruit to various hospitals."

Carrots, again, presented a good appearance; and no fault could be found with the Celery, of which there were five double rows, each sixty feet long, in trenches.

A strong feature here is the fruit, Gooseberries and Apples especially. In response to my questions, Mr. Keen said:

FINE GOOSEBERRIES.

"Peaches on the outside walls do not get on well here, and we cannot rely on them. We have Stirling Castle and Royal George, and Nectarine Elruge, but the situation is too bleak for them, as we have strong winds from the north-west. But Gooseberries are splendid, and there are a large number of bushes, which always bear heavy crops."

"You seem to have them everywhere," I said. "What are your best varieties for flavour and cropping?"

"The best flavoured one that I know is Champagne; Golden Drop is a good early sort; Langley Beauty is another; and three more that can be recommended are Keepsake, Warrington, and, of course, Whinham's Industry."

Having examined these, we next turned our attention to the Apples, of which I observed that some were so heavy with fruit that the branches had been tied up for security.

"Here is one of the most reliable in the garden," said Mr. Keen. "It is a very old tree, which I know by the name of London Pippin. It always crops well, and is a splendid cooker, while if kept till December it is good for dessert. It lasts right into March. Newton Wonder and Bramley's Seedling both do well; Lane's Prince Albert is fair, but is slow in growth; and Bismarck is also fair, but not so good as Bramley's, while the fruit goes spotted. We cannot get Cox's Orange Pippin to do at all well. All the trees have suffered from drought this year."

"What is the nature of the soil?"

"It is rather light, and very near the chalk."

"How do Plums go?" I asked.

"Strange to say, Plums usually do poorly here, though at many other places round about they are extra good. But we have a good crop this year."

Resuming our walk, we came to the place where the Chrysanthemums were standing in pots, on ashes, and I asked how many are now grown.

"We have two hundred of the best exhibition varieties," was the answer. "We used to have five hundred, but I was told to do fewer this year. They have got potbound for want of time to attend to them. In these frames, too, are a nice lot of Salpiglossis which were raised from seed, but we could not spare the labour to get them out. For the same reason we have had no Melons this year. In the heated part of the front range of pits we grew a large and successful crop of Potatoes in pots. These were followed by a crop planted out in another division. In the adjoining section, Sutton's Inimitable Forcing Carrot gave us excellent crops."

A GRAND OLD MULBERRY.

And now we turned to go through the houses, but before doing so Mr. Keen directed my attention to a fine old Mulberry, trained along the wall.

"This tree," he said, "is one of the first that was planted in this garden, and is nearly two hundred years old. From one end to the other it measures eighty feet."

The houses consist of one stove or forcing house, a vinery, a lofty greenhouse, and a Peach house sixty feet long, divided in two.

In the stove, I was informed, in the early part of the year Roses, Deutzias, and other plants are forced in pots, and here, too, French Beans were started in January, a succession being kept up till June. Coleus, Begonia Rex, and Maidenhair Ferns are among its present occupants, and there are also some splendid Stephanotis, from which plenty of blooms are cut. There had been a fine lot of Tomatoes in pots, trained near the roof; but these were nearly over.

The vinery is devoted to Black Hamburghs, the Vines numbering ten. They were carrying many good bunches—some weighing up to two and a half pounds, and were starting to colour.

Entering the greenhouse, Mr. Keen pointed to the climbing Roses, which had not passed altogether out of flower.

"These," said he, "are the only Roses Miss Ward and my daughter did not touch—and I see to these. They are grown to give flowers for indoor decoration, and after I have cut them back the Chrysanthemums will be brought in. The Azaleas were good in spring, but they are waiting to receive attention now. We shall have a nice batch of Cyclamens later—they are at present in the frames; and our Arums are very good. The Roses are Reine Olga de Wurtemberg, Rêve d'Or, Climbing Niphetos, and Comtesse de Chandon."

Then, passing to the early Peach house, where a quantity of bedding stuff had been grown, I was struck with the immense thickness of the stem of the Peach—apparently some fifteen to eighteen inches in circumference.

"It is about forty-five years old," explained Mr. Keen; "but it has been covered with fruit, which colours grandly, and is of good size. The variety is Stirling Castle; and the Nectarine is Elruge. In the next house, which is later, are two others, Royal George, of the same age and girth, and these are also in good bearing condition. I do the thinning and tying of these myself."

"And with the small staff you have it cannot be denied that the work altogether redounds to your credit," I remarked, as we shook hands, and I turned my steps towards London.

W. J. Chittenden.

Next week: The gardens at Eridge Castle, the seat of the Marquis of Abergavenny.

The vegetable show of the Royal Horticultural Society will be held this year on September 25th, at the Drill Hall, Buckingham Gate, S.W. The show of British-grown fruits will be on October 9th.

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ground at the commencement of each stroke and deepening as it nears the feet, and also to sever the stems of such weeds, big and small, as lie in its way, and it will not do this if it is blunt. Of course, the degree of sharpness must depend on the nature of the soil. If there are few stones, the edge may be almost as sharp as that of a razor; but if there are many it is necessary to have a thicker edge—one less liable to get jagged. In any case, however, there should be no need for chopping. One sometimes sees a hoe being used almost as if it were a pick. It would not be easy to conceive a method productive of less real work for the amount of energy expended on it.

POINTS ABOUT BEET.

May 10th.—Beet is often grown much too large. The roots are then coarse, and not infrequently hard in the middle, and they are difficult to cook without being damaged, in which case their colour is spoiled. If they are to be kept a moderate size for winter use, the seed should not be sown before the present month, and the plot selected for the purpose should not have been freshly manured. If it was manured for the previous crop, the plants should be able to obtain in it all the food they require. Beet cannot be transplanted satisfactorily—except, perhaps, when small seedlings are lifted undisturbed with the trowel—and as the distance between the plants should be not less than nine inches, it is great waste to sow thickly. The most economical plan is to sow two or three seeds in groups nine inches apart, and afterwards to reduce each group to one plant. Sparrows must be kept away, as they sometimes peck the leaves to pieces.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

BULBS AFTER FLOWERING.

Speaking generally, bulbous plants are neglected after they pass out of flower, with the result that they are unable to build up their tissues for future efforts. We find that under natural conditions the foliage matures and ripens in a very gradual manner. This is what we have to bring about in dealing with bulbs in pots, also with those that are lifted from flower beds and borders in order to make room for the summer occupants.

In dealing with the first-named, regular attention should be paid to watering. For a few weeks it should be gradually diminished, as the foliage assumes a yellow colour. Further, the plants must be allowed to remain in the greenhouse after flowering in the early part of the year; while the cold frame will be suitable quarters from March onwards. I would advise that Tulips, Narcissus, and smaller bulbs be transferred bodily at the proper time to form colonies in grass land and borders. With respect to Hyacinths, they should be shaken out and stored in a dry place.

As regards the bulbs employed to create a display in the open garden, it is necessary to lift them very carefully, otherwise a large percentage of the growths will snap off close to their tops. They should be laid in six inches deep in the reserve garden, and be well watered after the operation is completed. If the weather be dry, they will require further attention in this way, and not until the foliage has become quite dead should the bulbs be lifted and stored.

A word as to bulbs in the grass. It becomes necessary to tolerate a somewhat untidy appearance of the portion of lawn devoted to them for a few weeks after they pass out of flower, but if cut with a scythe at the proper time, and a dressing of nitrate of soda is applied, it quickly resumes its normal appearance.

WALTER H. AGGETT.

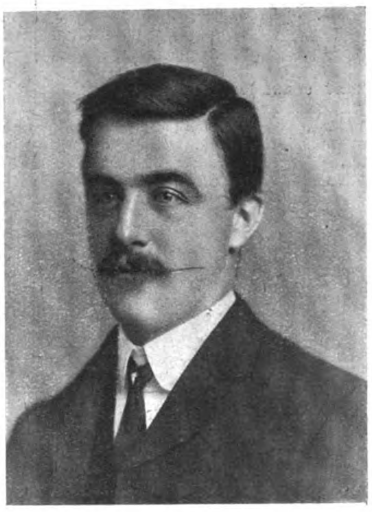
FAMOUS BRITISH GARDENS.

CLAREMONT, ESHER.

Interview with Mr. James Kelly.

A STALWART, liveried porter keeps watch at the lodge gates of Claremont, the Surrey seat of H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany, and so military is his mein that on my giving my name and credentials I almost expected him to say "Pass GARDEN LIFE; all's well!" But he was pleasantly obliging, and directed me to Mr. Kelly's house.

Claremont is said to owe its name to the Duke of Newcastle who built the Prospect Tower on an eminence in the grounds, and so called it Clare (clear) Mont. It was for this Duke of Newcastle, when he was Earl of Clare, that Kent, the famous landscape gardener, planted the park. After the Duke's death the estate was purchased by Clive, who, when setting out on his last voyage to India, gave "Capability" Brown *carte blanche* with regard to a new mansion. Brown selected a



MR. J. KELLY.

splendid site on higher ground than the old house, and built a very tasteful and imposing house of freestone. "He performed the task to the satisfaction of his employer, at a charge somewhat above £100,000."

The natural advantages of Claremont are considerable. It is sufficiently undulating for pleasant prospects, without having tiresomely steep hills; and it has a rich, growing soil, wherein trees of all kinds flourish exceedingly. In its early days as a demesne it "lacked only water to make it an ideal place," but this has long been remedied, and now there is a large lake, with attendant grotto and many charming vistas.

FAMOUS TREES.

When the war broke out, the garden staff was soon depleted, and the Duchess of Albany, resolved that these times were not for unremunerative labour, expressed the wish that the pleasure grounds should no longer be tended, and that the labours of the remaining men, who were unfit for service, should be restricted to the garden, and this, of course, has been done. But, although many of the paths are overgrown, some of the erstwhile fascinating vistas nearly obliterated, and the grassy glades unmown, there is still immense charm in this portion of the domain. Besides splendid grouping of trees by Kent, Brown, and others, there are many famous specimens which call for admiration. A huge Wellingtonia, feathered to the ground, the finest Magnolia macrophylla, an uncommonly good Cunninghamia sinensis, Pinus muricata, Cryptomaria japonica, and various other genera, besides magnificent ancestral Oaks, are to be seen.

A huge Rhododendron arboreum, in full bloom, gives promise of more floral beauty in the near future, when the later sorts and masses of Ghent Azaleas are open.

A large portion of the estate was handed by Her Royal Highness to the War Office for national use, and there, in that secluded spot, countless experiments under the Ministry of Munitions were made with explosives, which went far towards winning the war.

On an eminence overlooking this department stands the Camellia House, erected by Government for Princess Charlotte of Wales a hundred or so years ago, a horribly ugly edifice, more fitted, structurally, to be a seaside bazaar. Its redeeming features are the splendid Camellias, literally smothered in bloom, and the prospect from the terrace on which it stands.

PRINCESS CHARLOTTE'S GARDEN.

This is a very delightful enclosure, surrounded on three sides by red brick walls, hundreds of years old. Wistarias, with aged, rugged stems, literally as big around as a man's body, have been pruned and trained to the walls by many generations of gardeners. They have long since covered immense wall space, but during the past decade Mr. Kelly has extended one giant so that now it spreads one hundred and five feet, and is thickly studded with bursting flower buds which will soon develop into long racemes of lilac bloom, and make a feature of indescribable beauty.

"Her Royal Highness has an especial affection for these Wistarias," remarked Mr. Kelly; "and in the spring I used to cover them with tiffany whenever frost threatened, but I had to abandon the practice when war broke out."

I learned that the garden was in a neglected condition when Mr. Kelly took charge ten years ago, and that it was soon put into its present orderly and attractive condition. A huge bank of overgrown evergreens, largely Hollies and Laurels, was grubbed up, and replaced by a tasteful planting of choice flowering and foliage shrubs. The delightful Rose fountain was made and planted with Dorothy Perkins Roses, and ample beds made on the relaid lawn which surrounds it. In these beds massed plants of such varieties as General McArthur, Snow Queen, Caroline Testout, and Hugh Dickson, make a splendid show in their season.

On the wall by the doorway Spiræa prunifolia is in full bloom, and is very effective when grown in this manner; but surely a much more uncommon wall plant is the large, very old Judas tree (Cercis siliquastrum) at the lower end of the wall. Judging from the old, gnarled trunk, this must be one of the oldest specimens in the country, but the branches are full of vigour, and are spurred with countless purple flower buds. In this garden there are two magnificent trees—the Kentucky Coffee Tree

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(Gymnocladus canadensis) and Magnolia acuminata.

In front of Mr. Kelly's house stands the finest Pterocarpa caucasica in this country. Its size may perhaps be realised when it is known that it covers three-parts of an acre. Close by is a famous specimen of Sassafras officinale, quite a pigmy when compared with the former tree, but a beautiful rounded pyramid. Mention must also be made of a splendid pair of Buxus balearica, a huge Phillyræa latifolia, and the deciduous Cypresses.

THE GARDENER'S HOUSE AT CLAREMONT.

THE FLOWER BORDERS.

Throughout the summer and autumn the many borders in the three enclosed gardens used to be a riot of flowers, and now that labour is beginning to be more plentiful, Mr. Kelly hopes soon to return to the old order. Long borders will be filled with the best Pentstemons and colour schemes of Antirrhinums, of which latter nine thousand seedlings are already pricked out in frames, awaiting the season for permanent planting. Scabious also enter largely into the summer scheme. Delphiniums, Phlox, and Michaelmas Daisies are represented by large collections of the best varieties, so the glorious display in their seasons may be imagined.

The flower borders which run across the full breadth of the kitchen garden are magnificent throughout the summer months. Its general effect can be seen from the splendid illustration (page 87), which also shows the central sundial that "marks the sunny hours."

The spacious vegetable quarters are no less interesting than the flower borders. Mr. Kelly is a well-known and highly successful exhibitor at the R.H.S. annual show of vegetables, and on his sideboard stand large silver cups which he has won outright in competition at Twickenham, Surbiton, Kingston, Croydon, and elsewhere in various competitions. Besides high-class vegetables, Chrysanthemums and hardy perennials have often been shown from Claremont.

EXHIBITION VEGETABLES.

"To win first prizes," said Mr. Kelly, "means a deal of hard work and constant attention to detail. I dig the ground three feet deep in the autumn, incorporating bonemeal, soot, and manure, and let it lie rough all the winter. Early in spring it receives a surface dressing of lime, and is then soon fit for breaking down preparatory to sowing and planting."

Mr. Kelly's yields last year are very interesting, and these include one ton of James's Keeping Onion from fifteen rods of ground. From three pounds of Potato Majestic seventy pounds were lifted, and in connection with Potatoes I learnt that each year an experimental planting is made of new sorts. This season eighteen varieties are to be grown, and some of the best will be saved for further experimental culture under farm conditions. Just lately Mr. Kelly has been placed in charge of the 250-acre farm, as well as the woods, in addition to the gardens, and his many friends will congratulate him on a well-deserved promotion.

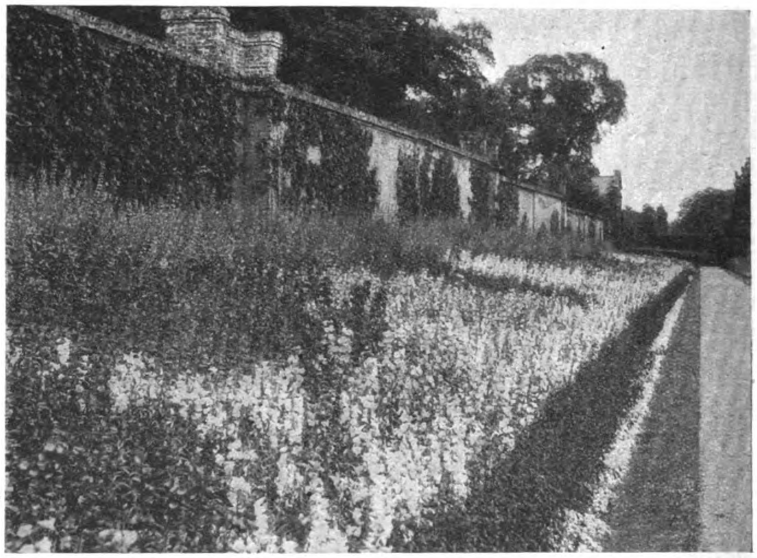
Broad Beans and early Peas have made excellent growth, and in the large Onion bed the rows of seedlings stand out fresh and green. Celery and Leeks have been especial features in Mr. Kelly's prize collections in the past, and judging from what I saw, they will be again. The earliest Celery is growing vigorously in 5-in. pots in one of the glass-houses, and many Leeks are also potted up, though in smaller receptacles, ready for transplanting.

FRUITS UNDER GLASS.

The inside department evidences the same skilful attention as elsewhere at Claremont. Order, cleanliness, and vigorous growth are everywhere seen. The demand for early fruit is very great, and it is the rule to be able to cut ripe Melons at any time between June and October, inclusive. Grapes are just coming into flower in the principal houses, and in one which was replanted in March of this year the growths are splendid. Feeling that the methods of an expert grower would be of more than average interest, I asked Mr. Kelly for details.

"As you see, the border is all inside, and the wall is concreted. By this method I can control the roots. The border space is to be filled gradually, as the roots require more space. In the portion here there are twenty tons of Johnson's Cranleigh loam, which is some of the best I have ever handled. Mixed with the loam is two hundredweight of half-inch bones, one hundredweight bone dust, four bushels of charcoal, a quantity of lime rubble, and wood ashes. You will notice that neither chemical manures nor horse droppings are included in the formula. These I consider are the ruination of Vine borders, and nearly all after-troubles may be traced to the practice of adding manures to the soil. Bones and bone dust are safe media for supplying phosphates, and they last for a long time."

Carter's Sunrise Tomatoes in pots are swelling their first trusses of fruit, and for later work Market King is largely grown. Cucumbers and pot Beans in the houses, Potatoes, Radishes, and Lettuces in frames—all are first-class. Flowering plants are grown in quantity, and of these first place must be given to the Japanese Chrysanthemums, which are unusually forward and vigorous. Blue stellata Cinerarias, Carnations (both Trees and Malmaisons), and Viscaria Sutton's Mixed for later display, are equally good. A screen of Roses in one house is a novel method, and one that produces quantities of bloom.



A BORDER OF PENTSTEMONS AT CLAREMONT.

"Now that we hope soon to have more of our men back, I expect to be able to get the outlying parts of the grounds into decent order," remarked Mr. Kelly; "and I am especially glad that Major Edward Seymour, the Con-

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troller, is also on the way here. He takes a gratifying interest in the gardens, particularly in Roses and Carnations."

As already remarked, Mr. Kelly has been in charge at Claremont for ten years. Previously he was general foreman at Hopetoun House, Saint Queensferry. He is a native of Argyllshire, and commenced his gardening career at Tillicoultry House, Clackmannanshire, and worked successively at Terregles House, Auchen Castle, Nsan House, and Durris House, all in Scotland, before going to Hopetoun House.

A. C. BARTLETT.

"Garden Life" Forum.

For the consideration and discussion of every subject of interest to the Amateur Gardener.

DIANTHUS ALLWOODII.

This new race of Perpetual-flowering Carnation or Dianthus, whichever it may be termed, has come as a boon to the admirers of Carnations. In the recent article on this plant, named Allwoodii, presumably after the raiser, Mr. M. Allwood, of the Carnation Nurseries, Wivelsfield, Sussex, Mr. Brant has told the readers of GARDEN LIFE its points of cultivation, which I can readily confirm, and I can also praise it for its decorative value. Flowers of it placed in vases are simply lovely, embracing many different shades, from pure white to crimson, and the perfume is lovely. It thrives so easily, which makes it adaptable for the town and country gardener. Anybody who does not give it a trial will miss a great pleasure, and a valuable addition to his or her garden.—C. J. CRADWICK.

THE RECENT SNOWSTORM.

Two comments made by writers in GARDEN LIFE for April 26th on the uncertainty of our English climate could scarcely have been read by the time the unusually heavy snowstorm commenced on Sunday, the 27th.

It has probably exceeded in its late arrival, and in the amount which fell in the time in its severer parts, anything in the memory of present-day gardeners. Here in south-east Herts the depth on the following morning was about a foot, to which a few more inches would have been added but for its melting the first hour or more, and, being of a wet consistency, clung and bound itself very firmly on whatever it fell. With an increase in the force of the wind during the night, a great strain was produced on trees and shrubs, branches being wrenched off, and in cases where roothold was not strong they were forced up. Those which suffered most were the evergreens and those deciduous trees and bushes which had put forth their leaves, such as Gooseberry, Currant, early Plums, Hawthorns, etc., but fortunately no frost followed, the temperature all through remaining just above freezing point.

It was surprising how many subjects, such as late varieties of Narcissus, recovered their position after such a heavy pressure, and how soon the grass and seedling vegetables regained their greenness from the pale, washed-out appearance that they presented after the thaw. Transplanted Spring Onions and Broad Beans, however, still cut a sorry figure.

Mr. H. C. Davidson kindly reminds us that May has still to be got through, and I only remember the frost exceeding that time once, when in the early nineties I had Scarlet Runner Beans two feet high, and all the early Potatoes earthed up and flower bedding well established, a frost of unusual severity destroyed all, this being the second week in June.

I think the past winter has been a record one as to its wetness, its low temperature at times, and its length of stay, as also in the loss occasioned among garden subjects.—A. WHEELER.

FILLING UP THE ODD CORNERS OR BARE SPOTS.

This summer, owing to the food problem being less serious than formerly, it is pretty safe to predict that in many quarters land will be allowed to remain idle which under the stress of circumstances was made to produce at least very fair returns in the way of fresh vegetables.

Doubtless in many cases the owners of these plots found the cultural details necessary to bring about these good results exacted a very heavy toll upon their limited spare time; this being so, they now feel justified in laying aside the spade and the hoe in favour of the tennis racquet, or cricket bat, and, recalling what the new army of food-producers really did to help stave off a food famine, even the greatest stickler for work among us can hardly have the heart to say this year more pleasure should be denied them, but it would be a thousand pities if land, once brought to a fertile state, is now allowed to develop into a bed of weeds or the harbour of numerous harmful insect pests.

I refer to the rubbish heaps, or out-of-the-way corners where, until recently, it was thought nothing would grow.

True, the war is over, and fresh vegetables are not likely to be so costly again, but having spent both time and money in converting these bare spaces into useful plots, do not let us allow such to again run riot, but while we are in a state of indecision as to whether next year there shall be Rose beds, rock gardens, or outdoor Ferneries (the time for planting these having now passed), we shall not do better than again fill all such plots with some kind of vegetables or salads, which, although calling for but little time or expense, are bound to prove useful to the household.

Among these may be mentioned Vegetable Marrows, Ridge or Japanese Cucumbers, Runner Beans, Lettuce, Radishes, Mustard and Cress, Landcress, Watercress, Turnips, or Spinach, or perhaps even more acceptable than either, plant good, strong Seakale, to provide crowns for early forcing next winter, even a warm cellar answering admirably for this.—F. R. C.

WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE POTATO?

It will be both interesting and useful to know which of the many varieties of Potatoes in cultivation is the most popular one amongst amateur gardeners. Will you help us to obtain that information?

All we ask is that you will send us a postcard containing your name and address, and also a brief statement to the following effect: "I am growing ..... (here insert the name or names of varietes) this year, because I ..... (here state the reason, such as, 'I consider it the best early Potato,' or, 'because it crops best in my soil')."

We will publish the answers, with the names of senders, as we receive them.

THE EDELWEISS.

The mention of Edelweiss invariably conjures up, in the mind of the average reader, visions of bleak Alpine ranges, where, amidst eternal snows, intrepid travellers and Swiss mountaineers imperil their lives in the quest of the pretty little flower. It is said that large sums are obtained yearly from visitors by the natives, who sedulously foster the idea that only on the mountains of Switzerland will the plant flourish, and that to procure it involves immense personal risks, for which a correspondingly high charge is made. And yet, given the right conditions, nothing is easier to grow.

HOW TO RAISE IT.

The Edelweiss so greatly sought after is known to botanists as Leontopodium alpinum, this name being derived from the fanciful resemblance which the clusters of the flower-heads and their bracts bear to the foot of a lion. It is a hardy herbaceous perennial, which, however, is most satisfactorily grown as a biennial in this country. The lower leaves are of a glaucous green colour, and spatulate or spade-shaped; those growing on the stem are greyer. The stems are from three to six inches high, and bear yellow flowers, surrounded by bracts of a pale grey or silver colour. They are classed among the "everlastings."

The plants are easily raised from seed, which can be sown under glass at any time from March to May, in pans or boxes of light soil. A suitable medium would consist of equal portions of loam, leaf-mould, and sand. See that the drainage is perfect. As the seedlings grow, and become large enough to handle, pot them off singly in small pots, or place several at equal distances apart in a large box or pot. The young plants must be kept growing through the summer, during which time they will form small rosettes of leaves. By the beginning of September they can be transferred to the rockery; or they may, if desired, be wintered in a cold frame, and be planted into their permanent quarters towards the end of March.

NATURAL CONDITIONS OF GROWTH.

In dealing with any plant not indigenous to the country, the most successful results are invariably achieved when the conditions under which it is grown most nearly approach those obtaining in its habitat. Thus, with the Edelweiss, it is well to remember that it is gathered on the slopes of mountains, growing in a comparatively poor and sandy soil, and exposed to the full glare of the sun during summer. And although, during the winter months, the cold is intense, the plant, resting under its wrapping of snow, is snugly protected alike from the bitter frost and excess of moisture. Then, when the warm weather again comes round, the thawing snow and ice provide its roots with the liquid nourishment requisite for its due development.

It is not possible, of course, to reproduce in these islands the characteristics of the Alpine climate, but there is no difficulty in supplying a light, sandy soil, with a small amount of leaf-mould or peat added. The position should be a sunny one, but so that the roots are always cool. For this reason, when planted on a rockery, it is advisable to arrange the stones so that they afford protection. At the same time the spot must be well drained, otherwise they will not survive the winter—damp being more fatal than frost. As an additional precaution, especially when the rainfall is abnormally heavy, it is well to place a piece of glass over the plants to keep off the worst of the rains.

If desired, the plants may be grown and flowered in pots, where they do well if they receive the requisite attention. For this purpose the Himalayan species (L. alpinum himalayanum) is better, the growth being more vigorous, and the flower heads larger.

ILEX.

Those who are troubled with the dying-back of the yellow Rose Rayon d'Or will find Mrs. Wemyss Quin a very valuable substitute, as it grows freely as a standard or bush, or for bedding, and has shapely, canary-yellow flowers that retain their colour well, and are sweet-scented. It blooms all the summer, and is excellent in the garden or for cutting.

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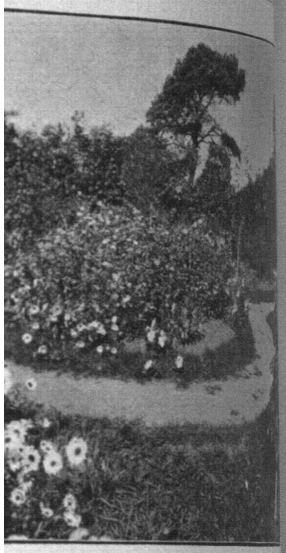

PICTURESQUE FLOWER BEDS.

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he says, "cannot be deprecated."
large Japanese Chrysanthemum
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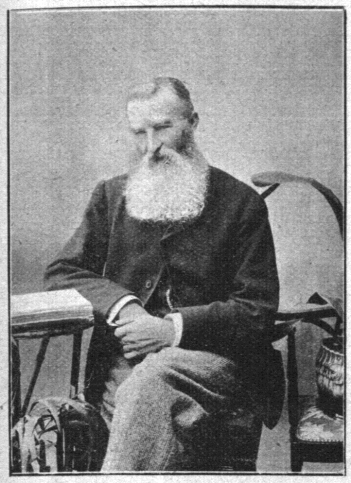
and for some forms of decoration,

rooms, halls, staircases, etc., are valuable. For epergnes and table decorations generally, small varieties are more valuable, as being in keeping with these requirements." This, of course, is qualified praise, and nearly amounts to saying that there is room for both large and small. The paper deals with size in connection with many other flowers besides Chrysanthemums, and with fruit and vegetables as well.



MR. A. KEMP.

November 10th.—Although the recuperative power of plants is almost perpetually before the eyes, I never see an instance of it, even of the commonest kind, without feeling a fresh wonder. In the garden in which I write, the soil being merely a thin skin on top of the chalk, the grass on the lawn turned brown during the hot, dry summer, and the process continued until it looked quite dead. But when the rain came, at the beginning of autumn, the colour gradually returned, and now the grass is as green again as ever it was. The slender tips, being the most sensitive and the most exposed, had withered first, and afterwards the lower portions of the leaves. So, before the fierce rays of the sun, the life of each plant had receded until it eventually lingered in the little crown above the roots; but there it had managed to survive, and, when the conditions were favourable, pushed forward again and flourished. It is a still more remarkable phenomenon when all the lower part, including the roots, of a plant dies, while some of the branches linger on. For, as we have just seen, it is in this part that the vital principle ultimately takes refuge, and here it resides in the first instance. Yet, in many cases, if the roots are killed, the shoots will live for a time, and may be used as cuttings to form new plants. In connection with rainfall, a correspondent ("New Chum") has drawn my attention to a remarkable article in the Century Magazine, on "Inoculating the Clouds." I hope to refer to it at some length at a later date.

November 11th.—Now that the time for making alterations in the garden is at hand, it is of the utmost importance to remember that formality should be avoided as much as possible, the one thing to be aimed at being picturesque and natural grouping. This is not always easy to manage, but a study of one's neighbours' gardens, and a few walks in the country, especially in the woods, will supply some useful object lessons. One great difficulty is to find a middle path between untidyness and excessive primness. Some of my friends are not very particular about weeds in their beds, but I confess I do not like to see them there. At any time they are consuming food wanted by the plants.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 163.—MR. ANDREW KEMP, AT THE GARDENS, COOLHURST, HORSHAM.

THE attractions of the gardens at Coolhurst, the delightfully-situated residence of Mr. C. R. S. Dickins, J.P., are numerous. Much might be said, for example, about the trees, which, as may be imagined from the fact that a portion of the gardens is actually in the original Coolhurst Forest, are remarkably fine, while the beauty and variety of the shrubs could not easily be surpassed. Mr. Andrew Kemp, the head gardener, therefore, needs to be, and is, an all-round man, who, as it will be seen, neither neglects Conifers nor plants, but, above all things, he has been successful as a fruit-grower. Accordingly, when I visited Coolhurst, early in October, a good deal of my time was occupied in acquiring information about his system of cultivation; and at the outset we dealt with Apple culture, as to which Mr. Kemp is a recognised authority, and has had great experience, extending over forty years.

A good deal of the fruit had been safely housed, but some of it was in process of being gathered on the afternoon of my visit, and I had the opportunity of noticing the extreme care with which the work was done in the orchard. The Apple crops generally, Mr. Kemp said, had been extremely good, and of Cox's Orange Pippin alone quite twenty bushels had been gathered.

"As to size," proceeded Mr. Kemp, "we had a batch of Belle Dubois, or Gloria Mundi, a foot round, and four inches in diameter. This is, of course, one of the largest Apples, very fine as cordons or pyramids, but most suitable for orchards. We do not go in for early Apples much, the aim being rather to have a supply from October onwards. In my judgment, there is no hardy fruit equal to Apples, and of hardy varieties Newton Wonder is not surpassed. It is, in fact, one of the finest Apples in existence, a cross between a Blenheim Orange and a Wellington."

"What about Cox's Orange Pippin?"

"It is unquestionably the finest dessert Apple in cultivation. Blenheim Orange is almost equally good. We have had from fifty to sixty bushels of the latter this year."

"You have some splendid specimens of both in the fruit room. What is the name of the Apple which looks just like a Peach?"

"Washington. That is also a fine dessert Apple."

"Have you grafted a great many trees since you have been here?"

"I have had as many as seventy grafts in one year. My later grafts include one of Blenheim Orange, one of Wellington, and one of Bramley's Seedling, on which there has been a grand lot of fruit. I grafted the last on to an old Devonshire Quarrenden. As a general principle, you may take it that if an old tree is cut down, and grafted with some free-growing, fruitful variety, you will have a crop that repays you for all your trouble."

"You grow a great variety of Apples?"

"Yes, in order to increase my knowledge, and to get the best."

"Without asking you to mention them all, I should like to have the names of a few more which you consider the best."

"Of cooking Apples, I think Bismarck and Bramley's Seedling the best two all-round introduced in recent years. Among other specially good varieties for kitchen use are Alfriston, Lane's Prince Albert, Lord Suffield, Mere de Menage, and Warner's King. Allington Pippin is a very good dessert variety, handsome in appearance, and rich in flavour. Claygate Pearmain, James Grieve, Mother, Striped Beefing—which comes in after January—and Waltham Abbey Seedling are a few more of the best kitchen Apples."

"Have you done much showing in Apples?"

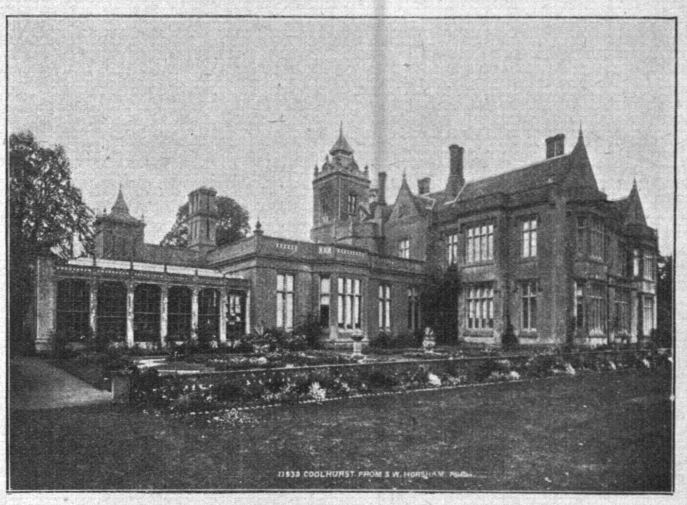
"Only locally and at the Crystal Palace. My record this year was at Brighton, when I took the first prize for four dishes of dessert Apples, out of twenty-four entries. There had never before been so many entries."

"How about other years?"

"I have taken forty first prizes for Grapes and Apples, twenty-five second prizes for Grapes, Apples, and vegetables, and thirty-four third prizes. These I can count, but many other tickets have been lost. I have received two silver medals, and one certificate for a collection of fruit."

"You have spoken of the importance of grafting in respect to Apples. Do you care to say any more on that branch of cultivation?"

"I could say a great deal. In fact, three or



COOLHURST, HORSHAM.

four years ago I read a paper to the members of the Brighton and Sussex Mutual Improvement Association, in which I dwelt at length on the methods by which apparently worn-out Apple trees may be improved in health. Here, at Coolhurst, when I came, there were several Blenheim Orange, Ribston Pippin, and Cox's Orange Pippin trees which seemed entirely useless; they were nothing more than a mass of thick-covered wood, with knots of canker on most of the main branches. Instead, however, of doing away with them, I went in for a process of renovation. There is no need to describe it in detail. You see the trees and the fruit. But I cannot too much emphasize the fact that a crop of clean, healthy fruit, fit for sale, table, or cooking, can only be got from the young wood, whereon strong, healthy flower-buds have formed."

"Of course, you attach importance to manuring?"

"Very great importance. Artificial manures are expensive, and they are not lasting. I collect every vestige of vegetable refuse, adding as much burnt ashes as possible, because everything that fire will consume to ashes makes a highly nutritious fertiliser, full of potash, which roots take up most readily."

"You also use sewage water?"

"All the sewage water about the place is put on during the winter and spring months. I admit that, under certain conditions, root pruning is beneficial, but I am convinced that surface feeding is in every way preferable when materials of the kind needed are to be had, since by surface-feeding the roots are induced to come to the surface, and the nearer they are to it the better, so that they obtain as much of the sun's influence as possible."

"I should like to have a hint or two in regard to the planting of young trees in the kitchen garden, or other vegetable-cultivated ground?"

"They should be on the Paradise stock, which, to a certain extent, restricts free growth, and leads to early production. All young trees planted on vegetable-cultivated land have a tendency to grow freely, as in most cases the ground is rich in humus, so that beyond a little mulch over the roots in dry weather, there is no need to feed until such time as the soil is all permeated with roots. Then a little feeding can be given to sustain the health and fruitfulness of the trees as they advance in age. To finish with Apple culture, good fruit can only be grown by the exercise of forethought, observation, and care, which should extend even to the storing. My experience is that there is not nearly enough importance attached to storing, for unless Apples are stored in a proper manner, they neither look their best nor keep as long as they should."

"You grow a considerable quantity of Pears?"

"Chiefly in the kitchen garden. The best dessert varieties are Beurré Clairgeau, Doyenné du Comice, Pitmaston Duchess, and Louise Bonne of Jersey, but others which are very good include Beurré Bosc, Beurré Giffard, Beurré Hardy, Beurré Superfin, Bon Chrétien, Catillac, Clapp's Favourite, Josephine de Malines, Marie Benoist, and Winter Nelis."

"What about Plums?"

"On the south wall, in the kitchen garden, there are Pond's Seedling, Golden Drop, Jefferson, Greengage, and Bluegage. I can recommend, also, the Belgian Plum which grows on the west wall; and Angelina Burdett is another beautiful variety."

"Peaches and Nectarines you grow both inside and outside?"

"We have had a fine crop of both on the walls, and a good one in the houses. Glass, as you see, is not a feature, but the Vineries include a large house devoted to Black Hamburgh."

"Do you grow many Strawberries?"

"A fair quantity, but only four varieties. During the time I have been here I have grown almost every variety introduced, but practically I stick to the Viscomtesse, Sir J. Paxton, President, and Princess Eugene."

"Not Royal Sovereign?"

"I have only a few, just to say that I have it. We have to study Strawberries for preserving as well as for dessert purposes, and Royal Sovereign is not much good for the latter, whereas the Viscomtesse is."

"With regard to vegetables, I observe that Celery is a great feature?"

"Both Celery and Lettuce. Of the former, Major Clarke, Cole's Defiance, and Sutton's Dwarf White are the best; and of the latter, which we grow all the year round, there are no varieties more useful than Parr's White Cos, Daniel's Continuity, and the old brown Cos. Brussels Sprouts are another speciality. I have had the seed for more than thirty years. I got it from a neighbour gardener in Scotland, and have perpetuated it, because there is no strain equal to it. After Strawberries, we put in Broccoli without the ground being dug. We simply make a hole in the solid, hard ground. The varieties are Model, Late Queen, and Lymington."

"When do you sow Onions?"

"Either in February or March, according to the weather. The rows are three feet apart; this allows us to get the Strawberries put in as soon as they are hardened off out of the pots. Both grow together until the Onions are ready to be harvested. I have to make about five sowings of Carrots, the first being in February or March, the second in May, third in June, the fourth the beginning of July, and the fifth the end of July. The two varieties are Netley and Scarlet Intermediate. I grow all small Cabbages now, the large ones not being wanted."

"And Tomatoes?"

"We usually have Sutton's Perfection and Carter's Champion. The crop of the latter has been exceptionally good."

"Now, we might take some of the many interesting plants and shrubs which we have seen during our walk round."

"You noticed the Agapanthus still in flower out of doors. The white variety has been splendid. It is not difficult to grow, and has only to be kept away from the frost in winter, and fed well with manure-water in the summer. We had sixteen spikes on one plant in a pot of the albus. The white stands much longer in flower than the blue."

"Carnations, I judge, are rather a speciality?"

"Quite. The system is to have each one different in colour, and varieties are selected for that purpose. One of the best white is George Macquay. It never splits. Raby Castle, Duchess of Fife, Sandringham, and Belle Dickson are among the favourites. I layered a thousand Carnations altogether this year."

"Do you go in largely for Christmas Roses?"

"We have a considerable number, including maximus, and Swan Neck, a Scottish variety, pure white, with serrated flowers. Both of these begin to flower in November, and go on through the winter."

"Then, there are th Rhododendrons near the church?"

"We call it Church Avenue. Close by is the private burying-ground. The Rhododendrons make a great show in flower, and are all named varieties. Azalea Walk, which leads to the Pheasantry, is equally beautiful. There are several plants of Azalea Chelin. The deep, loamy, sandy soil suits them."

"I particularly admire the specimen plants of Rhododendrons."

"There is nothing to beat them of their kind. One is white, with a grey centre, and the other purple. Seedling Rhododendrons grow so fast that we have to mow them like grass."

"Among Conifers I imagine that your wonderful specimen of Sequoia sempervirens takes the front place?"

"I believe that it cannot be beaten. As you see, its horizontal branches are close to the ground, and the bark is remarkable. It is upwards of eighty feet high. We excel in shrubs and trees. The Larches are as straight as ship masts."

"Do you know the height of that specimen close to a Silver Fir equally high?"

"About fifty feet. The Pines of different varieties are also very fine, and the Spruce. There is a specimen of the Sacred Thorn, which is always a subject of interest."

"You have a great variety of shrubs in the American garden in the forest?"

"One of the features of that garden is that Azalea indica alba, usually grown in the houses, flourishes there. A useful shrub for cutting is Gaultheria procumbens, which flowers like the Lily of the Valley. It comes from North America, and is most luxuriant. Also it lasts so long fresh, and for that reason is much sought after by people who know it for that object. The American garden also contains a quantity of Osmunda Ferns and Saxifrages."

"You have more named Rhododendrons on the way to the Dell?"

THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE AT COOLHURST, HORSHAM.

May 27th.—Why do not more people grow Salsafy and Scorzonera? Is it because of the trouble of cooking them properly? I fancy it must be, because they are excellent vegetables, the former especially. So many cooks of the present day seem to think they are sore put upon if they are asked to do more than roast a joint, or boil Potatoes, and even that is seldom done intelligently. Salsafy, if properly cooked, really deserves its name of the Vegetable Oyster, but not when treated as it often is. The roots should first be boiled like Parsnips, then cut into small, neat rounds, and finally fried with butter and breadcrumbs in scallop-shells. It is getting late for sowing the seeds, but this may still be done. Salsafy will grow well in any soil that suits Carrots. In hot, dry summers it is rather apt to run to seed, but that does not greatly matter if the flower-buds are picked off at once. This year there does not, at present, appear to be much chance of any trouble of that sort.

May 28th.—A bed of late-planted Daffodils has been wonderfully fine. They have only just ceased flowering. As the same bulbs were also planted very late last year—for the purpose of keeping up a succession—the delay does not seem to hurt them in the least.

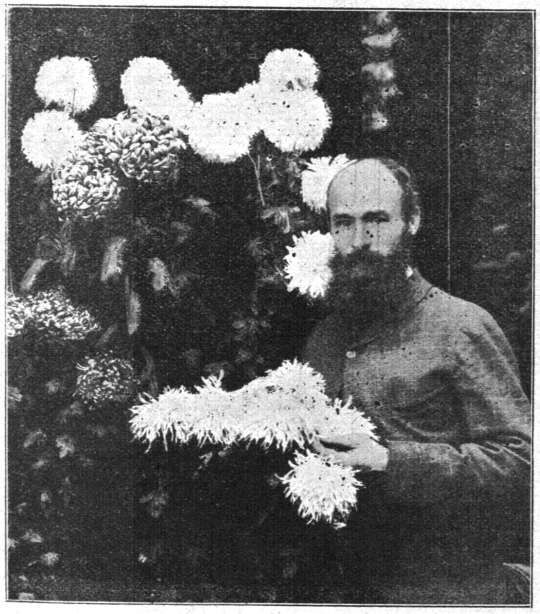
H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 139.—MR. DAVID KEMP, AT STOKE PARK GARDENS, SLOUGH.

IN the district of Slough no gardens have a greater reputation than those of Stoke Park, the seat of Mr. Wilberforce Bryant. For many years the fine crops of fruit grown at Stoke, and, still more, the splendid specimens of Amaryllis which have won the medals of the Royal Horticultural Society, have been famous. Mr. David Kemp, the well-known head gardener, warned me that I should be too late to see the Amaryllis at their best in the second week of May, but, apart from this, it was my good fortune to visit the gardens under very favourable auspices. It was a day full of the promise of summer, and shrubs and plants, fruit and vegetables, refreshed by gentle rain, and brightened by the warmth of the sun, seemed to be all rejoicing in the prospect.



MR. DAVID KEMP, IN THE CONSERVATORY, AT STOKE PARK.

Mr. Kemp's house faces the kitchen garden, and, as one of the features of Stoke Park is the raising of Peaches out of doors, on a cemented wall under glass coping, we started by inspecting the trees which are grown on this system. I saw at once that the fruit was setting beautifully, and I inquired how long the system had been in operation.

"Peaches have been grown here on this system," replied Mr. Kemp, "for nearly forty years."

"Will you explain it in detail?"

"There is not very much to explain. The cemented wall and the glass coping are absolutely essential. The main principle is that the Peaches are grown under the glass coping, and the advantage of the coping is that there is no rainfall. The trees are flooded several times during the season."

"Are the existing trees the same that were planted forty years ago?"

"The roots of many are the same, though they have been cut back. As to the cemented wall, one great advantage is that there are no earwigs, because there are no places to harbour them. As you see, the trees are tied back on to galvanised wire, the wire being a good inch off the wall."

"The galvanised wire does not kill the trees?"

"No; and another point is that tying does not take half so long as nailing. One man tying on a cemented wall will do as much as four men nailing on an ordinary brick wall. I do not think that this aspect of the system is sufficiently appreciated. But the saving of labour is really an important consideration."

"Supposing that anyone wished to adopt the system, do you consider that the cost of cementing a wall would be subsequently defrayed by the increase in the crops?"

"In ten years the crops will repay the original outlay. During the seventeen years I have been here we have only missed two crops. Of course, we feed well. Feeding well is indispensable to secure a big crop. We do not thin much."

"When do you put the nets up?"

"As soon as the trees begin to set; and we take the nets off as soon as we think that there is no further danger of frost."

"There is another point. When do you begin tying?"

"The trees are taken clean away from the wall about the end of the year, and as soon as the buds begin to show we begin to tie them."

"What varieties are represented on the cemented wall?"

"Violette Hative, Royal George, Crimson Galande, Dymond's, Hale's Early, and Barrington. In addition to other advantages, a cemented wall will last far longer than an ordinary wall, which gets eaten out."

"You grow a row of Potatoes under the Peaches?"

"Yes, Sutton's Ashleaf. They do exceedingly well."

Mr. Kemp here suggested that we should next inspect the Peaches under glass, and then proceed to the pleasure grounds. Just outside one of the Peach houses was a striking specimen of Camellia, which Mr. Kemp informed me has been in the open since 1893, without protection of any kind, and has this year been smothered with flowers, almost every point having two buds."

"When were the Nectarines planted?" I asked, as we passed into one of the houses.

"In 1888. The varieties are Lord Napier, Pineapple, Downton Improved, and Humboldt. We also have Rivers' Early Orange. Both the Nectarine and Peach houses were built in December, 1887, and the trees planted in March, 1888. The varieties in the different Peach houses are Stirling Castle, Royal George, Princess of Wales, and Crimson Galande."

"Do the Crimson Galande thrive with you?"

"For the last fourteen years the fruit has been about three inches apart. You cannot kill a Crimson Galande tree by heavy cropping. The variety has not the best flavour, but it is a very good Peach, a free cropper, and of robust habit. Princess of Wales is a great favourite in the month of August. It is a rare grower; we have gathered fruit sixteen inches round."

On our way to the mansion, close to a pretty Apple orchard, with abundance of flower, we passed a charming Rose border.

"The plan pursued in the border," said Mr. Kemp, "is to grow twenty-four plants of one kind together, in a line, and the principal varieties are Baron Rothschild, A. K. Williams, Mrs. John Laing, Ulrich Brunner, and Duke of Edinburgh."

Then, noting a comfortable bothy, at the entrance to the kitchen garden, we made our way

across the undulating park, with the spire of the historic Stoke Pogis church in view, to the beds in front of the stately mansion. Here were Wallflowers (yellow and Sutton's Blood-red), Forget-me-nots, and Arabis, the principle being to have a few colours only. At the end of May the spring bedding is cleared away, and gives place to the summer bedding.

"It must take a quantity of plants to fill the conservatory?" I observed, as we entered that spacious and lofty building.

"Yes, our greatest display is during the Chrysanthemum season, from October to the end of January."

"How many do you grow?"

"From a thousand to thirteen hundred of all varieties. We grow a selection rather than a large number of varieties, though we have most of the principal sorts. Three good late ones are Hinge's White, Princess Victoria (a splendid white), and Lincoln (yellow)."

"You go in considerably for Clivias?"

"We always call them Imantophyllums. There are about fifty plants, and we flower them in two batches. We can put them almost anywhere. They are usually kept dry and cool until a month before they flower. If they have, say, sixty degrees of heat, before the buds open, the flowers will have more colour than otherwise."

"I notice that the walls are covered with Camellias?"

"Yes, we like them for the sake of the dark green foliage. A quantity of Asparagus Sprengeri is grown in baskets."

"But the feature of the conservatory are the Callas?"

"They have been. The Callas of Stoke Park are rather famous. We grow about two hundred plants, and cut from the beginning of November until the end of May."

"What do you do with the plants when they are removed from here?"

"They are put in a sheltered place out of doors for two or three days. Then we plant them all out until September, after which they are potted up. By this system a good deal of labour is saved, and the strongest possible growth is obtained. Many people allow the growth to get too far advanced before the plants are potted up in the autumn, but we carefully avoid that mistake."

On the south-west front of the mansion is a pond with a fountain, the red fish and white Lilies forming a pleasing contrast in the season. In the lovely Long Walk the immense quantity of Rhododendrons coming into flower is a picture; and here, too, are many fine specimen trees, and large Rose beds of mixed varieties. With a glance at "Sampson slaying the Lion," which was moved from the park into the pleasure grounds some two years ago, we paused to look at a plantation of Azaleas, and Mr. Kemp mentioned that he cut Azaleas from early in December until May under glass. After flowering, he keeps them in heat in order to make growth, gradually hardens them off, and plants out of doors in pots, plunging them into ashes for the summer. This has been done for ten years. Near the Azaleas a sloping shrubbery has been cleared out, and steps made of grass to do away with the banks, the effect being admirable. In fact, the numerous openings in the grounds are a constant source of delight, the most notable, perhaps, being the Windsor view from the summer-house. The trees are cut twice in the season, and, on a clear day, Windsor Castle, nearly five miles distant, seems close at hand. The Azalea Walk is another fascinating spot; and a recent addition is a border of plants bright with flowers, made in February in lieu of a shrubbery. The only ornamentation at the entrance to the mansion consists of some massive gates. As we returned to the kitchen garden to inspect the rest of the houses, Mr. Kemp pointed out that only annuals and herbaceous plants are grown in the borders.

"Before I proceed with further questions, perhaps you would tell me the acreage of the park and gardens?" I said.

"The park is upwards of three hundred acres, the pleasure grounds about nine, and the kitchen garden and Apple orchard eight acres."

"You devote an entire bed in the kitchen garden to Border Carnations?"

"Yes, there are thirteen hundred plants in that bed. We pot up all the layers in September or October, keep them in 4-in. pots in cold frames, and plant them some time in March, according to the weather, growing them in the same bed year after year. Every second or third year we trench the soil, and leave it ridged for the winter. The chief varieties are Raby Castle, Mrs. Reynolds Hole, Duchess of Fife, Dundas Scarlet, and Mrs. Meux, a nice white which keeps well together."

"How many Malmaisons and Tree Carnations do you grow?"

"Between four and five hundred every year. The house, which is now full of Carnations, contained Begonia Gloire de Lorraine from October until the first week in May."

"You have a nice lot of Gloxinias?"

"About four hundred. As a rule, Gloxinias do very well here. They are all seedlings."

"The foliage is very fine?"

"Gloxinias are easy to grow. They need a humid atmosphere until the flowers begin to open, and then it should be a little drier. We have some of the spotted varieties as well as the self colours."

At this stage we reached the Amaryllis house, and even in the second week in May there were still some magnificent flowers—sufficient, at all events, to enable me to form an opinion of the fine sight they presented when they were at their best.

"How many plants have flowered this year?" I asked.

"About three hundred and fifty. We have quite a thousand in varying stages. Every plant in this house has been grown on from seed which we have ripened. We started our collection from Veitch's hybrids in 1893, and have kept on cross-breeding and fertilising the plants."

"All colours seem to be represented?"

"I think that they are, especially scarlet, crimson, crimson and white, pink and white. The most notable varieties are Mrs. Bryant (scarlet), Polly (scarlet and white), Colonel de Lisle (deep red and white), and Her Majesty (heavy crimson and white)."

"Do you care to say anything about cultivation?"

"Only that it is very important not to overwater the plants; they are often spoilt by overwatering. I may also say that the plants here are never subjected to bottom heat, and that I believe in repotting after the plants have done flowering. They should make up their form and flower before they go to rest. While they are resting, frost should be carefully excluded."

"When did you last exhibit Amaryllis at the Royal Horticultural Society's Show?"

"In 1901. On that occasion I had a plant with sixty-one blooms open. None of the plants had less than about forty blooms. I always fertilise these plants myself."

"Do you still grow the Achimenes and Aulicas?"

"Yes. They are all planted out in a bed of soil, and we get a quantity of flowers from them in December, January, and February especially."

"What else do you have in this house?"

"Primulas. We have between four and five hundred, and I can honestly say that we grow them well. Sutton's Giant Pink is one of the best. We have discarded the obconica variety, but grow the stellata largely—also a few of the mixed varieties. The white stellata Primula is so light and elegant, and stands much longer than the larger flowers."

"How about bedding Begonias?"

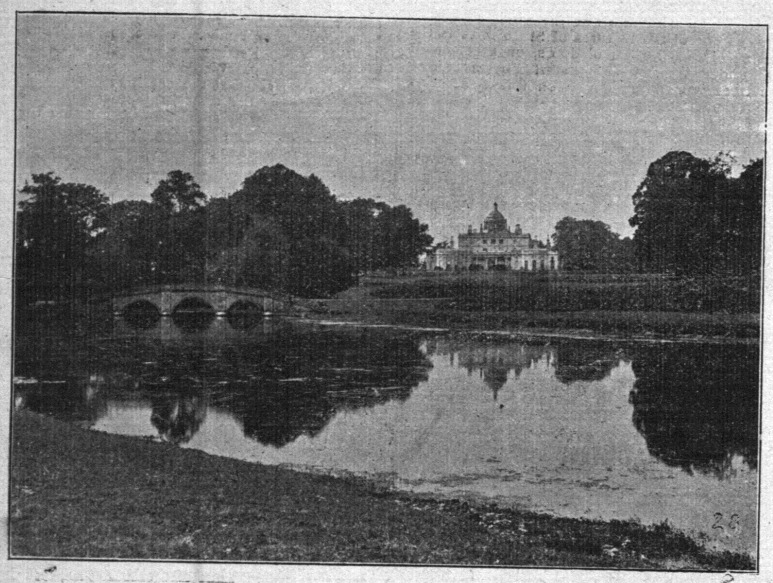
"We only fill one or two beds with them, but we go in strongly for Geraniums, and have a good batch of Pelargoniums. Winter-flowering Begonias are rather a feature. We take them from the frames, and put them out in a sheltered place all through the summer, plunging the pots into ashes. Then, we bring them in as we want them to flower."

"You force Strawberries in the Tomato house?"

"Yes, Royal Sovereign, Auguste Nicaise, Veitch's Perfection, and Vicomtesse Hericart de Thury. The principal varieties of Tomatoes are Sutton's Perfection, Golden Queen, and Prince of Wales."

"And Melons and Cucumbers?"

"Our mainstay so far as Melons are concerned consists of five varieties, Sutton's Superlative, Sutton's A 1, Windsor Castle, Hero of Lockinge, and Monarch. Of Cucumbers the four best are Telegraph, Tender and True, Purley Park Hero, and Lockie's Perfection."



STOKE PARK, SLOUGH.

"Do you go in largely for Orchids?"

"No, we have a nice batch of Cattleyas and Dendrobiums in the stove. Here also we grow a number of Caladiums."

"Yes, indeed, you have one of the finest collections I have seen."

"We have the best varieties in cultivation. They are not difficult to grow. After we have done with them we stow them under the stage, never allowing the pots that contain the bulbs to get dust dry in winter."

"How many Vineries are there?"

"Four. As you see, one is devoted to Muscats. In the second the varieties are Gros Colman, Alicante, and Lady Downes, planted about twelve years ago. The third is limited to Hamburgh, and one of Foster's Seedling."

"They are looking well?"

"My opinion about Vines is that if you get a good, large leaf, with some substance, the rest will follow. The fourth house has Muscats only, planted a year ago, which have made excellent growth."

In the last house we entered, one of considerable size, were Figs and Beans.

"We have had a splendid lot of Beans this season," observed Mr. Kemp. "The varieties are Old Canadian Wonder and Sutton's Dwarf Forcing."

"You have one very fine Fig tree?"

"That tree was only moved into this house in February. We took it out of a 6-in. pot to start with, when I came here. It is Brown Turkey, which is the surest of the varieties."

"Do you also grow Brown Turkey in pots?"

"Yes, and also Negro Largo, Bourjassotte Grise, Black Marseilles, Violette Sepor, and White Marseilles. The Figs in pots are quite new."

"Have you any specialities in fruit or vegetables out of doors further than the Peaches?"

"Strawberries and Peas are very important items; and we have been cutting from our Asparagus beds for twenty-four years."

"There are many other questions I should like to ask, but time will only allow me to add one. Before you came to Stoke Park, seventeen years ago, had you enjoyed much experience in this part of England?"

"My last appointment was that of head gardener at Coolhurst Park, Hersham. I was there about three years. Previously, I was on the other side of the Border—four years at Dunlop House, Ayrshire, and seven years at Langlee House, Galashiels. I did a great deal of showing at Hersham, but not much in Scotland."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 96.—MALMAISON CARNATIONS AND WINDOW-BOXES.

DEAR KATE,—I hope you have some Malmaison Carnations in your greenhouse, for their great, lovely blossoms are the most perfect buttonholes possible, and so daintily sweet. One of our Duchesses is said to wear a bunch of these flowers all the year round. I am sure this is a mistake, for the charm of variety is great, and there are so many exquisite Rose-buds, Border Carnations, Violets, Narcissi, and heaps of other flowers, which all claim attention in their due season, that even Malmaison Carnations should sometimes give way to them. But when these blossoms open their buds naturally at this time, they are certainly unique; but, unfortunately, they are "miffy" things to grow, and one needs to be well up in their likes and dislikes to keep them in good health.

Never trust a boy to water your Malmaisons in winter, or you will rue it, for most boys pour water into every pot indiscriminately, and this is death to these plants, which need to be kept almost dry (as well as cool) at that time, and will certainly go out of health if over-watered. But then, of course, they must not be allowed to droop, and if you tell your boy not to water them at all, they will be killed that way. I cut the Gordian knot by putting them by themselves, near the glass, in a cool Vinery (with a crack of air always open, for they cannot bear stuffiness), and watering them myself, only when the soil is quite dry, though then I give enough tepid water to run through the whole of the roots. Another point in their cultivation is that they must never have dead leaves left on them, as these often start mildew, or "spot disease," a terrible trouble to them, which must end in burning the whole collection if allowed to spread. A sharp pair of scissors is the best implement to cut off every failing leaf close to the stalk, and all blights must be kept off the plants at all times. My plants are now just opening their buds, and looking very healthy; directly after they have blossomed they will be given a shift into pots two inches larger across than the last, with excellent drainage (covered with moss dipped in soot), and a compost of rich loam two parts, to one of leaf-mould, with a little sharp sand and soot, as well as a handful of charcoal in small lumps to each pot, and we always take care that the compost is free from insects, for it is charred over the fire before using it, to kill all germs, or else mixed some weeks beforehand, and kept till quite dry. But a little water is stirred into it before the plants are potted on (for it should be moist, though not very wet), and the ball of roots must not be broken (only the drainage and the surface soil removed), but made firm in the clean pot. The plants then stand out of doors in the sunshine all the summer, and make fine growth; but you should take them in before the heavy autumnal rain sets in, and keep them, at all times, from being soaked when already wet, though they need more water than usual during the spring, when they are making their buds. Mercia, in salmon-pink, is a specially fine one; Prime Minister, in scarlet, too, is good, and Princess May.

CHOISYA TERNATA AS A POT PLANT.

The best way to propagate them is to layer the shoots of an old plant each into a small pot directly after flowering. We turn the plant out of its pot to do this, into a border (or they can be covered with a frame), and the little plants, when rooted, are cut off from the parent plant, and shifted on as they require more room. This is a better plan than layering them into the border, because it avoids any check to the roots in potting them up, and all checks to growth are injurious to these Carnations. Slips can be struck, too, in the spring, each in a small pot by itself, but they are not easy to manage.

The big bush of Choisya ternata (Mexican Orange), which I have before mentioned as so useful for the bridal bouquets of the village maidens, is now extraordinarily full of bloom, every spray carrying dozens of blossoms. Besides this shrub, we have the Choisya as a pot plant in the centre of south-west window-box, a lovely little plant, of which I send you a photograph. We layer the lower shoots of the older shrub into pots in the autumn, and pot them up singly the following October. They make charming plants for forcing, in the conservatory, for sheltered window boxes in winter, or for a cold greenhouse or porch; in fact, one can't have too many of them, and they can be grown from cuttings also, put in under a frame in September. Their orange-scent is delicious, and the shining, handsome foliage very distinct. This plant is quite as hardy as a Laurestinus, and we have had very gay window-boxes all the spring with both shrubs, and bulbs (Tulips, Narcissus, Hyacinths, and Crocuses), planted between the pots. The neat little Aucubas, covered with carmine berries, too, looked very well; but these are now standing close to the pollen-bearing Aucuba (the male plant, with smaller leaves), in the garden, to ensure the fertilisation of their flowers, for the Aucuba is diœcious, *i.e.*, it bears its separate male and female flowers each on a different plant. When we take these pots out of the window-box in April, we fill up the gaps with handsome dwarf Wallflowers, just as these open their buds, and, as we give them plenty of water, they don't mind this change at all. But they are taken up with care not to shake the soil off their roots; and you can cover the front of the spring window-box with Forget-me-nots in the same way, after the Crocuses are over. The shrubs can be given a shift in either spring or autumn (but are kept in the smallest pots we can give them for convenience of lifting, etc.), and they stand in the open air in full sunshine all the summer, keeping them well watered (and giving them liquid manure, too, occasionally, if they have not been repotted); they are then in bud, or berry, by the time we want them again for the window-boxes, in October.

Of course, we shall put in the summer flowers now—Heliotropes, Ivy-leaved Pelargoniums, Petunias, Fuchsias, and foliage plants, with a Palm in the centre of each box, for nothing looks better; but Palms need a great quantity of water in summer, and, in fact, all the plants in the window-boxes now will be watered thoroughly every day, and sprinkled again at night in hot weather. Especially in a city do plants in such a position need plenty of water, for the air becomes intensely dry, and the reflected heat from the buildings exhausts the plants unless they are well supplied; besides which the window-box must be planted very thickly, so that the roots of each plant have but little room. You will find it a good plan to give them a soaking of soot-water twice a week, in a clear, thin state; I forget whether you know how to make this useful stimulant for plants. Just put a potful of chimney soot into a little linen bag (such as your cook gets the pastry-flour in), tie it up, giving the soot room to move inside, and then drop it into a large pan of water. You only use the water surrounding the bag, and this quite thin and clear; but you can go on adding fresh water for six weeks or more, stirring the bag round in this with a stick when necessary.

Your friend,

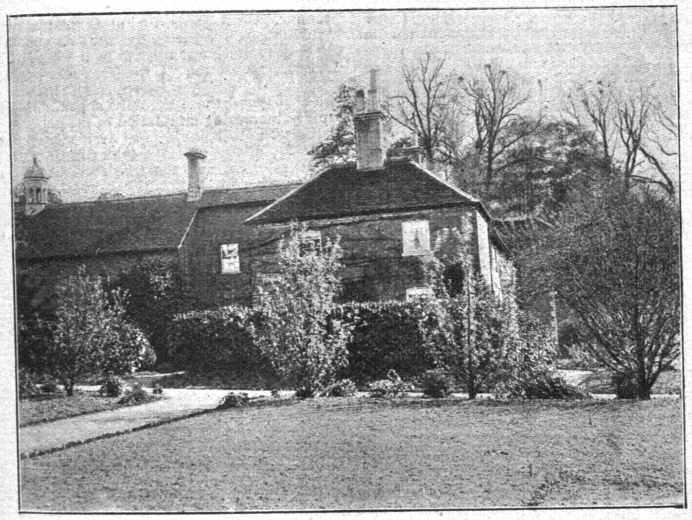
I.L.R.

else by earwigs, which must be trapped and destroyed. The spiders will do no harm whatever.—ED.

CACTI FROM SEED, ETC.—I would esteem it a great favour if you would give instructions in your paper on the raising and growing of Cacti from seeds and cuttings. I have a window with east-south-east aspect, in which I could make and fit a small glass case, if it would be of any use to grow the above plants; also one with the opposite aspect, both unheated rooms, also a kitchen window that gets an hour's sunshine now. What Cacti could I raise in a case from seed? I should like them to bloom, and how long would they be in growing? (A. Jones, Crewe.)———This is a comparatively simple matter, the chief difficulty likely to be met with being to obtain the seed. Seed of mixed kinds is to be had from some of the leading dealers in such things, but that of special varieties, with one or two exceptions, is scarce. When procured the seed should be sown in pots of light, sandy soil—about equal parts of loam, leaf-soil (or peat), sand, and crushed mortar will do nicely—with free drainage. Place a piece of glass over each pot, and keep the soil only just moist until the seed has germinated. The best time to sow is in April, in heat, but in a window the present is as good a time as any, but do it at once. It is hardly necessary to have a case, except, perhaps, to raise and keep the young plants in until they become fairly strong, but a very small affair would do for this. All the Cacti like plenty of sun, and though the east-south-east aspect would be all right, the other would be almost too shady, and an hour's sun per day is not sufficient. Any of the numerous kinds may be raised from seed, but as a rule the varieties of Cereus are the most showy. Cuttings are easily struck, and should be inserted in well-drained pots of sandy soil (as above), placing them in the sun, and watering only when really necessary. Seedlings take from three to five or more years before blooming, as a rule.—ED.

SLUGS AND WORMS.—I noticed in this week's GARDEN LIFE the reference to the destruction of slugs and snails by putting dripping on Cabbage leaves, and I tried the experiment with success. I placed them on the ground near the plants I thought were not getting on well, and the first night I caught sixteen slugs and three snails. But when searching for them with a candle, I was surprised to find the ground covered with very large worms. Would you kindly inform me in your next issue if, when in such large numbers, they are detrimental to the success of the garden plants? (J. Hersant.)———The presence of such a large number of worms in the soil is not desirable, for, though they do a certain amount of good, they indicate a sour condition of the soil, and disturb the roots of the plants as well, to some extent. Get some quicklime, in fine powder, and dust it freely all over the ground at night, when the creatures are lying about. If repeated occasionally this will soon reduce their numbers, and benefit the soil and growth of the plants as well.—ED.

PRUNING A PLUM TREE.—Many thanks for previous answers. Couldn't do without your journal now, and the "Gardener's Diary" I find very useful. Last autumn I planted a dwarf Plum (Victoria), trained; it is growing very fast. Please tell me if I should take off any of the new shoots, which are now over a foot long, and a great many of them? (Cricklewood.)———Yes, this exuberant growth must be reduced, certainly, but do not do it all at once, but by degrees, so as to avoid imparting a check to the tree. A number of the weaker and worst-placed shoots should be cut out altogether, where much crowded, leaving just enough to furnish the tree well, or rather more, for the present. Any of those that grow more strongly than the rest should have their points pinched out.—ED.



THE GARDENER'S HOUSE AT STOKE PARK, SLOUGH.

ASPIDISTRA BLOOMING.—I should be much obliged if you can tell me how often an Aspidistra blooms (E.B., Tottenham).———Only once a year—in the early spring, as a rule, from February till April.—ED.

SEVERAL QUESTIONS.—Many thanks for last week's useful information. (1) Will you kindly tell me if I purchased a plant of Clematis montana (I believe that is the white kind, is it not?) now, would that be grown sufficiently by next spring to bloom, and what sort of treatment does it require when planting? (2) I have just raised some seedlings of Marguerite Carnations—will they winter out in this locality, as I have not any indoor convenience, and wish to partly stock my garden with things that would winter out? (3) In last week's GARDEN LIFE I see it stated that there is rather a difficulty in getting seeds of Doronicum austriacum; if I purchased some plants, would this be a good time, or, if not, please say when? (4) I planted some Strawberry plants about a fortnight ago, but find they could be put in another place where they would get more sun. When could I remove them? (5) How far should Chrysanthemums be apart? I have some planted down one side of the garden, but am afraid they are too close—they are about a foot apart; they were young, rooted cuttings. Kindly tell me, if too close, when I should move them. They have been in a month, and seem all growing. I do not want to stop them flowering this autumn (Amateur, Weymouth).———(1) Clematis montana is the name of the rather small, pure white, fragrant species that is now blooming. If you plant a good, strong example at once, and keep it duly supplied with water, it will flower to some extent next spring. It is only necessary to plant firmly in good, loamy soil, into which a little manure has been worked, but take care to spread the roots out a little, and not leave them in a solid mass. (2) There is very little doubt about this; in your mild and favoured locality the plants would be almost sure to come through the winter safely, especially if there is a little shelter; they are very hardy. (3) It is rather late to plant such things as this, as they are in full growth, but if you could get some nice small plants, and keep them watered, etc., till established, they may do well, and would flower next season. Perhaps it would be better to leave it till the early autumn, however—September is a good month. (4) Move these at once, taking them up carefully, with a trowel, and plenty of soil on the roots. (5) From eighteen inches to two feet apart for young plants, and more in proportion for large, old plants, or clumps; a foot is too close. Transplant them at once, using a trowel.—ED.

YELLOW AND BLUE FLOWERS FOR A GREENHOUSE.—"S.C." would be much obliged for the names of yellow and blue flowers that could be grown in a cool greenhouse during the summer months.———There are plenty of yellow-flowering plants to choose from, including Calceolarias, both herbaceous and shrubby, Begonias (tuberous), Lantanas, Abutilons, Marguerites, Roses, and Bouvardia flavescens. The yellow-flowering Celosias are also very handsome, and remain in beauty a long time. Of blue flowers there are not so many, but Plumbago capensis, Heliotropes, Agathæa cœlestis (the blue Marguerite), Ageratums, and Coleus thrysoideus are all useful, and Phacelia campanularia grown in pots is very effective. Leschenaultia biloba is a lovely blue flower, but rather difficult of management.—ED.

MANURE AND DAHLIAS.—(1) If I have a load of stable manure placed in an odd corner, and allowed to stay there during the summer, would it be suitable for dressing a lawn in autumn, or would the nourishment be washed out by the six months' exposure? (2) Can cuttings taken from Dahlias in the early spring be rooted in an ordinary greenhouse, where no heat is employed beyond sufficient to keep out frost, or is a bottom heat indispensable? If they can be so rooted, would they be forward enough to bloom the same summer? (A. G. Endacott, Southend-on-Sea.)———(1) There is no possible objection to doing as you propose, and if the heap is rounded or sloped at the top, so as to throw off any heavy rains, very little of the nutriment contained in the manure will be lost. We prefer, however, to top-dress lawns in the spring rather than in the autumn. (2) It is impossible to root cuttings of these plants in a cool house in the early spring, without bottom heat, but by the middle or end of April, when the sun has more power, it may be done, with care, the best way being to place the cutting-pots in a small frame, or box, covering them with glass, and shading from hot sun. If rooted by the middle of May, or thereabouts, they will flower the same year, more or less.—ED.

LILACS NOT FLOWERING.—In our garden, which is of considerable size, we have about half a dozen Lilacs that have been planted five or six years, and none of them have flowered yet. Can you tell me the reason—they all get the morning sun, and I think the soil is good? (D. A. Whitaker, Haslingden.)———It is somewhat difficult to define the failure of these plants to flower. If they make a good growth, and receive enough sun to ripen this properly, they can hardly fail to bloom. Try the effect of a good

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Kemp, Edward (1817–1891), *landscape gardener*
by Janet Waymark
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Kemp, Edward (1817–1891), landscape gardener, was born at Streatham, Surrey, on 25 September 1817 and baptized at the Independent chapel, Tooting, on 26 October, the son of Charles Kemp (*b*. 1785/6), tailor, and his wife, Ann. During the 1830s he was a garden apprentice alongside Edward Milner under Joseph Paxton, superintendent of the gardens at Chatsworth in Derbyshire. Kemp and Milner learned about planting an arboretum and a pinetum, how to construct a massive rockery that appeared to be natural, how to install a fountain, and the importance of greenhouses to a large estate.

Along with Paxton and Milner, Kemp became a leader in park and garden design in mid-Victorian England. As part of the movement to provide green recreational spaces for industrial populations, Birkenhead's improvement commissioners had obtained a private bill empowering them to use public funds to build and maintain a public park across the River Mersey from Liverpool's expanding boundaries. Between 1842 and 1845 the park was planned by Paxton who, from 1843, entrusted its development to Kemp, making him head gardener (superintendent), a post he held for forty years.

Birkenhead Park was drained by the creation of two lakes, and the spoil was artfully contrived to look like low hills around the lakes, which, with their islands, helped to provide views across the water. The hills were made craggy with stone from the excavation of the lakes, and trees were planted to separate the views; all the additions gave a feeling of the park as a ‘natural’ phenomenon. A plan of about 1845 shows sinuous paths, as John Claudius Loudon used, winding around the outer rim of the park, with shrubs and trees at the junctions of the paths as well as the boundary. Showy flowering plants were recommended by Kemp round the park borders. There were large areas of grassland in the centre, which could be used for sport. These features were to be repeated in other parks by Kemp, and Birkenhead Park was sufficiently influential to attract visits in 1850 and 1859 from F. L. Olmsted, the American designer of Central Park, New York. When the park was opened in 1847 both cricket and archery had been introduced, and Kemp was later to oversee the introduction of further sports, including football in 1861. Paid £1000 a year for the park's maintenance, he lived in a lodge in the park, so that he could manage and protect it, with his wife, Sophia (1817/18–1887), daughter of Henry Bailey of Croydon, whom he had married on 5 September 1845.

Kemp's work at Birkenhead led to further commissions. He made a flower garden in 1849 for James Barratt in Warrington, followed by others for Samuel Job at Aigburth near Liverpool and for Sir Edward Smythe near Shrewsbury in 1851. Kemp's flower gardens were made on the sunniest sides of a house, and were to be simple and symmetrical, with beds divided by grass, gravel, box or stone. Sunny sites were for rose gardens, with ferneries where it was shady. Kemp designed winter gardens and American gardens, water features with dams and islands, and planned summerhouses, greenhouses, and statuary in appropriate positions.

In 1850 Kemp produced the first of three editions of *How to Lay Out a Small Garden*, referring in its preface to the 'humanising and elevating influence about everything that is really beautiful, whether in Art or Nature' (p. vi), which would cheer and benefit the observer, and, of course, the owner of the estate. On reaching its second edition (1858) it was hailed as 'the best book on pure garden design in the English language', though 'it may not always be able to endorse Mr Kemp's opinions' (*Gardeners' Chronicle*, 19 June 1858, 496). The book's third edition (1864) set out his division of the styles of landscape gardening into three: 'the old formal or geometrical style, the mixed, middle or irregular style, which Mr. Loudon called the gardenesque; and the picturesque' (p. 91). In fact Loudon's term was intended to mean the making of a style that separated art from nature, giving garden plants space to develop their own distinctive characteristics, and where natural features were set apart from man-made ones. Kemp interpreted his mixed or irregular style as 'a blending of Art with Nature', with rounded lines and no irregularity. Kemp's third style was only in part influenced by Uvedale Price's *Essay on the Picturesque*; Kemp saw it as harsh and angular, with wildness, ruggedness, broken ground and dashing water. But he agreed with Price in his condemnation of clumps and lines of similar trees, which Lancelot Brown had introduced.

Much of what Kemp had written about the 'mixed or middle' style appeared in the landscape of Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire. In the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of 1862 he wrote five articles describing the landscapes of this extraordinary garden, made by James Bateman and Edward Cooke, combining a number of themed parts including Egyptian and Chinese, with horticultural spaces such as a stumpery of upturned tree roots, flower borders, and an avenue of deodars.

Kemp's *The Parks, Gardens etc. of London and its Suburbs* (1851) was a guide to the landscape features, horticulture, and ornamental structures relevant to the garden architect, compiled from visits to eighty-one public parks, public gardens, private gardens and nurseries and florists' gardens, within a 20 mile radius of St Paul's. He noted the villas with their gardens springing up, 'some of the finest' at Roehampton, Putney Heath, and Wandsworth; the Spanish chestnut as a first-rate park tree, and the occidental plane as one of the best and most serviceable London trees in parks and squares. He remarked on the spread of London, and its 'lack of breathing places or means of open-air recreation', though he was critical of the low standard of work at Victoria Park, opened in 1845 for the large and crowded districts of Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, and Shoreditch. At Kensington Gardens he found fault with the avenues and vistas, but admired the collections of plants; and he had nothing but praise for the old-fashioned flower garden at Holland House and the specimens of old exotic trees on the lawn. His interest in plants extended to London's nurseries, which specialized in indoor exotics, among them Loddiges of Hackney, with many 'first-rate specimens' in its well-constructed orchid house.

Kemp went on to work on Anfield cemetery in Liverpool (1856), Hesketh Park in Southport (1864), Stanley Park in Liverpool (1868), and Saltwell Park in Gateshead (1876). His private commissions included the grounds of Shendish, Hertfordshire, in 1854, for Charles Longman, an 'architectural' layout of P. S. Humberston's estate at Mollington, Cheshire, in 1856, and John Naylor's pleasure grounds at Leighton Hall, Welshpool, in 1858. He also laid out part of the garden at Knightshayes in Devon in 1874, working from designs by William Burges. He retired in the 1880s, and died at Birkenhead Park, Cheshire, on 1 March 1891. His work influenced others, including Thomas Hayton Mawson, whose Hanley Park, Stoke on Trent (1897), followed Kemp's shaping of Birkenhead.

JANET WAYMARK

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Wealth at death £10,548 17*s*. 0*d*.: probate, 24 March 1891, *CGPLA Eng. & Wales*

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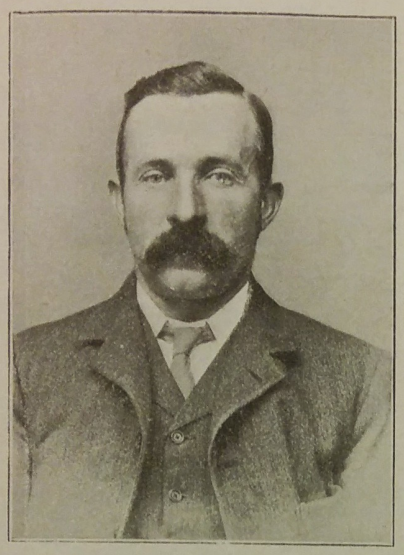
conditions, they have been extraordinarily fine. I have never seen such large plants before. Some of them carried a dozen or more flowers, almost as big as those of spring-sown Shirley Poppies. And the colours are beautiful, white and yellow and orange of every shade. I used them as a ground-covering for beds of Roses and other



MR. GEORGE KENT.

plants, but they seemed determined to show that they deserved to be regarded as more than a mere setting, and in some cases they became quite the principal feature in the picture.

The Formation of Lawns.

September 5th.—In an article on "The Care and Formation of Lawns," printed in the latest issue of the Royal Horticultural Society's journal, Mr. Martin H. F. Sutton advocates the use of seeds, and gives as his reason the difficulty of procuring really good turf. As to this difficulty, there can be no question, for turf which looks very well in a meadow is nearly always found to be coarse and weedy when it is transferred to a lawn. The usual objection to seeds is the length of time that must elapse before a good surface is obtained, but this need not be as long as is often supposed. "From a sowing of pure seed of high germinating power," says Mr. Sutton, "I have known lawns fit to play on in from eight to ten weeks from the time of sowing." He is careful to add, "I need hardly say, however, that such results are only obtainable in exceptional circumstances." But, in any case, there is no reason why good seed sown about the end of the present month should not, with proper treatment, form a good lawn in spring. Some people like Clover seed mixed with the Grass seed, others don't; Mr. Sutton thinks that it is advisable for general purposes, but not if the lawn is to be used for tennis. There is no doubt that a tennis court which contains much Clover is slower than another which does not, but, on the other hand, it stands harder wear. The occurrence of moss in old lawns is a frequent trouble, the usual cause being defective drainage, and the consequent sourness of the soil. In very bad cases there is nothing to be done, except to take up the turf, put in proper drainage, level, and either sow or re-turf. "If," says Mr. Sutton, "this is out of the question, the quality of the turf may be greatly improved by severely tearing the surface with an iron-tooth rake, to detach the moss. Such moss should be collected and destroyed by burning. A compost of fine soil, slaked lime, and well-rotted manure, sifted through a half-inch mesh sieve, and applied as a dressing, to a depth not exceeding half an inch, and followed by an application of bone-meal at the rate of four ounces to the square yard, will prove most beneficial. This should be raked carefully over, and well rolled in." It must be said, however, that if the drainage is defective, the moss is bound to appear again in course of time.

Mignonette in Tree Form.

September 6th.—The cultivation of Mignonette seems to have been nearly abandoned in England, but it is still practised in France. According to the "Jardin," seeds are sown in "thumb-pots," only the strongest seedling in each case being left to grow. They are repotted without root disturbance in July, and then sunk in ashes in a shaded frame. All laterals are removed, and at the end of August the plants are stopped, and six shoots are encouraged to grow on each, these in their turn being stopped in September, when the plants are transferred to a cool greenhouse. Under this treatment they flower from February to May.

September 7th.—Those who contemplate making rock gardens—and this is an excellent time to begin—should not forget Ferns. There are always shady corners to be filled, and nothing can fill them better than Ferns. The charming effect which may be produced by their means is admirably shown in the illustration. Here they are planted not only at the base, but also in some of the crevices higher up, and their light and dainty foliage introduces just the necessary touches of variety. H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 268.—MR. GEORGE KENT, AT THE GARDENS, NORBURY PARK, DORKING.

SITUATED in the loveliest part of Surrey, on the summit of a hill which commands a magnificent view of the surrounding country, the pleasure gardens at Norbury Park presented, on the occasion of my visit on July 20th, a scene of great beauty. I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Leopold Salomons for the opportunity of inspecting them, and to his head gardener, Mr. Kent, for the information which he freely accorded me. On my arrival we immediately made the ascent from Mr. Kent's house to the pleasure grounds, five hundred feet above sea level, passing on our way a quantity of St. John's Wort, planted in little clumps a short distance apart, the blaze of colour being very effective. The north front of the mansion is approached first. Here there is a dip down, but the outlook is charming. In this part of the grounds there is a Bamboo avenue and ornamental water, and here, too, can be seen noble specimens of Cedars and Beeches, the latter being remarkably good, as well as numerous. The "Druid's Walk," close to the flower garden, contains some of the finest Yews in the country. Near the mansion were Dracænas upwards of sixteen feet high, in tubs; and Fuchsias in vases, with Ivy-leaf Geraniums (Madame Crousse). Noticing that there is Ivy, with varieties of Ampelopsis (including Hoggii, seldom seen as a creeper), also Ceanothus azureus, and Aristolochias, on the walls of the mansion, we entered the conservatory.

The Conservatory and Fernery.

"This," said Mr. Kent, "is furnished according to the season of the year. At present it contains Hydrangeas, Fuchsias, Calycanthus, Achimenes, Palms, Ferns, and Dracænas, the roof being covered chiefly with Roses and Bignonias. As you see, the little Fernery adjoining is planted out, the wall being covered with wire netting, and the back filled in with moss and soil, Adiantums, Pteris and Asplenium Ferns and Selaginellas being the feature."

Then we made our way to the principal part of the flower garden, where a Rose bed near the croquet lawn first attracted my attention, and I asked how it was made up.

NORBURY PARK, DORKING—SOUTH FRONT.

"There are quite thirty varieties of Hybrid Perpetuals in it," rejoined Mr. Kent, "some of the best being Madame J. Laing, A. K. Williams, Madame Gabriel Luizet, Madame Cadeau Ramey, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, Duke of Edinburgh Margaret Dickson, La France, and Earl of Dufferin."

"Will you kindly run over the details of the beds on the slopes?"

"One is planted with mauve Asters, golden Privet and bronze Ricinus for dot plants; another is similar, but with white Asters; a third has Sweet Williams, golden Privet being used as a dot plant; a fourth is filled with Stocks, crimson-scarlet in the centre, and white outside; and Geranium Paul Crampel is used exclusively in a fifth."

"And produces a glowing mass of colour."

"Yes, we are fond of the scarlet. Heliotropes (Miss Willmott), edged with Ivy-leaf Geraniums, make a rather pretty bed; and in another bed we use them as dot plants, with a groundwork of scarlet Ivy-leaf Geranium and yellow Marigolds. There are two beds of mixed Violas, one with the purple greatly predominating, and a bed of mixed shrubs, containing Spiræas, golden Yews, golden Privets, Veronicas, Cornus, and Maples, with a margin of Euonymus radicans."

"The beds vary in shape considerably."

"Yes, some are pear-shaped, others round, several are oval, and others, again, are star-shaped. Here is a star-shaped bed, with scarlet Pentstemons and Salvia patens as the principal feature, edged with silver-leaf Geraniums. Just beyond is a bed of Verbenas of various colours, dotted with Harrison Musk, and no edging. There is a novel bed of mixed Begonias, and a bed of mixed flowers edged with Echeverias, with a background of Ferns, the Ferns being under a Beech tree, where they do splendidly."

OLD COTTAGE GARDEN AT NORBURY PARK.

A Very Effective Border.

"What is the length of your very effective border, with its arches of Roses, Hops, and Loniceras?"

"Three hundred feet. The arches are eleven feet high. The front row of the border consists of blue Lobelias, and the second row of silver-leaf Geraniums, the third of scarlet Nasturtiums, and the fourth of West Brighton Gem Geraniums. Behind these are such subjects as Candytuft, Petunias, Stocks, Pentstemons, Asters, Godetias, Linums, annual Rudbeckia, and Zinnias; while, taller still, are Helianthemums, Canterbury Bells, Anchusas (Dropmore variety), Sweet Peas, Mallows, Delphiniums, Dahlias, and Hollyhocks."

"You have a fountain in the centre of this flower garden?"

"Yes, and the Lilies are the best of the Marliac varieties, white, yellow, and crimson. The tubs planted in recesses contain scarlet and pink Geraniums, and Lysimachia aureum is very conspicuous against the green tubs."

Proceeding to the south front of the mansion, I commented on the view from the lawn.

"You can almost see Brighton with the naked eye on a clear day," said Mr. Kent. "On this side we have only one large bed, which is filled with one variety, such as Petunias or Funkias, with a thick, clipped band of Periwinkles, with three dot plants of golden Euonymus. These borders are always the most gay in the gardens. The varieties are much the same as in the border you have already seen, with the addition of fine-coloured golden Yews, and upwards of three hundred Geraniums five feet in height, and two hundred more two feet in height, all planted out. But now you must see the cottage garden."

The Cottage Garden.

This lovely enclosure is another of the sights of Norbury Park, the flowers in bloom being almost of endless variety.

"We endeavour," continued Mr. Kent, "to have a mass of blooms all through the summer, and for this purpose annuals and herbaceous plants are grown in great variety. Just now there are in flower, amongst others, Ageratum rosea, Antirrhinums in variety, Larkspurs, Lychnis, Linums, and blue Campanulas. But the most showy plant is, I believe, the Mallow."

"The quantity of bloom is very great. How many varieties do you grow?"

"Only the pink and white. Mallows have become very fashionable, and are much used for table decoration."

"You have a bed of mixed Zinnias looking extremely well."

"It is better to keep Zinnias in one spot when you discover the place that suits them. They have been in this bed for four or five years. In front of the summer-house, under the shadow of big Box trees, are golden Calceolarias, and these will be succeeded by the yellow Cornflower."

Lingering here a little, and noting a row of Cactus Dahlias coming on, we passed the dog cemetery, with the Japanese Wineberry growing above, and further on Mr. Kent called my attention to a bed in which he is trying to establish the smallest Rose grown in France. It is called Prosper de Meax, is a pretty pink in colour, and of most fragrant perfume.

"How large are the pleasure grounds?" I asked, as we commenced our descent to the kitchen gardens.

"About fifteen acres, and the kitchen garden with an orchard is about five and a half acres."

Flowers in the Kitchen Garden.

"You have a number of flowers here," I said, as we entered the walled-in portion of the kitchen garden, with grass paths in the centre and all round.

"Yes, and they are mostly grown for cutting. The plants in the centre walk, which is three hundred feet long, include Eschscholtzias, Delphiniums, Campanulas, Gypsophilas, Solidagos, Phloxes, Stenactis, and early-flowering Chrysanthemums. For decorating the luncheon table, Eschscholtzias are most effective. We also use Shirley Poppies, and the single scarlet Poppies, with mixed Ribbon Grass, for the same purpose. Other flowers grown in the borders, but not used for cutting, are Canterbury Bells, Œnotheras, Ageratums, and Anchusas."

"Do you go in largely for Chrysanthemums?"

"There are three hundred seedlings. Amongst good Japanese are F. S. Vallis, Edith Smith, Norman Davis, Mrs. A. H. Lee, Miss Elsie Miller, Miss Dorothy Oliver, Mr. W. Knox, Reginald Vallis, Mr. A. T. Miller, Algernon Davis, Miss M. Ware, Mrs. E. Thirwall, President Vigor, Godfrey's King, Duchess of Sutherland, Le Grand Dragon, Madame G. Rivol, Madame P. Radaelli, and Mr. L. Evans. For bush use, and quantities of flower, we grow Flora, Lizzie Adcock, Tuckswood White, Source d'Or, Goacher's Crimson, Yellow Elaine, Miss A. Byron, Allman's Yellow, Horace Martin, Sœur Melaine, Ryecroft Glory, Mrs. Winkfield, and Soleil d'Octobre."

"I should like to know the varieties of Fuchsias."

"Lady Heytesbury, Rose of Castille, Lustre, General Rebuts, Swanley Gem, Mrs. Marshall, Red and White, etc. For summer bedding, altogether we grow about twenty thousand plants."

"Do you also go in largely for spring bedding?"

"It is not a very great feature, but we grow a good many red and yellow Wallflowers, Forget-me-nots, Silene compacta, Aubrietias, Alyssum saxatile compacta, crimson Daisies, Tulips and Crocuses."

Strawberries in Quantity.

"Shall we discuss some of the outside fruit next?"

"Just as you prefer."

"I suggest this because outside the Peach houses you have such a quantity of Strawberries."

"In addition to these, there is a batch under the north wall of late varieties, British Queen, Bedford Champion, and Givon's Late Prolific, which we grow largely. Under the Peach house we are trying, in small lots, Lord Kitchener, Veitch's Prolific, President Loubet, The Laxton, Scarlet Queen, Laxton's Monarch, British Queen, Leader, Sir J. Paxton, Dr. Hogg, Viscountess, St. Antoine de Padoue, Waterloo, Laxton's Perpetual, and Louis Gauthier. For main crop, for preserving and forcing, we grow Royal Sovereign largely. But Bedford Champion is also quite a success in forcing."

"Do you grow the Alpines?"

"Yes, and occasionally a basket is much appreciated. It ripens with the main crop. Laxton's Latest is one of the finest Strawberries for flavour, for appearance, and for packing. British Queen is good in flavour, but not so good in size or appearance. Our principle in Strawberry culture is to grow all the varieties side by side, for a couple of years, giving them the same treatment, and weeding out those we like least. As we are close to the Peach houses, we might as well, perhaps, take them now; and also the Vineries."

Peach Houses and Vineries.

"In one of the two Peach houses we have Royal George, Exquisite, Noblesse, Walburton Admirable, and Gladstone, the fruit of the last being exceptionally large. The Nectarines are Cardinal, Rivers' Orange, Early Rivers, and Humboldt, which is specially good. In the second house are Peaches Gros Mignonne, and Nectarine Cardinal."

"You have Tomatoes in pots on one of the stages."

"Yes, Lister's Prolific, which we grow inside and out of doors. We tried seven or eight varieties last year, and find this to be the best. The pots are used for Seakale first, and then for Tomatoes."

"How many Vineries are there?"

"Three; one is entirely filled with Hamburghs, another with Hamburghs, Madresfield Court, and Buckland's Sweetwater. The borders are all outside. The late Vinery has the same varieties, and, in addition, Gros Colmar, Gros Mignonne, and Black Alicante. In this Vinery, Smilax is coming on."

"When did you bring the plants into the house?"

"After they had two months' rest in the potting shed. They are brought into leaf here, and do much better than if planted in borders. I have cut pieces thirty feet long in December and January."

"Are there any other glasshouses?"

"Yes, there is the orchard house, where we grow late Peaches, Nectarines, Plums, Cherries, and Figs. The Peaches are the same as the others, with Dymond added, and the Nectarines with Spencer. The Cherries are Governor Wood, and the Plums, planted in the borders in front, are Kirke's, Jefferson's, Washington, Golden Drop, Transparent Gage, Sultan, The Czar, Denniston's Superb, Old Greengage, and Kirke's Blue."

"What a splendid display of Œnotheras you have near the Vineries."

"It may interest you to know that four years ago we had only a single plant; now we have upwards of three hundred, all taken from one young eye. The average height is two feet, and the plants are in flower from the middle of July to the end of August."

"Is there anything special in the stove?"

"Some Gloxinias and seedling Coleus; also a collection of Orchids, including Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, and Calanthes."

"Near here you have a lot of Roses."

"They are grown for cutting, and also the Border Carnations further on. Sweet Peas are in clumps of one variety each."

"What varieties of Border Carnations do you prefer?"

"Lady St. Oswald, Pink Beauty, Miss M. Hemmell, Mrs. Muir, Old Clove, Raby Castle, Picotee, and Barcelona, a new one imported from Spain."

Hardy Fruit.

Continuing our inspection of the kitchen garden, Mr. Kent said:

"We also grow, in addition to the Cherries inside, Flemish, The Noble, Bigarreau Napoleon, Old Black Heart, Black Eagle, May Duke, Frogmore Bigarreau, Bigarreau Schreken, and Early Rivers. Morella Cherries do well on the north wall. The Plums outside include Victoria, Pond's Seedling, Jefferson's, Bryanston Gage, Rivers' Monarch, and others."

"And outside Peaches and Nectarines, of which I see you have a large crop?"

"Goshawk, Gros Mignonne, Royal George, and Barrington Peaches; Lord Napier and Dryden Nectarines. There is a heavy crop on the Apricot wall, Moor Park being much the finest variety. The crops of Raspberries and Gooseberries have been unusually heavy. Of the former we grow Superlative, Norwich Wonder, and Falstaff. The Loganberry does well with us. White Dutch, Red Dutch, Black Naples, and Black Grape Currants are grown. All fruit is netted."

"Apples are grown in various forms."

"On bushes and cordons. We have about thirty varieties, and the principal sorts are Sturmer Pippin, Fearn's Pippin, Hormead Pearmain, Lady Henniker, Allington Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Adam's Pearmain, King of Pippins, Margil, Emperor Alexandra, American Mother, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Ribston Pippin, Baumann's Reinette, King of Tompkin's County, Gascoigne's Scarlet, Beauty of Kent, Claygate Pearmain, James Grieve, Worcester Pearmain, Lady Sudeley, and Beauty of Bath. We are making an experiment in Apples."

The Spitzenburg Apple.

"May I know the nature of it?"

"Two years ago some Apples were sent here from New York, bearing the name of Spitzenburg. I was much struck with these Apples, and I sent to the mansion, for dessert, the worst specimens of it, with the best specimens of Cox's Orange Pippin and Blenheim Orange under a number, asking if the guests at the dinner party would say which were the best. They all declared in favour of the Spitzenburg. I also sent some to an old gardener, who said that they were very fine. Then I tried to get some trees."

"Did you succeed?"

"No, although I sent the fruit all round to the nurseries, it was not recognised. At last I raised the seed, and got a hundred trees grafted from it. But they will not bear for three years."

"How should you describe the variety?"

"In size, colour, and shape, the Spitzenburg resembles Worcester Pearmain, but they would be considered quite extraordinary specimens. We received them early in November, and kept some until the end of May, when they were just as good."

"What about Pears?"

"The best varieties are Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Dubuisson, Knight's Monarch, Marie Benoist, Oliver de Serres, Le Lectier, Beurré Rance, Doyenné du Alencon, Beurré Diel, Glou Morceau, Charles Ernest, Emile d'Heyst, Pitmaston Duchess, Thompson's, Marguerite Marillat, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Souvenir du Congres, Jargonelle, Clapp's Favourite, etc."

"How much fruit can you store in your fruit-room?"

"A hundred and fifty bushels."

Favourite Beans and Peas.

"Broad Beans appear to be one of your features in vegetables?"

"They are a favourite vegetable, and we begin using them when they are as large as Peas. The only variety grown is Green Windsor, which I am satisfied is the best."

"When do you sow Onions?"

"In spring and autumn, the varieties being Ailsa Craig and Bedford Champion, but the latter is only spring-sown."

"Have you any favourite Peas?"

"A variety raised in the locality, but never named, is one of the best. It is after the Telephone type, but larger, greener, and sweeter. We grow it and Chelsea Gem for main crop. Chelsea Gem is also grown for early and late use. It is always a success. Contrast is also used for late purposes. Chelsea Gem is often sown after early Potatoes, and mostly gives good results for late dishes."

"What are your early varieties of Potatoes?"

"May Queen, Sharpe's Victor, Duke of York, and Snowdrop, second-early. We grow Up-to-date for the main crop, and we have on trial Duncraig Castle and Dumbarton Castle, which promise to do as well as Up-to-date. About twelve hundred heads of Celery are grown—Veitch's White, and Standard Brown. I have tried several other varieties, and came back to these two as the best. All the Asparagus which is grown here is bleached. We cut it as soon as it peeps through, like the French growers."

"How long have you been head gardener at Norbury Park, Mr. Kent?"

"Thirteen years. I was previously for four and a half years foreman at Silwood Park, Ascot. I started at Hooley Hall, Surrey (a noted place at that time, one of the best in the South of England for plants, including Orchids and fruit under glass), where I learnt gardening, proceeding, at the end of four years, to Copsall Hall, Warwickshire, as improver. I remained there for three years, and was afterwards journeyman for two years at Prestwold Hall, Leicestershire, and two years at Lythe Hill, Surrey." ALFRED WILCOX.

The Latest Comers.

More New Roses.

THESE are Goldfinch, a variety of the "Rambler" class, with fine trusses of bloom, the colour of the flowers being a bronzy-yellow when they first expand, but passing with age to a delicate creamy-white hue; and Joseph Lowe, a Hybrid Tea Rose, of a soft rosy-pink colour, the inside of the petals being much paler than the outside, which is of quite a rich pink hue; the flowers are of fine form, with conical centres. The first-named was shown at the Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, by Messrs. Paul and Sons, of the Old Nurseries, Cheshunt, and the second by Messrs. Lowe and Shawyer, of Uxbridge; both received awards of merit.

Two New Delphiniums.

A VARIETY of this stately flower called Alake, is remarkable for the extraordinary size both of the spike and the individual florets, the latter being some three inches in diameter, while the length of the flowering portion of a strong spike only is no less than two feet, or thereabouts. The colour of the flowers is violet-purple in the centre, and pure rich blue on the outer petals. This was shown recently by Messrs. G. and A. Clark, of Dover, and obtained an award of merit.

The other variety is the Rev. E. Lascelles, a very vigorous kind, with large double blossoms of a rich blue colour, with white centre. This was shown by Messrs. A. Walters and Son, Bath, and also received an award of merit.

A New Carnation.

KING EDWARD VII. is the name of a new "fancy" Carnation, of which the flowers are white, heavily marked with dark crimson. It was shown at a meeting of the R.H.S. recently, by Mr. J. Douglas, and obtained an award of merit.

A New Gladiolus.

THIS is called Duke of Richmond, and it produces large, well-expanded flowers of a soft rose colour, with deeper markings; the lower petals are white, spotted with rose, and having a blotch of yellow at the base. It was shown by Messrs. Kelway and Sons, Langport, Somerset, and was granted an award of merit.

occupies the ground for only a short period, and is generally altogether absent in winter, these root-feeding species must do the same, and it would be useful to ascertain what kind of plant they go to.

AUTUMN-SOWN HARDY ANNUALS.

August 13th.—If the soil is in suitable condition, this is a good time to sow hardy annuals to stand the winter, but this is done more often in large gardens than in small. The borders are usually full; there is no vacant space in them. It should not be overlooked, however, that though spring-sown annuals can seldom be transplanted satisfactorily, their period of growth being so short that if it is further shortened by disturbance they are rendered worthless, this does not apply to those sown later in summer, for they have a much longer period. If there is anywhere a little space unoccupied, the seed can be sown in it—thinly—and in autumn, when the plants have attained a fair size, they can be lifted with the trowel, and moved to the positions where they are to flower. The difference between those sown in the previous year and those sown in spring is often very remarkable. The former have not only a much longer period of growth, but also much more favourable conditions—the temperature not excessively high, and the soil full of moisture; the latter have frequently to endure a combination of great heat and drought. In consequence, a Shirley Poppy, for instance, sown in August, grows to three times the size of one not sown until spring in the following year. H. C. DAVIDSON

MR. THOMAS KENT,
who has been gardener at Tyttenhanger Park for forty years.

For the first ten years or more young fruit trees are liable to make strong roots, penetrating the soil deeply, and giving rise to very strong growth, which produces little or no fruit. During this stage no farmyard manure should be dug into the soil. If the soil is poor or dry, and the trees are bearing fruit, rank littery manure, straw, or lawn mowings, on the surface, will retain moisture, without causing rank growth.

FOR forty years now Mr. Thomas Kent has been in charge of the gardens at Tyttenhanger Park, London Colney. This in itself is noteworthy; but it becomes additionally interesting from the fact that his father before him held the position for a similar period, the date of his appointment going back to 1840. In 1880 he retired in favour of his son, but resided at the lodge and helped in the gardens until his death, in 1891. It was in this lodge that Mr. Thomas Kent was born, and where he himself brought up a large family, which includes five sons, who served in the war, and one of whom laid down his life for his country. Incidentally, I may mention that besides five sons, Mr. Kent also had no fewer than thirty nephews serving in the Navy or Army; while for his own part, though unquestionably a veteran, he "did his bit" as a special constable, and was on the panel of the Royal Horticultural Society's horticultural experts, which gave advice to cultivators, and helped to increase the food supply.

But if Mr. Kent learned gardening under his father, he became a literal "journeyman" at the conclusion of his apprenticeship, seeking elsewhere for further experience, and working in turn at Worksop Manor, Notts; Elsham House, Grantham; and Stansted Park, Emsworth.

Tyttenhanger Park, in the parish of London Colney, lies off the main road from London to St. Albans; and up to the time of the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII., the abbots of St. Albans had a residence here, of which traces of the foundation are discovered now and again when the grounds are dug. Beyond this nothing remains of the original structure. The present owner is the Countess of Caledon, but the house has been in the market for some time, and is seldom occupied. The gardens are consequently not kept up to their former state, and the staff is greatly reduced; notwithstanding this, the grand old woods and the pleasure grounds of eight acres have not lost all their charm, though, as Mr. Kent explained when I visited him towards the end of July, most attention is paid to the kitchen gardens.

A walk along moss-grown paths—bordered by majestic Oaks, Beeches, and Ash, intermingled with Conifers of many kinds, Hollies, and other evergreens, and with Foxgloves and other wild flowers showing amidst the shrubs which form the undergrowth—brought us to the north or carriage entrance to the house.

NATURALISED BULBS.

"In the spring," said Mr. Kent, "the ground beneath the trees is thickly carpetted with Daffodils, Wood Hyacinths, and other flowers.

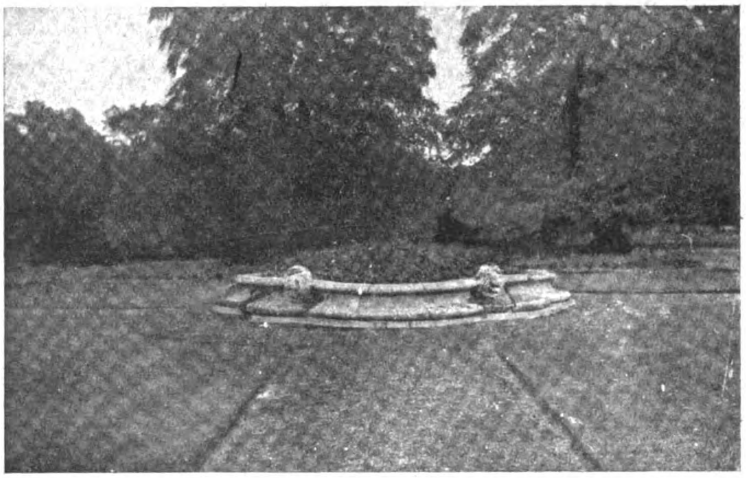
He was referring not only to the trees which we had just passed, but to those which formed the background of the picture as we looked across the sloping lawn. Right in front of us, in a hollow, was an immense bed of Rhododendrons, and concerning these he went on:

"There are many good varieties among them, also a lot of the ordinary Rhododendron ponticum. The site was, I believe, once a pond—but that was before my time. I have heard that it was drained off because it had a dark and melancholy appearance, and brought to mind too forcibly the loss at sea of one of the members of the family."

Walking round by the west side, whence good views were obtained across the park, with the River Colne in the middle distance, we came to the south front. Here, too, the outlook across the open country is very pleasing.

On the house Magnolia grandiflora, already showing bloom, is the most noticeable subject. To the left of the well-kept lawn are two magnificent Beeches; in the centre is a circular raised bed, filled with Geraniums, and there are eight other beds, four of Roses, and four of mixed Antirrhinums.

"At one time," Mr. Kent remarked, "we had twenty beds here, filled with the usual bedding stuff; but these are all done away with, and those that you see have taken their place. We are badly plagued by rabbits, which are very destructive; and a further handicap is that the soil is very shallow, there being in some places only six or eight inches, and then we come on to the flints. But we manage to get a fair display of flowers. Near this spot is the site of the old house."



THE LAWN AT TYTTENHANGER PARK.

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Behind the Beeches is a Yew hedge, and through an opening we made our way to one of the kitchen gardens, which is surrounded by the hedge.

OLD AND NEW ROSES.

"You have no lack of flowers here," I remarked, glancing at the nearest corner, where dwarf Roses are backed by espalier fruit trees, with pillar Roses here and there.

"We like to have plenty of flowers to cut from, and use a lot for church decoration and other purposes. In the Rose border there are many modern varieties mixed with some of the old-fashioned sorts. For example, here is the apricot-yellow Tea Rose Safrano, which is so good for buttonholes. It came out as long ago as 1839, and, in comparison, the coppery-rose, Dr. Grill, the lemon-yellow Etoile de Lyon, the pale rose G. Nabonnand, and the flesh-white Hon. Edith Gifford, are quite recent, for they were all introduced in the eighties. They do very well here. Among later Teas there are Lady Roberts, Lady Hillingdon, and Molly Sharman Crawford. Our Hybrid Teas include Richmond, General MacArthur, Theresa, Madame Ravary, Caroline Testout, Madame A. Chatenay, La France de '89, and Madame Leon Pain; and Frau Karl Druschki, Mrs. R. G. Sharman Crawford, and Mrs. John Laing are the best of the Hybrid Perpetuals. Then I ought not to forget Madame E. Herriot, also the dwarf polyantha, Perle d'Or, a pretty shade of yellow."

ROSES IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN AT TYTTENHANGER PARK.

In the opposite corner of this garden are two broad herbaceous borders, and annuals and hardy perennials edge all the beds. Along one path pots of Chrysanthemums were standing, and in reply to my question Mr. Kent said:

"They are a few decoratives, and some large-flowered Japanese, such as William Rigby, Mrs. Gilbert Drabble, William Turner, Pockett's Crimson, Queen Mary, Mrs. R. Luxford, Mary Poulton, Enchantress, Mrs. W. Blackwood, and W. Locke, to give white, yellow, and pink."

From this we turned to the vegetables, and noticing a good, even patch of Potatoes, I asked the variety.

"That is King Edward," was the answer. "It does very well here for the first year from its own seed, but is a failure the second year. For table purposes I much prefer Arran Chief, but it is not quite so good on this soil, which is very light."

GOOD VEGETABLES.

"You have some nice rows of Brussels Sprouts!"

"There are three varieties, Dwarf Gem, Ryder's Selected, and Darlington. Ryder's Selected has small sprouts, but they are of excellent quality, and keep tight for a long time. The Celery is Standard Bearer, Pink Perfection, and Wright's Grove White. The old Lancashire varieties gave long sticks, but though Pink Perfection and the modern varieties are shorter, there is as much to eat on them, and the earthing-up is less."

"Do you earth-up the Leeks?"

"No; I merely make holes a foot deep with a crowbar, and drop them in. It is the easiest way, and in my opinion the results are just as good."

Before going through the greenhouses, which run along one side of this garden, we looked at two rows of pits, in some of which Cyclamen persicum, Primula obconica, and other subjects were coming on; while the others had Cucumbers, two plants to a light.

"The only Cucumber I have grown for some years past," said Mr. Kent, "is Lockie's Perfection. Forty years ago we used to grow a lot of Telegraph here for seed; but Lockie's is a better variety. The pits are filled with leaves, as we have no heat for them."

"How do you manage for heat in the Vineries?" I asked, as we entered the late house.

"We have had none on up to now," was the answer; "but I hope to get a little to finish the Alicantes. The Black Hamburghs, of course, are all right without it."

SEEDLING BEGONIAS.

Both the varieties were carrying excellent crops, and on the staging beneath them were a lot of Begonias, some of the double forms being very handsome, while the colours ranged through all shades of cream, apricot, yellow, salmon, pink, and red, making altogether a most effective display. Asking about them, I was told:

"They are all from Ryder's seeds, and are, I think, very fine. In the next house there is a nice batch of Streptocarpus, and in another house I will show you a lot of Cannas, from the same firm's seeds."

At the back of the late Vinery the staging is arranged in tiers, on which were a number of Maidenhair Ferns; and in the next house, with Black Hamburgh in front, were more foliage plants, and a good specimen of the old greenhouse plant, Hedychium gardnerianum, carrying many spikes of bloom, which are cut down when the flowers are past their best. Black Hamburghs also occupy the early Vinery, and here I noticed the Streptocarpus already mentioned, as well as several large Palms and Aspidistras.

From the Vineries we passed to the Peach house, where some large Hydrangeas and the seedling Cannas were flowering well. The Peaches and Nectarines are trained on wires about eighteen inches from the glass, and others are on the back wall. In front and at the sides were Tomatoes in pots.

"Hale's Early is a nice Peach," said Mr. Kent, "which colours up well. Noblesse is also good, and the latest is Crimson Galande, while we finish the season with Pitmaston Orange Nectarine. With these varieties we start picking fruit early in July, and go on to the end of September."

A MYRTLE WITH A HISTORY.

Outside this garden is the old frame ground, and, standing on one side, a large tub attracted my attention. In it is a Myrtle, about seven feet high, and almost the same through, concerning which I was told:

"The late Countess of Caledon was a lady-in-waiting to Queen Victoria. When the Prince Consort died, in December, 1861, there was a wreath of Myrtle placed on his bed. Queen Victoria drew out a sprig, and gave it to the Countess, who brought it to Tyttenhanger and handed it over to my father, to root it, if possible. He was successful, and this is the plant, which blooms very freely. I have struck several since from cuttings to give away, but we are careful to preserve the original. It has to be cut back very severely at times to keep it in bounds, so that we can put it under shelter in winter, as it would not be safe to leave it outside."

There are few frames here now, but a greenhouse still stands, which, Mr. Kent informed me, was an old one fifty years ago.

"It was built for Figs, but these were done away with, and it was used for Roses. Now it mostly has Tomatoes, Carter's Sunrise, and an old variety with corrugated fruits. There are, however, Roses in front, as you see, and there are not many weeks in the year but what we can cut Roses. The varieties are Catherine Mermet and Climbing Niphetos. This house has no heat."

FINE CROPS OF APPLES.

We next crossed a path and entered the walled-in kitchen garden. Here fruit trees are the chief feature, and, contrary to the general experience this year, the Apples were mostly carrying excellent crops.

"Except for this one old standard, a seedling," said Mr. Kent, "I planted all the trees in this garden myself, of course, many years ago. There are a large number of varieties—standards, bushes, and espaliers."

"What do you find the best?" I asked, as we walked round, stopping to examine the trees individually.

We next crossed a path and entered the any of them, but some are naturally better croppers than others. Bramley's Seedling is a good, all-round Apple, which invariably crops well. Golden Noble also does well, and is very reliable. James Grieve is carrying splendid crops, so are Beauty of Bath and Charles Ross. Bismarck was my best last year, and though the crop will not be so heavy this season, there is yet a nice lot on it. Lane's Prince Albert never seems to fail, and we had four bushels on one tree last year. Worcester Pearmain is also satisfactory. Cellini is promising well. Here is a good crop on Kerry Pippin, and another on Mannington's Pearmain, which is a splendid late sort, and will keep till Apples come again."

"What others do you find are consistently good croppers?"

"Lane's Prince Albert is the one I rely on mostly, and another splendid cooker is Golden Spire, which is always sure to crop well. It is doing so this year. Bramley's Seedling, as I said just now, is one to be depended on, and it is a good keeper. I have kept them in sound condition till the second week in May. I reckon to start with Apples in August, and go on till Easter, and the same with Pears."

GRAFTING AND PRUNING.

"Have you grafted many of the trees yourself?"

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"I like to graft a few occasionally. In what used to be the old Rose garden—owing to the scarcity of labour we could not attend to it, and most of the Roses have died out—I have planted several Apple trees, all of which I grafted myself. Here is another I did two years ago—Crimson Bramley on Peasgood's Nonsuch. Both varieties fruit well on the same tree, and last year I had several Peasgood's weighing over a pound each. There are also one or two old varieties which are not often seen. Saltmarsh Queen is a nice old Apple, and another I like is White's Admirable. Ribston Pippin, of course, is well known. It cankers a little here, but bears fair crops."

"Do you do anything to assist the trees?"

"No; for manure is unobtainable. I do not believe in too much cutting, and I am sure many trees are spoiled by a too free use of the knife. Most of these standards have not been cut since they were planted, except to take out dead wood and crossing branches. Once get a tree to start fruiting, and that alone checks its exuberant growth. But I practice summer pruning, for it is obviously not worth while to let trees make growth in summer that must be removed in winter."

The Morello Cherries on the north wall had nice crops, and on the south and west walls Plums and Pears were looking very attractive.

"I like to have a long season with Plums," Mr. Kent remarked, "and so there are several varieties. Prince Engelbert is a large, handsome, purple Plum; and Coe's Golden Drop is yellow and of splendid flavour. It hangs till October. Rivers' Early comes in in July. Other good varieties are Monarch, Prince of Wales, Pershore Yellow, and Goliath."

WHITE CURRANTS AS DESSERT.

"Your Red Currants are remarkably fine," I said, as we paused before some netted rows, with the branches weighed down by the clusters of fruits.

"The variety is Raby Castle—one of the best. In days gone by we used to specialise in White Currants. The old Countess had the pips taken out with a quill, and the fruit was then dipped in syrup and served as a dessert. But that sort of thing is never heard of nowadays. So, too, with the herb borders. Young gardeners laugh, and will not believe me when I talk of the number of different herbs that were used in the house years ago as medicine. The housekeeper knew their properties, and would send out for whatever she required to make up her remedies."

"What do you consider the best Raspberry?"

"For general utility, you cannot beat Superlative. You will notice that we have a lot of rows of Strawberries. There are several varieties, and I am now layering a lot of runners into pots. Laxtonian is one of the best, and I can also recommend The Admiral. Tit Bit is a splendid flavour, but it does no good in this soil. Here are rows of The Earl, a fairly new variety, and Vicomtesse Hericart de Thury, which has been grown here for fifty years. The Earl is very like the Vicomtesse, but I do not think it is any better."

"How long do you keep the beds going?"

"If the plants have first been forced, the beds are kept for two years; if made from runners planted direct, they last three years. Further round you will see a big bed we have just made."

"You also have plenty of Potatoes here?"

"This is where I grow the earlies, and also where I experiment with the newer sorts. The best of the earlies is Sharpe's Express, which crops well. I am growing two rows of Kerr's Pink and Majestic, and both of these appear to be very promising. Then I have a couple of rows of seedlings, grown from Ryder's Potato seed. There is much variety amongst them, and I am going to mark one or two to grow on again, for they look to be good."

Here Mr. Kent scraped the soil away from some of the plants, to show me how well the tubers were looking. They gave every promise of cropping heavily.

Flowers border most of the beds, giving abundant material for cutting, and brightening the garden considerably; and despite the weeds which thrust themselves into prominence, and advertised the lack of labour, I was able to congratulate Mr. Kent on the appearance of the gardens, and the energy with which he carries on his duties with a sadly reduced staff.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

THE BURNING BUSH.

If there is one plant more than another that deserves to be called old-fashioned, it is the Burning Bush, Dictamnus Fraxinella, or, as it used frequently to be termed, simply Fraxinella. This is a hardy perennial, which was far more commonly met with in gardens a century ago than it is now—in fact, it was to be found in nearly every cottage and farmhouse garden in the country, and was known and prized by all. It is a rather showy plant, growing about two feet high, with bold spikes of deep red or purplish blossoms, and pretty pinnate foliage, something like that of the Galega, but on a larger scale.

A remarkable peculiarity of this plant, which is very free and robust in growth, is that both the stems and leaves are thickly furnished with glandular hairs, which exude a highly aromatic and inflammable oil. If a match is applied to the lower part of the stem on a calm summer's evening, the resinous oil takes fire, and flares up brightly all up the plant—hence the old-time name of Burning Bush, by which the Dictamnus used to be known. But it is well to point out that it is only occasionally that this experiment is successful.

There is a white form, D. albus, the counterpart of the other except in colour. The culture of both is very simple, the plants succeeding in almost any soil, though a rather light and dry one, with a fairly sunny position, is most suitable. Planting can be done in the spring or autumn, and propagation is usually effected by division at the same period, though seed is sometimes to be had, and if sown at once it will grow and make nice plants, but it soon loses its vitality.

AN OLD HAND.

PHLOX MISS PEMBERTON.

Among scores of varieties, Miss Pemberton stands out prominently as one of the best, not only for its early flowering, but for the size of its panicles of blossom, richness of colour, compact habit of growth, and sturdiness. In fact, it has all the attributes of a perfect garden Phlox. Growing in a mass in a bed alone, or in the herbaceous border, it stands out prominently, and is not subject to that tiresome disease to which some varieties are so liable—the basal shoots, when from two to six inches long, becoming distorted, and refusing to grow or develop perfect leaves.

Miss Pemberton in height reaches from two to three feet, and flowers early in July, continuing on fully six weeks. Then, if the flower heads are removed, it gives a good second crop of flowers. The colour is carmine-rose, with darker centre.

For the amateur who wishes to have a bright spot in his garden, I say plant Miss Pemberton Phlox. A stock of plants is easily secured from cuttings or division of the root.

E. MOLYNEUX.

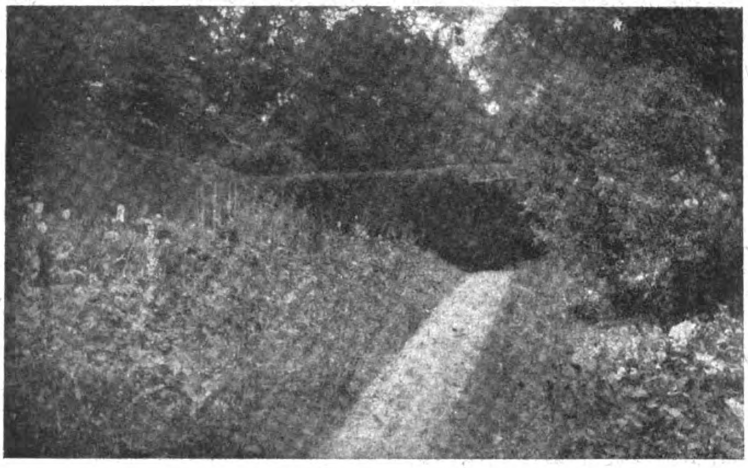
EVERLASTING PEAS.

The flowering season of the Lathyruses, or Everlasting Peas, extends from early July until October, which makes them extremely useful for many kinds of garden adornment. Grown at the foot of Clematises, Roses, or other tall climbers that are flowerless at the base when no longer young, against walls, fences, trellises, or arches, they give a fine colour show, or may be used alone for clothing six-feet light trellises for forming screens or dividing lines. Trained partly upright, partly horizontal, upon four-feet tall faggots, placed very closely together, they make hedges that are certain to be successful, and very popular. For clothing the walls of summer-houses, few perennials are more pleasing, especially for the low walls beneath the windows. Opinions differ as to the comparative merits of white or coloured Everlasting Peas, but few will disagree with the statement that the rose variety is better than the old-fashioned magenta shade.

Seed sown in August and September, in pans of light, rich soil in a cold frame, should result in some seedlings soon; but, as others may not appear for a long time, it is necessary to remove the seedlings after a while, taking care not to disturb the soil over-much. Some people soak the seed in tepid water for twelve hours before sowing. The young plants will be strong enough to put out in sunny borders, in favourable localities, but otherwise can be wintered in small pots in cold frames.

Lathyrus latifolius Pink Beauty will please by its delicate colouring; two shades of pale and deep rose are shown in the blossoms, which are fine, and boldly set on the stems. L. l. albus is the true white Everlasting Pea, so delightful for gathering, and so lovely an ornament for the neighbourhood of red walls or crimson Roses.

R. R.



HERBACEOUS BORDERS IN A CORNER OF THE KITCHEN GARDEN AT TYTTENHANGER PARK.

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James Kidd

THE GARDENS OF MR. G. MILLER, AT NEWBERRIES, RADLETT.

At the Royal Horticultural Society's Show of British-grown fruits in October, many honours were carried off by the exhibits of Mr. G. Miller, of Newberries, Radlett. A first prize was won for six dishes of ripe dessert fruits; a third for an exhibit in the Grape class; first for Black Alicante Grapes; and second for Appley Towers. These triumphs are the more noteworthy, as Mr. James Kidd, the gardener at Newberries, has come with a rush to the front in showing. He is another of the younger professional gardeners who have justified the confidence placed in their capacities by instructors and employers. When I proposed a visit to Newberries just after the show, Mr. Miller at once assented, and, under the auspices of Mr. Kidd, I spent a pleasant morning in the pleasure grounds, kitchen gardens, and houses.

"Fruit and plant growing are our chief features," said Mr. Kidd, "but we try our best to succeed all round."

Trees Two Centuries Old.

"Judging by some of the noble trees on the lawns, the place, in spite of its name, is anything but new?"

"No, many of the trees are quite old. There is a Larch quite two hundred years old, fifteen feet in circumference three feet from the ground. The dimensions of the principal Oak are similar, and it has a clean stem of eighteen feet."

"Then there is a very fine Cedar, covered with seed cones."

"It has a circumference of twelve and a half feet three feet from the ground, while its branches have a spread of eighty-five feet. The ancient Chestnut, which is also two centuries old, has a circumference of thirteen and a half feet."

"The position of the mansion and grounds is very delightful."

"Yes, we are considerably above sea level, and the view from the terrace of the surrounding scenery is generally admired. Since Mr. Miller bought the property, a number of young trees have been planted, and others, including a Wellingtonia gigantea, replanted."

"I see that in one of your beds near the house, you have had Salvias."

"They are just over. The variety is Fireball, and the bed was literally a glow of red colour. It was so effective, that next season we shall have more. I think that Salvias are more effective without any edging."

"Was your summer bedding mixed?"

"Some of it. Ivy-leaved Geranium Madame Crousse occupied two beds, being used both as standards and for groundwork. Lobelia cardinalis had a groundwork of Centaureas. Fuchsias in one case had a groundwork of Dactylis grass; and in another a groundwork of Viola J. B. Riding. Heliotropes as standards were combined with a groundwork of Alyssums. In another bed a very pretty contrast was presented by Coleus Verschaffeltii and dot plants of yellow Abutilon."

The Spring Scheme.

"And the spring bedding now in process of preparation?"

"We are using Wallflowers Golden Queen and Blood-red; double white Arabis; and Sutton's Royal Blue Myosotis, filled in with Daffodils and May-flowering Tulips. We go in for a number of a few varieties, rather than a few of many varieties. Hyacinths are not used. The vases on the terrace are filled in the season with Geraniums Paul Crampel and Madame Crousse, and yellow Abutilons."

"Do you follow a scheme of colour in the beds at the side of the mansion?"

"They comprised pink Pentstemons, white Antirrhinums, yellow Tagetes, and mauve Violas, Mrs. Chichester, a very free bloomer. You may care to mention the Azalea bed."

"With its vivid foliage. Do you have to enrich the soil?"

"We use a good deal of peat and loam, because the soil is sand. Speaking of the foliage of Azaleas, I use it for table work with Chrysanthemums and white Arabis, and the combination seems to be much appreciated. The Azaleas in the bed near the croquet lawn, with tennis courts behind, are intermixed with Ericas in variety."

"How large are the gardens?"

"The gardens proper are eight acres, and the estate covers about three hundred and sixty. Facing the herbaceous borders is the Rosery, from which we cut freely, leaving the Rose beds on the lawn untouched. The latter have a groundwork of Violas, and are chiefly Frau Karl Druschki, Mrs. John Laing, Killarney, Caroline Testout, Mrs. Cutbush, Louis van Houtte, and La France. In the Rosery the varieties are mixed. The Ramblers are Gloire de Dijon, Blush Rambler, and Crimson Rambler."

Blooms All the Year.

"You have really magnificent herbaceous borders, which are the more effective because of the curve and the grass paths. Can you tell me the dimensions?"

"One side the border is twenty-two feet wide, and the other fifteen feet, the length being in one case sixty, and in the other eighty, yards. The scheme is several lines, each line being planted with a group of three at intervals. At the back are Helianthus Miss Mellish; tall-growing Michaelmas Daisies like the Hon. Edith Gibbs and Mrs. Rayner, and Heleniums."

"Are there many varieties in the second line?"

"Dahlias, Chrysanthemum maximum, Œnothera, Delphiniums in variety, Achillea The Pearl, and Chelone barbata. Another line consists of early-flowering Chrysanthemums. The dwarf plants are chiefly Asters Splendour and Sensation, Sedum spectabilis, Gaillardias, and Stocks, Perillas being used for foliage. Right in front, along the edges, are Violas, white, blue, and gold, Archie Grant, Walter Welch, and Countess of Hopetoun. On one side are a few shrubs, such as Spiræas, Elders, and Weigelas."

"Do you plant for spring?"

"Yes, with Wallflowers, Myosotis, Sweet Williams, and Campanulas; also in clumps, Daffodils and Tulips. As far as possible we get a mass of flower all the year round."

Cordon Pears.

"The kitchen garden wall behind one border is covered with fruit."

"They are cordon Pears. Five years ago I took out the old trees and put in the cordons. The results have been most satisfactory. In 1910 we had more Pears than anyone within a radius of five miles."

Here we passed the offices and bothy, with a wall, facing south, planted with Peaches and Nectarines.

"You have a wealth of flowers in the kitchen garden," I observed.

"Outside the Vineries we have a ribbon border, and run it in lines—a line of Alyssum, another of blue Lobelias, a third of Marigold Legion of Honour, a fourth of Geranium Flower of Spring, a fifth of Heliotrope Lord Roberts, and then a line of Perillas. At the back of all are Sweet Peas in clumps."

"You seem to have a border consisting entirely of one variety of Chrysanthemums, at any rate in the front."

"The variety is Piercy's Seedling, which is golden at first, and then becomes bronze. I have grown it for several years, and it is always successful. In front of all are Ageratums grown from cuttings. The flower beds, with arches of Roses, contain Pentstemons, Antirrhinums, East Lothian Stock, Viola Archie Grant, Montbretias, and Dactylis. This year the season was not moist enough for Montbretias, which, consequently, did not do so well. The flower borders, and, in fact, most of the garden, is trenched every year."

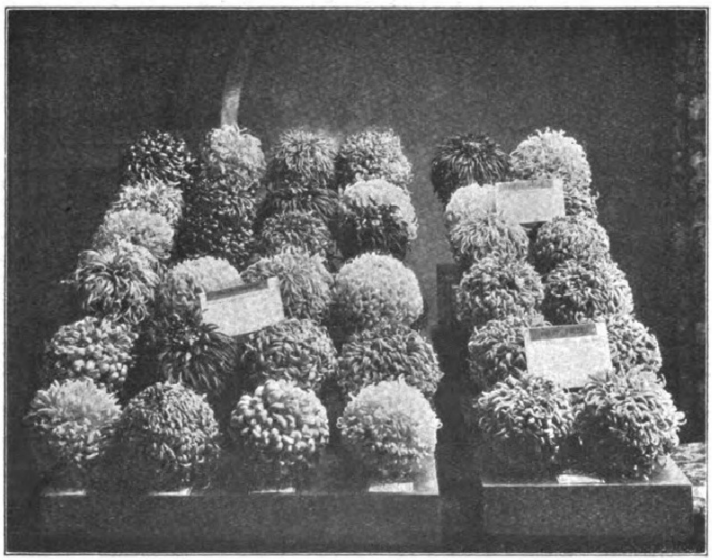

PHOTO. BY] PRIZE-WINNERS AT ST. ALBANS, SHOWN BY MR. J. KIDD. [W. H. CROFT.

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Wall Fruit.

"We might take next the fruit on the walls."

"On the east wall there are Plums, Jefferson, Kirke's, Victoria, Monarch, and Golden Drop. Right along the border underneath the wall are Gooseberries, from which we have had a very heavy crop. Three good dessert varieties are Sulphur, Warrington, and Whitesmith, and for preserves I can recommend Iremonger. I attribute our great crops of Gooseberries largely to the quantity of leaf manure used. Another wall is devoted to Red Currants, Raby Castle, Red Dutch, and White Versailles, grown on the three-shoot principle. The crops are far larger than those grown on bushes, and I pick them as late as the end of August. The only variety of Black Currants is Victoria, a very good cropper. The wall at the north end is covered with Morello Cherries. On the west wall there are Sweet Cherries, May Duke, Frogmore Selected, Frogmore Prolific, Frogmore Bigarreau, and Kentish Bigarreau. Pears are also grown on this wall—Marguerite Marillat, Glou Morceau, and Catillac."

"I notice that you have to net your Raspberries."

"All the fruit is netted, of necessity. I have only grown this variety of Raspberry for three years. It is called the Autumn-fruiting. A month ago I was picking Raspberries every other day. There is a great deal of fruit still left on the trees. Mention should be made of the trees of Doyenne du Comice on the adjacent wall. For seven years the crop never varied in quantity. I had one hundred Pears on each, every one perfect. This year there were but fifty. As you can imagine, however, to get one hundred perfect fruits of Doyenne du Comice on a single tree is no light achievement."

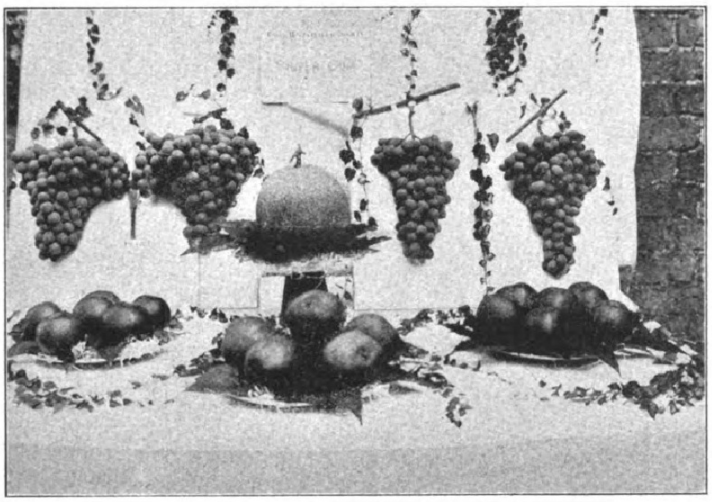
The Best Apples.

"Your Apples are all on the bush, and their appearance justifies the system of growing them."

"We have never missed a great crop of Lane's Prince Albert. Other specially good Apples for cooking purposes are Bismarck, Bramley's Seedling, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Golden Noble, Gascoigne's Scarlet, and Keswick Codlin. The six best dessert Apples are Cox's Orange Pippin, King of Pippins, Charles Ross, Wealthy, Rival, and Margil. Two years ago I had a very good crop of Apricots Moor Park, but they are very uncertain. Of Strawberries, Royal Sovereign is grown in quantity, inside and out. The other two varieties are Waterloo and Givon's Late Prolific. I keep the runners for three years, which is quite long enough."

"Have you anything special in vegetables?"

"Pears are a very big feature. They are grown chiefly on the site of a pond, where also winter greens and Brussels Sprouts are grown. The six varieties are Pilot (the earliest), Early Giant, Sutton's Centenary, Alderman, Autocrat, and Gladstone. Celery does specially well, the varieties being Standard Bearer and Solid White. Ailsa Craig is our best Onion."



THE EXHIBIT WHICH WON A SILVER CUP.

"How do you manage to get your Runner Beans to such a great height and in such fine condition?"

"I raise them in boxes. I used to sow in lines. By planting out a foot apart, I get a better return. We have had some Beans thirteen inches long. For seven years I have grown Carrots in the same place. It is good policy to pursue this plan with Carrots, and I have known a Scottish gardener grow them for twenty years on the same ground. As soon as I see the Carrots coming through the ground, I put short grass from the lawn between the rows, and keep on doing it until the Carrots meet between the rows."

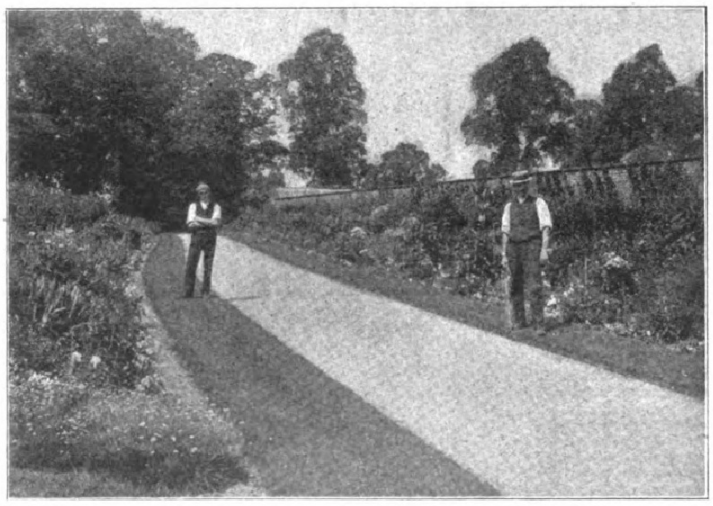


PHOTO. BY] THE HERBACEOUS BORDER AT NEWBERRIES. [W. H. CROFT.

"There are still the houses to go through."

"We might start with the flowering house, in which at present are a quantity of Chrysanthemums Madame Desgranges. At the back, all in pots, are Salvias splendens, and in front of the white Chrysanthemums is a blaze of flower of Paul Crampel, the popular Geranium. On the side stage are Winter-flowering Carnations."

A Succession of Cyclamen.

"Cyclamen appears to be a speciality?"

"We grow it in two batches, one batch to flower before Christmas, and another after, which lasts until April. Last year we got sixty flowers in a pot, and in one case had sixty-seven. Primulas, including P. malacoides, are also largely grown. Of the sinensis variety, we grow the double pink and white. We grow one hundred each of Schizanthus Wisetonensis and Cineraria stellata."

"Poinsettias seem to thrive in your next house."

"That, I think, is partly due to the fact that I grow them in cold frames during the summer, and harden them up. The bracts last year were fifteen inches across. I am a great believer in hardening plants as much as possible, and grow Begonia Gloire de Lorraine in cold frames, until the middle of September. They are then brought into moderate heat. I pursue the same plan with Cyclamen and Primulas, taking the sashes off until the beginning of July. Now we come to the Vineries, though in the early house they are quite overshadowed at the present moment with Chrysanthemums."

"What are the varieties of Grapes?"

"This house is chiefly devoted to Hamburgh, Mr. Miller's favourite. It was planted outside, and all its roots are, of course, outside. Four years ago I put in a new border, and this year the bunches, berries, and finish were really splendid. The pick of the Single Chrysanthemums are Madame Oberthur, Freda Bedford, Margot, Mdlle. M. Fabre, Donnington, La Triomphant, Royannante, Mrs. Greenfield, Mary Richardson, Bronze Pagram, Edith Pagram, Eureka, Daisy Bull, and Colandula. Of the large-flowering Chrysanthemums, the best, I think, are George Mileham, 1908, Mrs. E. T. Miller, Formality, Splendour, Mr. G. Mileham, Bessie Godfrey, Sir Albert Rollitt, Mary Farnsworth, Rev. R. D. Eves, Edith Jameson, Dorothy Goldsmith, Mrs. Lopes, and Algernon Davis. Most of these I am showing at St. Albans, November 8th and 9th."

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"In the Peach house we have had a very good crop. The varieties are much the same as those outside Then there are the stoves, in which we grow the Melons and Cucumbers, as well as plants for table decorations. The Countess is the best Melon, a fact which, I think, is pretty well proved, because I have just won with it at the Horticultural Society's exhibition. In the frames we grow Hero of Lockinge."

Mr. Kidd's Exhibits.

"About your exhibiting, Mr. Kidd. Am I in time to see the bunches of Grapes which you exhibited?"

"Yes, here they are," he replied, as we entered the commodious packing-room.

"The varieties are Appley Towers, Muscat, and Alicante, firsts being won for the two last. Here, also, are the Apples which I exhibited at the same show, on trays, namely, Lane's Prince Albert, Warner's King, Peasgood's Nonsuch, and King of the Pippins. The Pears are Doyenne du Comice, and Marie Louise."

"Did you show before you came to Newberries?"

"No, this was my first appointment as head gardener, and I came here seven years ago to-day. All my training was in Scotland, including four years at Castle Kennedy gardens. I was then at Smeaton House, and afterwards foreman at Maudslie Castle, Lanarkshire. I have only shown at the Royal Horticultural Exhibition and at St. Albans. Last year, at St. Albans, we took ten firsts and four seconds for Chrysanthemums, fruit, and vegetables, and pot plants. You know what we have done at the fruit show this year, but perhaps you do not know that two years ago we were second for Grapes at the same show. Of course, I naturally appreciate the honour of winning first prize in such a magnificent competition."

"I was not at the show, but now I have seen the colour and shape of the fruit you exhibited, it is easy to understand why the judges pronounced in your favour, and both Mr. Miller and yourself merit the congratulations, which must have been so numerous, from all sorts of horticulturists."

At St. Albans Chrysanthemum Show this month, Mr. Kidd won seven firsts and seven seconds for Grape, Pears, Apples, Chrysanthemums and a miscellaneous group.

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE subject for next week will be the fancies of a famous amateur—Mr. W. H. Parton, of Studholme, Moseley.

THE AMATEUR'S FRAME.

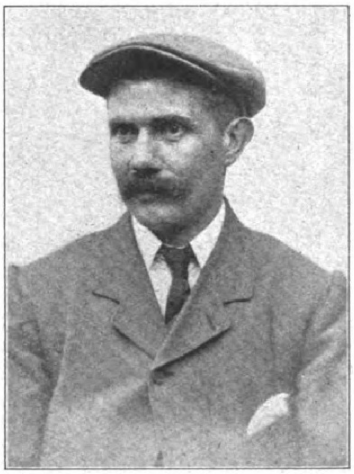
XXI.—VENTILATING THE FRAME.

ONE of the most important points in connection with the management of a frame is the ventilation, and it is safe to say that it is also one of the most neglected. Before giving rules for ventilating, let us consider how a frame can best be ventilated. Sometimes, though very seldom, shutters are provided in the back or front of a frame, and, under good management, they should prove very useful.

There is another method of affording bottom ventilation to a frame. That is done by raising the frame and placing a brick at each corner, so that the air may pass beneath on all four sides; or a modification of this may be effected by setting a course of bricks for the frame to stand upon, but setting them a few inches apart, so that a certain amount of air may get through. Bricks which have holes in them, as are sometimes seen, would serve well for this purpose if set closely together. This arrangement, however, is scarcely adapted for the winter months, though admirable during summer. It would, in fact, be a splendid method to set the frame on four bricks as stated, and to allow the plants to stand on a trellis staging over a bottom of loose ashes or shingle. The staging and the pots would get the plants up high, so that the wind would not blow directly on the foliage. Such a system would admit of an abundant circulation of air all round the plants.

Ventilating with the Lights.

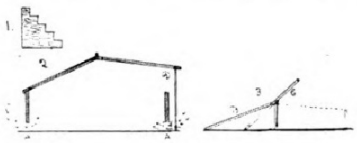
Top ventilation (which in the majority of cases is the only possible form), can be given by various methods of manipulating the lights. They may be drawn completely off, either at back or front; they may be slid alternately up and down; they may be tilted at back, front, or sides, and back and front alternately; and in the case of span-roofs, the lights may be held up by props. Sometimes a ridge in a span-roofed frame is made to lift upwards for ventilation.



MR. J. KIDD.

Frames against a greenhouse wall are usually hinged at the back, and are kept open by props or by pieces of wood. It sometimes happens in such frames, that a shutter opens into the adjoining greenhouse, so that warm air may be admitted to the frame from the heated structure.

Obviously, there are both advantages and disadvantages in these methods. The drawing of the lights far off can best be done from the back, and a point which merits mention is that they should be drawn well back, so that the wind cannot blow them, as would be if they were set at a sharp angle, with a large surface of the underneath part of the light exposed to the wind. It is a common mistake to set frames and pits so close to a wall or hedge that it is impossible to draw the lights back and still leave a passage. Where frames are set in front of



one another, this point should be remembered in regulating the distance. I know it means the sacrifice of much space, but only by such means can the frame be properly attended to.

The sliding of the lights up or down is not the best method, because the air cannot enter so readily as when they are propped. Propping them up at back or front is to be preferred. Pieces of wood cut in the shape shown in the illustration can be used, the steps being to enable much or little air to be afforded. These same pieces of wood may be set at the sides of the lights so as to tilt them that way, and thus ventilate on the leeward side. If a strong cord or a piece of chain be set on these pieces, and attached to the frame at the back, they will always be handy; but can then, of course, only be used at the back. Wherever they are used they should always be set under the light midway, so that there will be no tendency for the light to warp, as would undoubtedly happen if set too much on one side.

A Few Rules.

It is difficult to frame rules which can only have a general application. So much depends on what plants are in the frame, their condition, the time of year, and the state of the weather. During dry and hot weather the frame should be freely ventilated, and while in a rainy time so much air will not be needed, yet the frame should not be entirely closed, for this would produce a stagnant atmosphere. A little air left on at night is also advisable, if it can be done without letting the temperature get so low as to prove injurious to the plants. If only a small pebble about the size of a Pea be put beneath the light, it will help to keep up a circulation.

It is a great but common mistake to put a lot of air on a frame immediately on uncovering after a frost. Obviously, this is injurious to the plants. Only a small amount should be put on at first, and this can afterwards be increased. During periods of sunshine co-existent with piercing winds, ventilation is doubly difficult. A little air given on the leeward side to prevent too great an influx of cold air on the one hand, and to obviate scalding on the other, will meet the difficulty. Plants coming from a warmer temperature should not be freely ventilated at first, the idea being to inure them gradually to cooler condition.

The Illustrations.

In the accompanying illustrations, 1 is a piece of wood used for propping open the lights; 2 shows a frame set on bricks, A, so that air can pass beneath as indicated by the arrows. The light is upheld by props as at D. Fig. 3 shows how the lights are drawn back. When drawn back as at C, there is grave danger of the light being blown off. The better method is to draw them right back as at B.

WILLIAM F. ROWLES.

AUTUMN-SOWN TOMATOES.

TO sow Tomato seed in November, for a supply of ripe fruit the following May, in the usual way, viz., in pans or boxes, invariably ends in failure, usually at the time of transplanting into small pots. One after the other succumbs during the month of December, even with the most careful treatment.

A Safe Method.

The following method of sowing will to a considerable extent militate against this. Instead of sowing in pans or boxes, sow separately in small pots—small "sixties" for preference. After crocking, place a little old turf in the pots; then fill them not more than half full of any light, porous mixture. Place two or three seeds on this, and just cover with fine soil. After watering with tepid water through a rose, stand on a shelf close to the glass, in the warmest and driest part of the greenhouse. Attend carefully to watering. When the seedlings have reached the top of the pots, take away the weakest, leaving one in each pot. No more soil should be added until the turn of the year, for it is this small quantity of soil wherein lies their salvation.

With ordinary care and attention, few failures will be recorded. About the middle of January, if potted firmly into 4-in. pots, in a light, rich compost, they will make sturdy little plants of just the right solidity.

H. BULMER.

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FAMOUS BRITISH :: GARDENS. ::

NEWBERRIES, RADLETT, HERTS.

Interview with Mr. James Kidd.

AT the recent exhibition of British-grown fruit, held under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society, the leading class for Grapes—two bunches each of six distinct varieties, of which two at least must be white—was won by Mr. G. W. Miller, of Newberries, Radlett, Hertfordshire, who was also placed third in the class for six dishes of ripe dessert fruit. Concerning the Grapes, opinion was general that, besides being the best in their class, they were well above the average in point of merit, and reflected the highest credit on Mr. Miller's able gardener, Mr. James Kidd. Knowing the difficulties under which all gardens are conducted at the present time, this achievement was indeed noteworthy; but it becomes exceptionally so from the fact—which I learned subsequently when I paid a visit to the gardens—that Mr. Kidd has been able to give only a little time to his gardening duties since July, having been ordered by the local tribunal to find "work of national importance." As a consequence, he obtained employment locally on the railway, which he has since followed regularly, working an early shift one week and a late one the next. This has left him scanty time to superintend the gardens, but he has nevertheless managed to maintain them at a fair pitch of excellence, as I saw for myself towards the end of October.

Mr. Kidd is fortunate in having an employer who is keenly interested in all that pertains to the gardens, and who affords him every help and encouragement. Indeed, Mr. Miller himself accompanied us for a little while on our tour of inspection, after having given me a few particulars of the house, and showed me some of its treasures.

Newberries in former days was attached to the abbey of St. Albans, and from 1160 to the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII., its revenues were devoted to the upkeep of the hospital there. At that time the estate comprised about three hundred and sixty acres, but since then it has been reduced to two hundred and forty acres. The ancient Watling Street skirts it on one side. The house was built some five hundred years ago, but frequent renewals have obliterated many of the older parts of the building, though it still retains several of the features of the period. A new wing was added in 1805, and this was the last important alteration that was made until Mr. Miller entered into possession fifteen years ago. Externally, it is little changed, but on the interior a very large sum was spent, and it was largely remodelled, and is now a most beautiful example of an English country house. The walls of the principal rooms are panelled in choice woods. The hall is in African mahogany to the roof, the dining-room is oak, the library is walnut, another room is in the rare African white mahogany, and the fine staircase is also of oak. I may mention that Mr. Miller is a judge of timber and trees, and a collector of modern paintings, with which the walls are liberally adorned.

GRAND OLD TREES.

Approaching the house by the main carriage drive, the effects of the great blizzard of March, 1916, were still visible in the shape of numerous fine trees, lying prone as they fell, and awaiting removal.

"That gale made great havoc here," said Mr. Kidd, "and among the trees blown down was a giant Cedar on the lawn, which had a circumference of sixteen and a half feet, and was feathered down to the ground."

"The trees remaining are very fine," I remarked.

"There were many grand old trees on the estate when Mr. Miller bought it fifteen years ago, and these we have tried to preserve. But practically everything else was renewed. I came from Scotland with Mr. Miller, and we planted all the shrubs, made the paths, and generally remodelled the gardens."

"Was this lawn also made then?" I asked, as we turned aside just before reaching the house, and, passing along a narrow path dotted

MR. JAMES KIDD.

with choice conifers, emerged upon an acre and a half of grass, with several noble-looking trees ornamenting it.

"Yes, all this space was a wilderness then; but I cleared it away, and made the wide herbaceous border at the far side. Owing to scarcity of labour it has not been possible to keep it mown, but we have taken off a good crop of hay this season."

"Do you think the grass will suffer in consequence?"

"Not at all; on the contrary, I think it will improve it, giving it more body, while to be continually cutting it exhausts it. Of course, if there are many weeds present, and they are permitted to grow, there will be trouble."

Although so late in the season, the herbaceous border which skirts the farther side of this lawn was not lacking in colour. Dahlias were still in beauty, and large clumps of Michaelmas Daisies, such as Climax, Beauty of Colwall, and Aster horizontalis, added brightness to the general effect, which was heightened by the background of shrubs, many of which were gay with autumnal tints. Among those which were pointed out as doing especially well in their season were a large group of Golden Elders, Weigela Eva Rathke, the Snowball Tree (Viburnum plicatum), various Spiræas, John Downie Crabs, Olearia Haastii, and a nice piece of Acer atropurpureum, giving a warm glow with its rich crimson foliage.

Backing this border on the left is the outer wall of the kitchen garden, and this I noticed was covered with cordon Pears. Seeing these, I asked about the crops of the past season.

A BAD YEAR FOR PEARS.

"It is the worst I have known for fourteen years!" was the reply.

"What are your principal varieties?"

"Marguerite Marillat, Doyenne du Comice, Durondeau, Pitmaston Duchess (I had some splendid fruits of this), Clapp's Favourite, and Josephine de Malines are among the best. There were some old trees when I came here, but I turned them out, trenched the soil three feet deep, replanted with young trees, and have had good results except this year. I root-prune a few trees each year."

Leaving the herbaceous border and lawn behind us, we followed a winding walk that leads out to the terrace at the back of the house. Before reaching this we had stopped to admire a magnificent specimen of Oak, with a straight, clean bole; and a fine Spanish Chestnut, over two hundred years old, and bearing good fruit.

From the terrace, which faces south-east, splendid views are unfolded, with a fringe of trees all along the horizon, marking the boundaries of the estate. At our feet the ground sloped away gently, and in the foreground cattle were grazing.

The beds on the lawn, close to the house, were filled this year with Pentstemons, Antirrhinums, Begonias, and Geraniums. Before the war, so Mr. Kidd told me, the bedding was much more varied, but owing to difficulties in getting labour it had to be restricted to the plants I have mentioned.

"What is your present strength?" I asked.

"It is now two men, one woman, and a boy, where formerly I had eight men."

"And what is the area of gardens and grounds?"

"There are sixty acres of park, and the gardens and lawns amount to eight acres, of which one and a half are devoted to the kitchen garden."

"Will you have any spring bedding?"

"We have had none since the war; we used to do a lot with bulbs, together with Wallflowers, Arabis, Aubrietias, Forget-me-nots, and other spring flowers."

BEET AND ONIONS ON THE LAWN.

"You have grown Beet on these lawn beds, I see."

"All the beds on this part of the lawn had Beet and Onions. The Onions—James' Keeping—did exceptionally well, and off one small bed I obtained three bushels of bulbs. The Beet was Whyte's, which has a fine, rich-coloured leaf."

Beyond the terrace, at the farther side of the lawns, are six or seven splendid Cedars, and two remarkably fine specimens of the deciduous Cypress, Taxodium distichum, which, as Mr. Miller explained (for he was with us here), comes from North America, where its home is amid the swamps. The foliage was just turning a rich golden brown, and was very striking against the deep green of the Cedars and Pines near by.

Retracing our steps, and again passing along the terrace—at the farther end of which, close to the house, was an effective bed of Geraniums dotted with standard Heliotropes waiting to be taken indoors, while in another bed the deep blue of Salvia patens was well contrasted with the crimson-scarlet of S. Bethelli—another border of Michaelmas Daisies was seen, in front of some outbuildings, while hiding the wall was Ampelopsis Veitchii in tints of crimson and bronze. A gateway in this wall gives admittance to the grounds adjoining the front

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of the house, and here the Michaelmas Daisies were still finer, being in strong clumps of different varieties on a wide border.

Coming again into the path where is the herbaceous border, we made for the kitchen garden, the entrance to which is at the farther end. The walls are utilised to their fullest extent. On the south-east wall are Peaches Salwey and Royal George, and Nectarine Elruge.

"We had good crops both last year and this," said Mr. Kidd.

"And to judge by the clean wood and plump buds, and the healthy appearance of the trees generally, the promise for next year is also satisfactory."

"I think I have every reason to be hopeful," was the reply.

"You have also a large number of Pears here?"

"There are both cordon and fan-trained trees on the walls. Of course, there is nothing to beat Doyenne du Comice. Marie Louise and Beurré d'Amanlis give fruits of nice size and flavour, and Catillac is usually good. But as I remarked before, the fruit was very scanty this year. Conseilleur de la Cour bloomed especially well, but it did not bear a single Pear, for we had a heavy fall of snow, followed by frost, and that brought down the blossoms. Pitmaston Duchess is always a huge fruit, and we had some this year weighing twenty ounces each. But the tree only bore eighteen fruits."

FEEDING FRUIT TREES.

"Do you feed the trees at all?"

"When they reach the fruiting stage I feed them liberally. During the autumn, when the buds are plumping up, I give liquid manure; and in summer I give them animal and artificial manures, likewise in liquid form. This, of course, applies also to Apples."

"What has your Apple season been like?"

"Apples, taken all round, have been a fair crop. Some varieties were poor, but others were good. For instance, two Ribstons gave nothing to speak of, but last year they bore excellently, and the colour was the richest I have known, almost a crimson, so that you would scarcely have thought they were Ribstons. There is a big tree of Blenheim Orange that bore five bushels of Apples. In one corner, rather more sheltered, the frost did not do so much harm, and the trees bore nice crops, but they had no colour to speak of."

RELIABLE APPLES.

"You have a good many standard and bush trees. Which varieties do you find to do best?"

"Warner's King is one of the best: it never seems to fail, but bears consistently every year. This season it has been extra good. Bramley's Seedling, Peasgood's Nonsuch, and Lane's Prince Albert are also very regular bearers, and Golden Noble does well. Gascoyne's Scarlet is another that I can always rely on; last year it bore the best crop since I have been here. Then as to dessert varieties, I have nothing to complain about with regard to James Grieve, Charles Ross, Rival, Wealthy, King of the Pippins, and Cox's Orange Pippin."

"And how about Plums?" I asked, noticing some very healthy trees on the wall close to where we were then standing.

"Among the finest are Victoria, Coe's Golden Drop, Jefferson's Gage, Green Gage, and Late Transparent Gage. But there have been none this year!"

In front of this wall is a fruit cage containing Gooseberries, concerning which Mr. Kidd said:

"Three of the best are Sulphur (an early variety), Whinham's Industry, and Warrington. Some of them had a slight touch of American Gooseberry mildew, so I shall prune them as soon as possible, and burn the prunings. There is another cage farther round, in which there are Gooseberries, Currants, and Raspberries. Superlative is one of the best Raspberries, and fruits well, but is not so rampant in growth as some others. On a shady part of the wall outside there are triple cordon Red Currants, which fruit late."

PREPARING THE ONION BED.

Having discussed the fruits, we next turned our attention to the vegetables. A bed that had contained Onions was pointed out to me, and Mr. Kidd remarked:

"This is where I have grown my best Onions for the past eight years. The bed is now being prepared for trenching."

"Do you mean," I asked, "that this same piece of ground has grown Onions for eight years?"

"Yes," was the reply. "I trench it four feet deep, and bury all the rubbish here. I do not burn anything that can be rotted."

"How have Potatoes done?" I inquired, as we passed some good-sized clumps of these and Carrots.

"The crops have been very good this year, Great Scot especially so, and I have seen no signs of disease."

"Did you spray as a preventive?"

"No; I am not sure that spraying is really beneficial, and I have heard of some people in Radlett who are so dissatisfied with its effects that they will not adopt it next year. It clearly requires to be in the hands of expert operators, for if it is not of the exact strength it seems to be useless, while if it is stronger the foliage is damaged, and healthy foliage is necessary to get good crops. I have noticed that the foliage has been damaged in some cases."

"You still have Cauliflowers to cut," I observed, as we passed a bed of attractive-looking plants.

"This has been a good year for Cauliflowers," was the reply; "and we have not been without since we started cutting in June. Broccoli will come in when they have finished. Leamington and Late Queen are the two varieties, Leamington coming in a fortnight earlier than the other. The Purple-sprouting Broccoli is also coming on nicely. As to other greens, I find Cartercone is very good for late work, keeping well, and being fit to cut into February. One of the best Brussels Sprouts is Thomson's Prizewinner, and a useful Savoy is Dwarf Curled."

A REMEDY FOR CARROT-FLY.

"I noticed you had a good lot of Carrots clamped. Were you much troubled with the fly?"

"I have no trouble with it at all. As soon as the young plants come through the soil I top-dress with short grass clippings from the lawn, and keep on with this every week. The result is that the parent fly does not lay her eggs near the roots. This is a wrinkle I learned from an old gardener in Scotland. The bed is now to be prepared for Carrots for next season."

"Do you grow these also on the same site year after year?"

"They have been grown on this same bed for the past fourteen years; while the old gardener I told you about had grown Carrots for twenty-eight years on the same site."

A glance at the Asparagus bed, part of which is renewed every two years; at ten good rows of Celery, Solid White and Standard Bearer; and at the newly trenched ground where Royal Sovereign Strawberry is to be planted, together with a few rows of Laxton's Maincrop, which are to be tried for the first time; and we then turned into the greenhouses.

In the first were a number of Tomato plants in 10-in. pots, with huge trusses of fruits, and I inquired the name of the variety.

"It is Bide's Recruit," was the answer. "It has given enormous crops, and is, in my opinion, the best Tomato in cultivation. I have tried several varieties, but prefer this to all others."

HERBACEOUS BORDERS AND CORDON PEARS AT NEWBERRIES, RADLETT.

On the staging were many different plants, such as Single Chrysanthemums, some showing colour, others in bloom; Solanum capsicastrum, nicely berried; a few Azaleas, and a batch of Veronica Halkeana. Then on the wall were several thriving Peaches, which I was told had borne good crops, averaging four dozen fruits per plant. The varieties are Lord Napier and Waterloo, with Early Rivers and Pine Apple Nectarines.

"Do you restrict them to one fruit per foot of wall space?" I asked.

"I am afraid I crop more closely than that, and allow one to each eight inches of space."

THE VINERIES.

"What were the varieties of Grapes with which you won the Hogg Memorial Medal this year?" I asked, as we entered the Muscat house.

"They were Alnwick Seedling, Madresfield Court, Lady Hutt, Muscat of Alexandria, Mrs. Pince, and Appleby Towers. Last year I was second in the same class. In this house there are Muscat Hamburgh, Bowood Muscat, Mrs. Pince, and Muscat of Alexandria. Muscat Ham-

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burgh does not do so well as I should like, but the others do very well."

"There are still some grand bunches left," I observed. "What do you estimate the weight of the largest to be?"

"At least three and a half pounds. All these Vines here were planted by me; but in the early house, which we are now entering, the old Vines were retained, though the border has been renewed, and new rods taken up. Mill Hill Hamburgh finishes well. In the third Vinery there are Alicante, Alnwick Seedling, Mrs. Pince, Gros Maroc, Lady Hutt, Madresfield Court, and Appley Towers."

Leaving the Vineries, we came into a plant house, where, besides Zonal Geraniums in bloom, and a batch of Primula obconica raised from a mixture of seed, a number of Perpetual Carnations were staged. Commenting on these, Mr. Kidd said:

"They are not so forward as I would like, as, owing to pressure of other work, they were not struck soon enough, but they are coming on nicely for later on. There are most of the standard varieties, such as May Day, Lady Bountiful, Triumph, and Carola. Carola is a fine flower, but it bursts its calyx, which I have not known Triumph to do; in fact, I look upon Triumph as one of the best of the crimsons, as it has nicely shaped flowers of good colour, and is very fragrant."

The next house contains a mixed collection of plants, such as Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, a nice bank of Maidenhair Fern relieved by the silvery foliage of Abutilon Savitzii, and Bougainvillea in bloom on the wall. From this we passed into the stove, where another lot of winter-flowering Begonias was seen in a more forward condition, together with a group of Calanthe Veitchii, just showing colour.

"We used to grow a lot of these, and also of Poinsettias," explained Mr. Kidd; "but between lack of labour and scarcity of fuel we have had to reduce them considerably. We are keeping a few of each sort, so that we can work up a stock later."

Among the occupants of the stove are Cypripedium insigne, Croton Warrenii, Acalypha sanderiana, Nephrolepis, and Adiantum farleyense.

There was little time to examine the contents of the frames, for Mr. Kidd was almost due to take up his duties on the railway, but I noticed some very strong and healthy Cinerarias; fine plants of Primula obconica and P. kewensis; Calceolarias and Pentstemons; and a splendid batch of Saxifraga pyramidalis, which flowers when two or three years old, and of which there were plants in all stages of development.

FAVOURITE ROCK PLANTS.

But before taking my leave I paid a hasty visit to the rock garden, constructed in semi-circular form on the principal lawn. It was not without bloom, for Linum narbonense, Mesembryanthemum purpureum, Nepeta Mussini, and Campanula G. F. Wilson were still flowering; while among other favourite subjects are Morina longifolia, Pentstemon heterophyllus, Phlox canadensis, P. frondosa, P. Nelsoni, Iberis sempervivum and Little Gem, Hutchinsia alpina, Saxifraga Guildford Seedling, S. Stansfieldii, Silene maritima, and Helianthemum Red Dragon.

Mr. Kidd is a native of Scotland, and was apprenticed at the gardens of the Earl of Stair, Castle Kennedy, Wigtonshire, a place famous for its conifers. Following this, he worked as journeyman as Sir Archibald Hepburn's seat, Smeaton Hepburn, where Orchids and rock gardens were the leading features. After spending three years there he went as outside foreman at Mauldslie Castle (Lord Newlands), and he subsequently became general foreman, a position he held for four years, leaving it to take up his present post with Mr. G. W. Miller.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Next week: The gardens at Brook House, Ardingley.—Interview with Mr. Harvey R. G. Clarke.

The Hardy Flower Garden.

I have been in and out of a number of gardens this autumn, and of the majority one is bound to say that they have been more or less neglected. The other day I saw a jobbing gardener at work in one where the ground was covered with weeds, most of them with fully ripened seeds. He began by skimming off the top two or three inches of soil, with the weeds in it, and then started to dig. From the point of view of getting rid of as many weed seeds as possible the operation can be defended. But, of course, this surface soil was, so to speak, the cream of the soil, and to take it away was deplorable, especially as the subsoil was not very deep down. Matters such as these must be taken into consideration at this season of the year. It is a thousand pities for the soil to be asked to grow and mature a rich crop of weeds, and then to be expected to produce in the same degree of perfection the ordinary garden crops. It is an impossibility, and the crops are only meagre and stunted, in comparison with what they should be.

A WALK IN THE GROUNDS AT NEWBERRIES, RADLETT.

ABOUT RASPBERRIES AND ASPARAGUS.

In another garden I have lately seen, the Asparagus bed was a great deal too near the Raspberry canes, and was infested with the canes—great strong shoots of more than one year's growth. They were being carefully drawn out, but, of course, from every bit of root left there was the fear of a new sucker appearing. It was a practical lesson to me never to establish Raspberries too near so permanent a bed as is that devoted to Asparagus, unless great care is taken not to allow any sucker to make way.

In weeding at this time of year I would strongly urge the necessity of eradicating as far as possible ground Elder or Bishop's Weed, and couch grass—the roots of both of these are not far from the surface, but every morsel left makes a new plant. It is not economy to neglect a garden until it becomes a riot of weeds. There is golden truth in the old adage: "One year's seeding makes seven years' weeding."

With the winter before us, and food still under ration conditions, it behoves us to see that all food is well stored. For instance, not long ago someone said to me: "Yes, my Potatoes are holed, but I do not think there is enough soil over the straw to keep the frost out." Now here is a matter of extreme importance to all who are storing Potatoes. They must be kept safe from the frost, and this means from really sharp winter's frost, however severe it may be. Potatoes that have been seriously frosted are practically ruined.

And speaking of storing Potatoes brings me to the subject of storing Begonia bulbs. When these are taken from the ground they should be carefully dried off, and the full length of stem detached. If the joint next the bulb is left, this will probably rot and endanger the bulb. In storing, the bulbs should be arranged upside down. This was a hint given some years ago in the pages of GARDEN LIFE, and as it was claimed to have a good many advantages I have always remembered it. It has the merit of allowing any moisture to drain away more freely. Where Begonias have been growing in pots it always seems to me the very safest way to let them dry off, and remain in pots until the spring. With Begonias it is necessary to exclude every suspicion of frost. Some people store them away in a warm closet, but I prefer not to keep them too warm.

A ROSE HINT.

In planting Roses—not, of course, to be reckoned as first-class—we might do well to remember the pretty little dwarf Polyantha Roses. I have in my mind a border of these tiny Roses round a bed of larger and better-class Roses, but these dainty little bordering ones in full flower were immensely effective. I would also suggest them for the small bits in the fronts of the many small town gardens. Such a little "front bit," planted with a good colour selection of these Roses would, I am sure, become a great joy to the flower-lover.

This is the season for putting in a generous supply of woody cuttings. Quite large pieces of Lavender will strike root, and this means that good-sized plants are obtained the first season. Everyone seems to fall in love with the violet-flowered Buddleia Veitchii, and cuttings root as easily as a Willow wand. Almost all flowering shrubs may be increased now, either from cuttings or suckers. The brilliant orange double Kerria can be increased in this latter way, and is lovely with a mass of blue Forget-me-nots at its base. Let us suppose a bit of wall in the garden, the wall clothed with

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THE GARDENS OF CAPTAIN C. G. FRYER.

Interview with Mr. Walter Kimber, at Worthy Park, Winchester.

AMONG the numerous attractive country seats within easy access of the ancient city of Winchester, Worthy Park, the residence of Captain Fryer and his family, merits a foremost place. It has almost every possible advantage with regard to situation; is surrounded by a charming park, with entrances on either side; and the impressive mansion facing the banks of the Itchen, with many vistas of beautiful country, has a suitable setting in the shape of tastefully laid-out pleasure grounds. If the gardens at Worthy Park are not on a large scale, they were admirably planned, and are evidently cared for in a whole-hearted manner. There is the suggestion that they are not meant for show, but for enjoyment. In the immediate vicinity of the house, which would not lend itself to decoration by climbing plants, there are no flower beds, but the effect of the sloping lawn from the terrace on the south side, with the tennis-courts below, is very pleasing. The flower garden has an approach which is in keeping with its arrangement and contents. As I said to Mr. Walter Kimber, the gardener, who showed me round,

"At the outset the gardens convey the idea that no detail is considered unimportant."

"We do our best," he rejoined, "to keep it in good order. The owner, Mrs. Fryer, and all the family, take the keenest interest in the gardens, but there is no attempt to give prominence to any special feature. As you will see, there is not much glass, and all we do in the way of exhibiting is to put up a group at the flower show which is held every August in the park."

"You seem to have a number of fine trees in the park."

"The Cedars, evergreen Oaks, Chestnuts, and Elms are the most noticeable. In the cricket season, matches are played in the park, which, with the gardens, is about fifty acres in extent."

Specimen Trees on the Lawn.

"There is a fine Cedar also in the garden."

"Yes, it is feathered to the ground. Here, a Magnolia, which in the flowering period is vastly admired, and a weeping scarlet Hawthorn may be mentioned. Other ornamental trees on the lawn are a Wellingtonia gigantea, and the Maidenhair Tree has a trunk six feet in circumference. Amongst shrubs, Irish Yews do remarkably well. The old Mulberry tree regularly bears a good crop of fruit, and the double-flowering Cherry resembles a ball of snow when it is in bloom."

"Are the beds planted for spring flowering?"

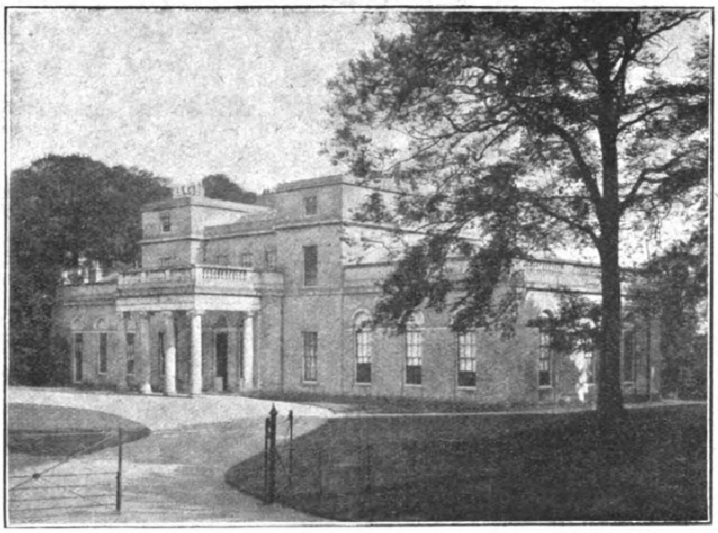
"No, the spring bedding is confined to the border under the greenhouses, consisting of mixed Polyanthus, chiefly seedlings, and Wallflowers Sutton's Blood-red; with four beds of Wallflowers."

"I observe that on the adjacent wall the Jasminum is throwing up masses of flowers."

"It has been in flower for a month, and in December and January we cut some lovely sprays for the vases. They last several days in water. I prune the tree in spring, and it makes wood again to flower in winter. Just underneath it is an old Nutmeg tree, which flowers regularly in July, and has a fragrant perfume."

The Summer Bedding.

"Have you any scheme of colour for the beds in summer?"



WORTHY PARK, WINCHESTER.

"I can hardly call it a scheme of colour, but the object is to make the pleasure grounds as gay as our resources will permit. Thus, two large beds are filled with Geranium Paul Crampel, edged with blue Lobelias and Echeverias; two with fibrous-rooted Begonias, edged with Pyrethrum Golden Feather; two with Lobelia cardinalis, and a groundwork of Geranium Little Trot; two with Geranium Paul Crampel; two with Henry Jacoby; and one entirely with Heliotropes."

"Then, there are the Rose beds?"

"The Roses are mixed varieties. We strike our own year after year, and do not go in for names. Roses do well, but the natural soil is chalk, which does not suit them, and we put in loam, with plenty of rotten hotbed manure. The varieties of standards close to the sundial are Frau Karl Druschki, Madame Guinoisseau, Mrs. Paul, Homere, La France, and Alister Stella Gray.

"The natural soil," continued Mr. Kimber, "suits Tree Pæonies. The two specimens which are already showing flower buds have been here many years, and always flower profusely in May or June, according to the weather. The worst of it is that the blooming season is very brief, and I know no means by which it can be prolonged."

Entering the houses, a collection of nicely-grown Primulas at once attracted my attention, and I enquired when they began to flower.

Primulas in Cold Frames.

"The end of October, and they last until February. Both sections, the obconica and Sutton's Giant, are treated in much the same way. The obconica do not trouble me, though I know that others suffer from handling them. The Giant Primulas grow in a cold frame outside in the summer, but the obconicas are kept in the greenhouse all through. The Freesias on the side stage, about thirty plants, are for flowering in February and March."

"Do you try to flower the Arum Lilies for Easter?"

"Yes, because they help us then with church decorations. On the stages at the top are plants of Paul Crampel, which has almost superseded Henry Jacoby. Some of the late Chrysanthemums are in the early Vinery."

"How many Chrysanthemums do you grow altogether?"

"Between four and five hundred large blooms, Singles, and Decorative varieties. There are now (January 5th) in flower Madame Oberthur, which everyone in this part of the country grows, because it cannot be beaten amongst whites; Mrs. W. Elliott, Martensby, Le Croix, and Mrs. H. Perkins. Some of the best early varieties are Source d'Or, Mrs. T. W. Pockett, Poitevine, Mrs. W. Blackwood, Marquis of Northampton, H. W. Thorpe, Lady Henderson, Pockett's Surprise, and Duchess of Westminster."

Carnations in Vineries.

"You grow your Tree Carnations in the Vineries?"

"There is nowhere else. The glass consists of these three houses, and a few little pits. But we manage to get through. The varieties of Carnations include Golden Nugget, Mrs. H. Burnett, Viscount Kitchener, Marmion, White Perfection, Pink Enchantress, White Enchantress, Britannia, and Annie Tucker. We start flowering early in December, and continue until towards the end of February."

"And you get fine blooms from your Roman Hyacinths?"

"There is a batch similar to these in the drawing-room. The Paper-white Narcissi have been in flower for a fortnight. So far we find that bulbs are doing well, and the season is most promising. All the Daffodils we grow outside are naturalised in the grass."

Gladioli and Hollyhocks.

Proceeding under the archway of Crimson Rambler and Seven Sisters Roses and Honeysuckles, which divides the flower garden from the kitchen garden, I asked about the varieties grown in the herbaceous border in the centre.

"It is an all-the-year-round border. We commence with Forget-me-nots, Wallflowers, and Tulips. These are followed, amongst other things, by Geraniums, Lobelia cardinalis, Asters, Salvias (Bluebeard), Gladioli, and Hollyhocks. This garden faces south, a fact which may help to account for the healthiness of the Hollyhocks, and the success of the Gladioli. The only variety of the latter is Brenchleyensis. The Hollyhocks are chiefly double varieties, with a few singles. We let them take their chance, merely keeping the rusty leaves picked off. Every year a certain number of new plants are raised to fill up the gaps

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caused by those which have disappeared. The Hollyhock pest has not troubled us much. On each side of the main border is a narrower one, with Mrs. Sinkins Pinks on either side. Probably the position is accountable for the flourishing look of the Chamærops Fortuneii, which was planted out eight years ago, and has stood the winter without any kind of protection."

Sweet Williams for Cutting.

"What sort of crops do you get in the Nut walk at the far end of the garden?"

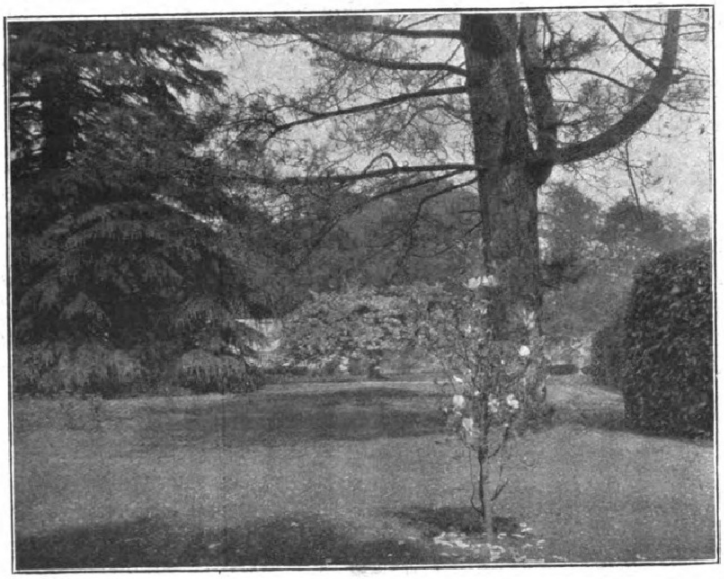
"Last year we had a splendid lot of Filberts. The situation here is very sheltered, and already the Aconites under the trees, which carpet the ground later on, are showing flowers."

"But you must tell me about the other flowers in the kitchen garden," I rejoined, as we inspected a handsome Yew, resembling the tower and nave of a church.

"There are two borders of Sweet Williams. We raise seedlings every year, and cut the flowers for table decoration. They last well in water. The variety is Sutton's Mixed, and they make a show in June and July. Along the top walk there are Canterbury Bells on one side, and Coreopsis grandiflora on the other."

"Who designed your pretty piece of rockwork in one of the corners?"

"It was my idea, and was made two years ago. Of course, there are only a few plants in flower now, but all the summer there was a show. Among the numerous varieties are Lithospermum, Sedums, Edelweiss, Dianthus, and Aubrietias in quantity. Near the rockwork is a plot devoted to Border Carnations, all Old Clove."



A MAGNOLIA IN WORTHY PARK GARDENS.

Sweet Peas and Violets.

"How do you grow Sweet Peas?"

"Except a row for early use, now four inches above the ground, which are brought on in pits, they are all grown in clumps. The later Sweet Peas are put into the ground about the first week in March. Last season they did badly owing to lack of moisture. Fortunately, though we are very dry, a good supply of water is obtained from the river Itchen by means of the water wheel, which runs night and day. The varieties of Sweet Peas include Dorothy Eckford, Countess of Aberdeen, Lovely, Village Maid, Miss Willmott, King Edward VII., Queen Alexandra, Mrs. Dugdale, Mrs. Walter P. Wright, Lady Grisel Hamilton, Sutton's Butterfly, Navy Blue, Dorothy Tennant, Othello, and Princess of Wales."

"What about Violets?"

"There are three varieties, Mrs. J. J. Astor, Marie Louise, and Princess of Wales. We began cutting at the end of October, and shall go on until May. We protect the plants with leaves round the frames, and mat them up at night. In frames we also grow Cineraria stellata and Schizanthus Wisetonensis, about fifty of each; with a fair number of Maidenhair Ferns. Close to the office are two clumps of Bamboos, more than twenty years old, flourishing in a very dry spot."

"The walls appear to be well covered with fruit trees."

"Pears and Plums chiefly. The two finest Pears are Marie Louise and Doyenne du Comice. The best Plums are Coe's Golden Drop, Victoria, Early Rivers, and Magnum Bonum. I prune my fruit trees on the walls rather hard, and get in all the young wood I can. It is better to prune before Christmas in mild weather. We finished to-day, all but half a tree. There are also Figs, Brown Turkey, on the walls, and we pick from the beginning of August till October. I tie the young wood in, keep it close to the wall, and protect it from the frost. A few winters ago, severe frost played havoc with most of the young wood, but where it had been tied in it was saved."

Apples and Small Fruit.

"And Apples?"

"They are nearly all bushes. We have done away with espaliers. The crop for 1911 was splendid, notably Blenheim Orange, Cox's Orange Pippin, King of Pippins, American Mother, and Newton Wonder, which I keep back for the last."

"There remains the smaller fruit."

"Gooseberries were picked very early last year—on the 9th of May; and we get a fine crop of dessert varieties. Red and White Currants do well, but Black Currants have failed. This year we are trying others. The Raspberry, Norwich Wonder, does very well. Strawberries began to ripen, too, on May 4th—the forced. We only grow one variety, Royal Sovereign. The runners are kept for three or four years. We transfer them from the pots after we have fruited them. Melons, Hero of Lockinge, are grown in a cold frame, and we get a dozen fruits in the season. The Cucumbers raised in the frames are Telegraph."

"Do you go in largely for salads?"

"As largely as we can. In fact, we have salad all the year round. You see there is a large bed of Lettuce in front of the office, and we cut all through the summer. The varieties are Nonsuch, Ideal, and Giant. Endive is cut all the winter. We grow it outside in summer, and transfer it to the frames in the winter. Mustard and Cress are grown all the year round. We raise them indoors in a little border at the back of the houses. Early Potatoes, Myatt's Ashleaf, are grown in a row of pits."

"What Potatoes do you grow outside?"

"Up-to-Date and Duchess of Cornwall. We grow our main crop of Potatoes, with Mangolds for the cows, on a piece of ground in the park. They did not do very well last year."

"Did you have a fair crop of Peas?"

"Yes, owing mainly to our good supply of water. In addition to the wheel I have mentioned, the overflow from the cistern which supplies the house runs into the fishponds, and contributes to the moisture of the soil. Peas were sown in February, and the first were picked on June 9th. Last year the season came to an abrupt close in September, but, as a rule, it lasts until the end of October. The varieties are Day's Early Sunrise, Gradus, Sutton's Early Giant, Thomas Laxton, Champion of England, Duke of Albany, Fillbasket, Veitch's Perfection, Captain Cuttle, and Autocrat. Runner Beans were picked late in October, the varieties being Champion of England and Painted Lady. We gathered many eight to ten inches long. I make a trench similar to a Celery trench, fill it up with rotten manure, dig it well in, and plant the Beans on the top. The only variety of Celery is Major Clarke. I prefer to grow it in single rows, of which I have eight. The single rows are more easily earthed up. Endive and Lettuce are grown between the trenches, and the Celery is followed by Peas. Several pieces of our ground are made to yield three crops. As to other vegetables, it will suffice to mention Onions. They are chiefly spring-sown, but we grow a few for autumn, and pull up for use directly they are ready. The varieties are Sutton's A1, Empress, Reading, and Giant Rocca."

"I should like to know something about your own experiences, Mr. Kimber."

"That story is soon told. I was five years at Audley's Wood, and some years second gardener with Captain Fryer, and four years ago I became head gardener."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week's subject will be: Pears for Amateurs to Grow.—An interview with an expert at the nurseries of Messrs. Veitch and Sons, Ltd.

THREE CROPS IN ONE FRAME.

WITH the aid of a very mild hotbed in February, or without the hotbed in March, Potatoes, Lettuces, and Radishes can be easily grown in one frame, all the seeds being sown at the same time.

The soil, a good, friable loam, with a small quantity of leaf-soil added, should be about fifteen inches deep. Plant the Potato tubers four inches deep, and ten inches apart, in rows sixteen to eighteen inches asunder. When the Potatoes are all covered in, sow broadcast, very thinly, a few seeds of Cos Lettuce, and Wood's Early Frame Radish. The Cos Lettuces are more suitable than the Cabbage varieties, as they do not take up much room.

It is only necessary to sow the seeds on the surface, and then lightly rake them in. Keep the lights closed, and covered at night in very cold weather, and in the day if it is frosty.

The Radishes will be the first ready for use, and should be pulled as wanted. The Lettuces may be thinned out, some planted in other frames, and some in sheltered beds outside. A few may be left to grow to a fair size in the frame. The Potatoes will be the last to use, and the other crops will not interfere with them if not overcrowded in the frame. DELAMERE.

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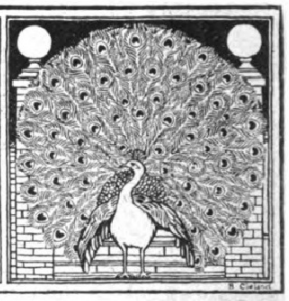
THE GARDENS OF THE REV. H. BULL, AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, WESTGATE-ON-SEA.

Interview with Mr. F. King.



WHEN I suggested a visit to the gardens at Wellington House, Westgate-on-Sea, the Rev. Herbert Bull, who is well known in Kent as a keen horticulturist, wrote that he should be delifted for me to see them, but doubted whether it was worth while for me to make the journey. Owing to Mr. Bull's indisposition on the brilliant day in February when I availed myself of his courtesy, I did not have the pleasure of seeing him, but Mr. F. King, his clever gardener, whose successes in showing have been numerous, met me on my arrival, and took me round. Wellington House, it should be stated, stands in a notable position, and is close to the sea, in the most pleasant part of Westgate. It is a well-built and comfortable residence, with a beautiful chapel attached to it, for Mr. Bull is not only a clergyman, but the head of a well-known preparatory school. Notwithstanding his numerous obligations, he finds time to devote a good deal of attention to his gardens, and Mr. King, in pointing out its features, called my attention to the number of little rockeries with their collections of thriving Alpines. For example, the plantation which was added to the fruit garden seven years ago, includes two rockeries, one for Irises when they require to be protected from wind in a warm corner, and the other for various Alpines.

Alpines in the Rockeries.

"The principal rockery, as you see," said Mr. King, "is on the lawn, faces one end of the house, and runs its whole length. It was made eleven years ago, and has, therefore, had plenty of time to develop. Tied back against the wall adjacent to the rockery are fine plants of Eremurus globosa, robustus, and himalaicus. We got spikes of flower recently eight feet high, running up to the top of the fence."

"And the varieties on the rockery itself?"

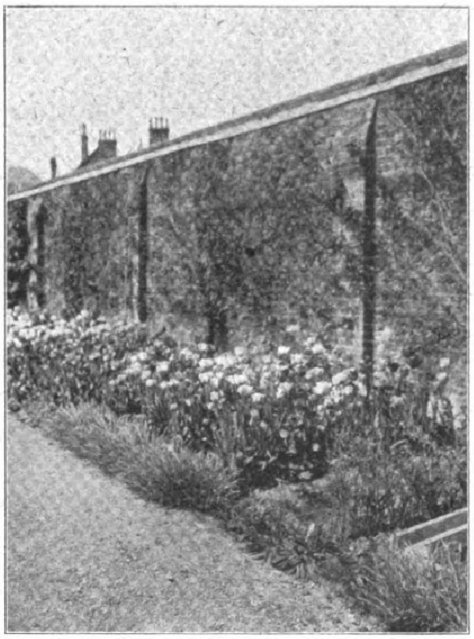
"Here, and in the other rockeries, are included a great number of varieties. I will name some of those which do best under somewhat unusual conditions. Arenaria montana, Anemone pulsatilla, Androsace carnea, Alyssum Gold Dust, Cypripedium pubescens, Campanulas (about ten varieties, notably C. isophylla and C. pusilla), Dianthus Napoleon III. and neglectus, Dryas octopetala, Gentiana acaulis, Hepatica triloba (white and blue), Helianthemums in four varieties, Iberis, Lithospermum prostratum, Linum perenne, Lychnis in variety, Morisia hypogœa, Primulas in variety (especially pulverulenta), Saxifrages and Sedums in variety, Thymus, and Veronica prostrata."

"Then," I observed "Irises are evidently a great feature."

"Yes, there are more than sixty varieties. The border is protected in front by a hedge of Euonymus, and in front of the Euonymus are late Tulips, with Gladioli between them. That is to say, the Tulips are succeeded by Gladioli, which make a splendid show. The chief varieties are G. Brenchleyensis, Apple Blossom, and The Bride. The two latter are grown in pots, and flowered, and then planted out."

"Do you grow many of the Spanish Irises?"

"Twelve varieties in clumps of six, all different shades of colour. Here is a border devoted entirely to Roses and Irises. They flower at the same time, and the colours harmonise. The Roses in the border are planted in threes, and are chiefly white and pink. A number of dwarf Irises are raised from seed, but these are grown in the vegetable garden, which is near my house, about a mile away."



A Border of Tulips at Wellington House.

"When were the gardens made?" I asked, as we strolled from point to point.

"Twenty-six years ago. In this part of the grounds are most of the Roses. One of the favourites is Sinica, a single Rose, with glossy foliage, with large flowers four or five inches across. Sinica begins to flower in June, and goes on until August. Another combination is Roses and Narcissi. We have to choose the most hardy, because of the fury of the north-east wind to which we are exposed. The Pheasant-eye Narcissus predominates, and we find that the foliage of the Narcissi materially helps to protect the Roses, which are all dwarf, except one or two very hardy climbers."

"Do Sweet Peas thrive in this climate?"

"They always do well, and grow quite eight feet high. I sow in autumn, at the end of August or the beginning of September, and grow in the open. Sometimes I cut flowers in May, and always in June. For spring flowering, I start in pots, and plant out at the end of March. Underneath a high wall I grow twelve of Sutton's varieties; these are the latest to flower."

"You have a large border for annuals?"

"Yes, we grow them for cutting, and use a quantity for decorating the chapel. The border faces south, and the clumps include Asters, Balsams, Pyrethrum Golden Feather, Dahlias, Antirrhinums (tall and dwarf), Candytuft, summer-flowering Chrysanthemums, Cosmos, Clarkias, Larkspurs, Japanese striped Maize, Nemesias, Phacelia campanularia (a blue, bell-shaped flower), Shirley Poppies, Scabious, Sweet Sultan, and Verbenas."

Herbaceous Beds in Quantity.

Passing some ground Mr. King lately planted with Pansies and Violas, chosen for colour, and proceeding, we retraced our steps through the fruit pergola to inspect the herbaceous beds, planted round the grass, in which Snowdrops and Daffodils have been naturalised.

"What is the width of these beds?" I enquired.

"Nine feet. The varieties here also are all grown in clumps, and used for cutting. Practically we grow all flowers, both for the sake of looking at them in flower, and with the view of cutting for use indoors."

"You might name a few of the most thriving varieties."

"There are eight or nine varieties of Delphiniums, thirty varieties of Asters, and quite twenty of Campanulas, to begin with. Other varieties include Aquilegias, Aconitums, Armeria Queen Charlotte, Betonica grandiflora, Boltonia asteroides, Canterbury Bells, Coreopsis lanceolata, Dielytra spectabilis, Doronicum Clusii, Epimedium alpinum, Foxgloves, Geranium argenteum and sanguineum, Gypsophila paniculata, Helenium autumnale, Nepeta Mussinii, Potentillas, Lupins, Rudbeckias, and Thalictrums. Now, before we deal with the fruit, we had better look round the terrace bedding."

The Terrace Combinations.

This is on the other side of the house, and before we arrived at the terrace, we paused at a border at the back of the chapel.

"In this border," proceeded Mr. King, "Crocuses are used as groundwork, and Roses are trained over them, coming into bloom as soon as the Crocuses are over, and covering the whole of the space. There are Roses behind, and the border is edged with Polyanthus. We grow Petunias in front of the chapel close to the wall, white and red."

"What is your scheme of bedding for the spring?"

"In the twenty-nine beds on the terrace, with a sundial at the end, we use red and white Tulips, with Myosotis as groundwork. Every bed is filled with this combination, though some

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are straight, and others are oval in shape. They are all cut out in the grass. In the summer we use scarlet and white Geraniums, with blue Lobelias as groundwork for the white, and Alyssums for the scarlet. Practically, the prevailing colours are always red, white, and blue, with a little yellow in the spring."

"You must use a great quantity of Alyssums and Lobelias?"

"Fourteen hundred of the former, and a thousand of the latter. On the north wall facing the terrace bedding, are Morello Cherries, and underneath we grow Crocuses for the spring, and Violas and Pansies for the summer, which do well, though they never get a ray of sunshine. On the walls of the chapel are Calcyanthus, Acer macrophyllum, Banksia Roses, Gum Cistus, Choisya ternata, Ceanothus, and Jasminum, and on the walls of the house Ivy, Honeysuckle, and Roses."

Fruit on the Walls.

"With respect to fruit, I should like to know the nature of the soil?"

"It is loam on the top to the extent of two feet, and chalk below. All the trouble we have in fruit-growing is due to the chalk. In the new piece of fruit garden to which I have already alluded, we grow a few stewing Pears on the north wall, such as Catillac, Hivers, and Vicar of Winkfield; the Apples here being Fillbasket, Red Reinette, Cox's Orange, and Queening The Pears on the east wall, which were also put in seven years ago, are planted in twos, the varieties being Mdlle. Solange, Beurre Hardy, Beurre Diel, Pitmaston Duchess, and Williams's Bon Chretien. From these trees we get some very fine fruit, and likewise from the Apples, also planted in twos, the varieties being Annie Elizabeth, Bismarck, The Queen, and Adams' Pearmain. The south wall is covered with Peaches, of which the varieties are Amsden June, Walburton Admirable, Princess of Wales, and Late Devonian. The crops from these are generally very good. Apples and Pears on cordons are also turned to account as a hedge, and in the spring this part of the fruit garden is brightened by flowering shrubs, such as Laburnums, Sumachs, Deutzias, and Lilacs."

"You have a great many fruit trees in your original garden?"

"These were all planted twenty years ago. One bed consists of Cox's Orange Pippin Apples, and a tree each of Pears, Mere de Menage and Gloria Mundi. In the large plantation of Apple trees, there are rows of Cox's Orange Pippin, Allington Pippin, Annie Elizabeth, New Northern Greening, Tyler's Kernel, and Hugh Cannon. I root-prune these trees nearly every year, if they are growing too strong, and if one is doing badly, I take it to the 'hospital' attached to the vegetable garden."

"Have you any special varieties on your fine pergola?"

"The Apples are the same we grow elsewhere, but the Pears include Duchess of Angouleme, Louise Bonne of Jersey, and Doyenne du Comice."

Secrets of Success.

"You have made the most of the space at your disposal."

"Yes, the original fruit garden, including paths, does not exceed sixty perches, and in that space I have had as many as fifty-six varieties of Apples, and twenty-three of Pears, which invariably crop satisfactorily."

"What are the secrets of your success?"

"I am quite sure that I owe a great deal to the fact that I keep the trees clean and feed them well. I fork lightly during the winter, and work in a dressing of manure. In a dry season the trees are all the better for a mulch of litter in the summer. It preserves the moisture and keeps them cool."

"Tell me, please, what forms of trees you recommend for a small garden."

"I find that bush trees on the Paradise are best for the open, and single cordons for the walls. It is of vital importance that the bush trees, to begin with, should be evenly furnished with branches, and the cordons straight and well spurred."

"What are the features of your greenhouse and Fernery?"

"We use the Fernery to start plants, but a quantity of Ferns are also grown. I have not hitherto mentioned Chrysanthemums, but we grow a number of singles for the purpose of cutting, and I have shown a few."

"You have a splendid Rose tree in the greenhouse."

William Allen Richardson.

"It is the feature of the house, and blooms close to the glass. The variety is William Allen Richardson, and as an instance of its usefulness at all seasons of the year, I may say that we cut upwards of fifty Roses during the first week in February. I have cut as many as one hundred blooms at once."

"When did you begin to bloom your Arum Lilies?"

"I commenced cutting before Christmas, and have since had five or six every week for use in the chapel. Streptosolen Jamesonii also supplies us with a quantity of flower. Mr. Bull collected this plant abroad. It is very easy to strike as soon as it has done flowering. In the Fernery there are a few Nectarines and Peaches in pots, the former Dryden and Early Rivers, the latter Amsden June. Cinerarias, the Star, are just coming into bloom, and the Rose Marechal Niel, which runs along the wall, gives us a good supply of blooms."

Nine Inches from Chalk.

We then made our way along the sea front to the vegetable garden, where Mr. King has a very pleasant house in a delightful situation.

"But," as he remarked on our arrival, "there are difficulties of cultivation, owing to the fact that we have only nine to twelve inches of soil above the chalk. As you see, however, Irises, which are grown on the borders of either side of the vegetables up the slope, find the conditions congenial. There are a great many varieties, all of the Germanica section, which flower in June and July. Gracchus is one of the best, and Maori King is good. Irises are also in evidence all round the hedges in the football field, and we cut a vast number."

"Do you care to say anything about the vegetables?"

"We do not grow any for show purposes, but only the varieties which are the most useful. Very good early Potatoes, which we are just planting, are Midlothian Early, Puritan, Ninetyfold, Sharpe's Victor, Emperor; and,

Wellington House, Westgate-on-Sea.

The Fruit Pergola at Wellington House, Westgate-on-Sea.

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for main crop, Factor and Up-to-date. Only dwarf Peas are grown, because of the wind, and in order to break this, we find a silver Elder hedge very useful. The varieties of Peas are Daisy and Gracchus, which are not above two and a half feet high. Of course, they do not need sticks. Celery and Broad Beans do well, and all the green vegetables. We have cut Asparagus in May, our system being to sow a bed, then thin it out, and let the plants stand until the third year, when we get a very good crop."

The Fruit Hospital.

"You have not shown me the hospital yet?"

Mr. King pointed to a number of fruit trees, looking more or less prosperous, and replied:—"These are the patients. I bring them up from the fruit garden when they require treatment."

"You get your show fruit from the fruit garden, I suppose? I should like to know your successes last year?"

"I only commenced showing at the horticultural show in October, 1907, when I was first at the Royal Horticultural Society show for Pears, Emile d'Heyst and Pitmaston Duchess. In October last year, I was first for Pears, Beurre d'Amanlis, Seckle, and Emile d'Heyst; second for Beurre Hardy, Pitmaston Duchess, Thompson, and Louise Bonne of Jersey. I was also second for six dishes of Apples open to the county of Kent; the varieties were Warner's King, Newtown Wonder, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Mere de Menage, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Wealthy."

"Where did you start your gardening career?"

"In Kent; in fact, all my life has been spent in my native county. I began at Marden, was next at Kenward, Yalding, and then went as second gardener to Mr. Mart, at Sutton Large, near Dartford. There I remained until I came with Mr. Bull to Westgate-on-Sea, nearly twenty-five years ago." ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week, "The Cultivation of Fruit and Plants under Glass" will be discussed in the course of an interview with Mr. B. Goodacre, at Moulton Paddocks Gardens, Newmarket.

Choice Vegetables for Small Gardens.

IT does not entail any more labour or expense to grow the best kinds and varieties than those of indifferent quality. Even from a very small garden a wonderfully fine collection of vegetables may be obtained by judicious selection. Good cultivation is the basis of success.

Peas.

The dwarf-growing varieties occupy less space than the tall ones, and the rows may be closer together. In the case of Peas, I strongly urge amateurs to dig deeply and to manure the whole of the ground devoted to their culture. The mere placing of manure—often that which is very strawy—in the drills is insufficient for the needs of the plants. Give a liberal dressing of well-rotted manure, and thoroughly mix it with the whole of the soil. Then, when the young plants are about one foot high, commence feeding with superphosphate, at the rate of two ounces per yard run of row, once every three weeks. A surface mulch is also advisable.

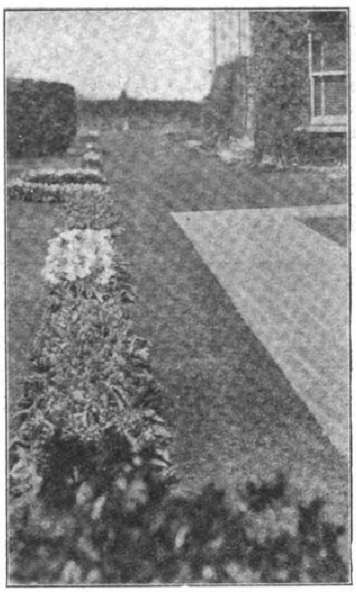
Between the rows—which should be about three feet six inches apart—Radishes and Turnips may be grown. The seeds must be scattered thinly broadcast and raked in. Early Milan Purple-top Turnip is a suitable variety for this purpose.

American Wonder, one foot high; Gradus, three feet; Dr. McLean, three feet; Abundance, two feet; King Edward VII., two feet; Superabundant, two and a-half feet; The Stanley, one and a-half feet; G. F. Wilson, two and a-half feet; Late Queen, three and a half-feet; and Walker's Perpetual Bearer, three feet, are splendid varieties of Peas, and will afford a regular supply from the end of May to October.

Potatoes and Turnips.

Some persons entirely exclude Potatoes from their small gardens, as they consider they take up too much space for the return secured. I do not regard it as a mistake to plant Potatoes in a small garden, but I would confine them to early varieties only. When these are grown the ground occupied by them is free for late crops of dwarf Beans, salads, and Winter Greens, as well as Turnips. Late varieties of Potatoes should not be grown. For early borders Ringleader, Early Queen, Myatt's Ashleaf, Sharpe's Victor, Morning Star (pink-coloured), and Sir John Llewelyn are varieties that will give every satisfaction.

For Turnips the cultivator should be careful



Ribbon Border at Wellington House.

to have the soil deeply dug and well enriched with rotted manure. Select a warm border, break up the soil well, and, while it is in a fairly dry condition, at the earliest opportunity draw out shallow drills one foot apart, and sow the seeds. Make the soil moderately firm; thin out the seedlings early and judiciously, and make use of the later thinnings. Extra Early Purple-top Milan should be depended upon for the first crop; roots are ready for pulling quite a fortnight before those of any other variety. Early White Mousetail, Early Snowball, Jersey Lily, Chirk Castle Black Stone and Green Top White Stone are all valuable varieties.

Onions.

The Onion plant will send its roots down to a depth of four feet in a deeply-trenched soil. An open border must be selected, and seeds sown in it as soon as possible now, directly the soil is dry enough. For ordinary use the bulbs will grow large enough if the seeds are sown in shallow drills ten inches apart; but for exhibition the drills must be at least one foot apart—fourteen inches is better—and the bulbs should be at least nine inches apart in the rows. Scatter some soot on the bed before the drills are opened, and after the seeds are sown and before the drills are closed a light sprinkling of wood ashes will be beneficial.

The following are good varieties for purely home use: James' Keeping, White Spanish, Bedfordshire Champion, Danvers' Yellow, and Up-to-Date. The varieties Ailsa Craig, Excelsior, Trebons, Cocoanut, and Rousham Park Hero are grand for exhibition.

Parsnips.

If the soil is in good condition Parsnip seeds should be sown early in the year. As a general rule, however, March is a suitable month in which to sow them. Moderately dry soil, very deeply dug, must be selected. Have the rows fifteen inches apart, and sow the seeds four inches asunder in them. The variety Hollow Crowned is a first-class one.

G. G.

The Cultivation of Mushrooms.

MUSHROOMS can be successfully grown in any shed or outbuilding, if the preliminary details are attended to, but the secret of success lies in rigid attention to these small details. If possible, the shed should be in a sheltered and cool situation. The ideal place would be on the north side of a range of greenhouses. If only one bed is required at a time, it may be made up on the floor, but, for a succession, it would be well to fix up two or three tiers of staging.

How to Treat the Manure.

The manure is the next consideration, and is best obtained from stables where the horses are in full work, and fed on dry food. It should not be unduly fermented, as it thus loses too much ammonia. Throw it into a heap, forking out the long straw. Do not allow the heap to go white in the middle, but turn and re-turn persistently. The rank gases are thus got rid of by gentle fermentation.

When the temperature is about eighty to ninety degrees, the manure is fit to be used, and may be wheeled into the house, and distributed in layers, beating with a fork. The bed should be about one foot deep at the back, with a slight slope towards the front. Thrust in a few stakes, and leave them for two or three days; then take them out, and test them; if they can be comfortably held, the bed is fit to spawn.

Break the bricks of spawn into eight or nine pieces (each piece should be about the size of a hen's egg), and plant eight inches apart, all over the bed. In three days the bed may be soiled over. Fresh loam from the under spit of meadow land is the best, as it is less likely to have other fungi in it than ordinary garden soil.

Mushrooms should ordinarily begin to appear in six weeks' time, but this varies very much, and some beds will try the patience of the grower for many months, especially during the winter. I have known a bed lie dormant for five months, from September till February, till all results had been despaired of, and that bed bore a splendid crop.

The Ridge System.

The method of growing Mushrooms on a ridge-shaped bed in the open is largely practised by many growers, chiefly during the summer months. The manure should be built up into a ridge, two and a half to three feet wide at the base, and nine inches at the top, with a depth equal to the width. It is necessary in the case of these outdoor beds to choose cool and shady spots.

It is interesting to note that if you own fields where Mushrooms grow, and if you apply salt (which is an excellent fertiliser), you are said to have cultivated the Mushrooms, and are rightly protected by the law against people gathering them. M. KENNEDY-BELL.

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green striped with yellow and white; and another bright green striped with creamy white. The flowers are yellow or red, but it is for its foliage rather than for them that the plant is cultivated. The specific name (tenax) refers to the toughness of the leaves, and the generic name to the fact that they are used for making baskets, as indeed they are for many other things.

THE ORIGIN OF THE MODERN PANSY.

June 27th.—We are so accustomed to think of Pansies as having always been grown in English gardens that it comes as a surprise to learn that the race which we know did not originate much more than a hundred years ago. At that time Thompson, Lord Gambier's gardener at Iver, Bucks, commenced experimenting with the yellow and white Heart's-ease, and soon succeeded in introducing considerable variety in colour. He had more difficulty in increasing the size, though that, too, he managed to do to some extent after a time. "Up to this period," he tells us, "a dark eye, which is now considered one of the chief requisites in a first-rate flower, had never been seen. Indeed, such a feature had never entered my imagination." So he was surprised one morning to find what he describes as "a miniature cat's face steadfastly gazing at me. It was the flower of a Heart's-ease, self-sown." That dark-eyed Pansy was the first of a new race, and in the course of the years that have elapsed since then that new race has, by selection, cultivation, and hybridisation, been improved almost out of recognition. If Thompson was alive he would be amazed at the Pansies of the present day, though his contribution to their advancement was no small one.

PLANTING CABBAGES.

June 28th.—In most gardens Cabbages of various kinds are now being planted out. It may seem a very simple matter, yet it requires discretion. If, with the idea of utilising the ground fully, Cabbages are planted in every plot which is vacant, or will shortly become vacant, where are they to be grown next year? To grow them in the same plot in successive years is to invite disaster. Cabbages take more out of the ground than any other vegetable crop. That, of course, can be made good, and must be made good if the land is not to become infertile; but even from this point of view, such a succession is far less economical than a proper rotation, for a different kind of crop can often find enough food where the same kind will starve. Equally important is the consideration that to grow the same kind of crop in the same plot in successive years is to perpetuate disease. Club-root, for example, destroys vast numbers of Cabbages every year, and there is no chance of stamping it out in a garden unless they are grown in fresh soil.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

SUMMER SNOWFLAKES.

Many folks who know the beauty of the Spring Snowflake, Leucojum vernum, are deeply disappointed with the summer species, Leucojum æstivum. Its flowers are small in proportion to the height of the plants, which look lanky, and not so pleasing as they would do were the stems shorter. It is not really adapted to the border where it is not carpeted with plants six inches or so high, but it looks best in shallow water—say, six inches or so deep. On stems standing well above the water the drooping white flowers of the Summer Snowflake are charming, especially when reflected on the surface. The bulbs should be about two inches deep in the soil. Those who have clumps in the border could lift one of them now, and plant it in the water to try it there. It will not injure the bulbs to do so at this time.

S. ARNOTT.

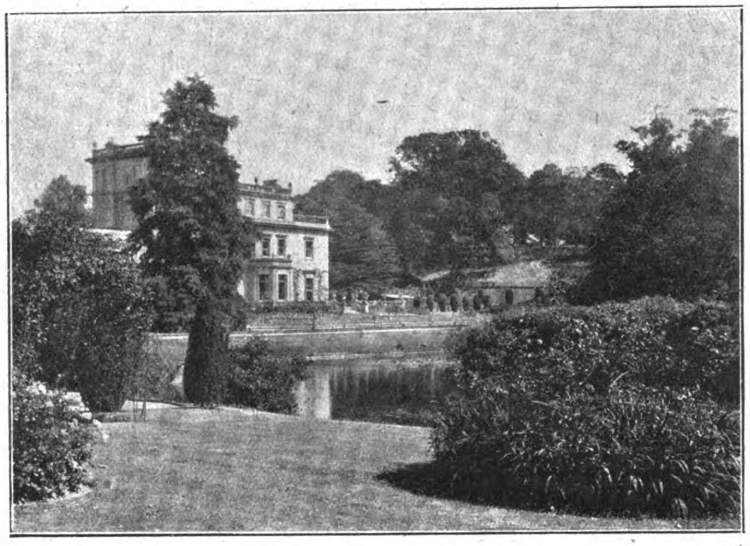
FAMOUS BRITISH GARDENS.

LEXDEN PARK, COLCHESTER.

Interview with Mr. H. J. King.

THE charms of Lexden Park are well known to residents in Colchester and the neighbourhood, thanks to the generosity of its owner, Mrs. E. J. Saunders, who is always ready to give facilities for school and other excursions to be held there. It comprises about fifty acres, much of it woodland, with five acres of pleasure grounds, an acre of water, and three acres of kitchen gardens. Nature and art have combined to produce an effect altogether captivating, and on the glorious day in June when the head gardener, Mr. H. J. King, showed me round, there was nothing lacking to make a perfect picture.

Looking south from the terrace, as we start our walk, a panorama of great beauty unfolds itself. In the immediate foreground is the lawn, the beds filled with their summer occupants; to the right a series of Rose arches, the plants a mass of colour; to the left, a number of Irish Yews, with Golden Yews grafted on the top. Across the lawn the ground slopes down to the lake, which receives the water from the surrounding heights. On its banks is a noble Copper Beech, as fine a specimen as can be seen anywhere, whose richly-coloured leaves are mirrored in the surface of the water. Near by is a handsome Taxodium distichum, or deciduous Cypress, which finds the moist conditions to its liking, for it is at least seventy feet high, and without a blemish; while in a different and higher part of the grounds is another, of the same age, which is scarcely twenty feet high. Further round on the banks are more tall trees, with hybrid Rhododendrons and other shrubs nearer to the water's edge. Then, in the centre of the lake, is a small island, where Rhododendron ponticum riots, its pale purple flowers reflected in the water, and blending with the Water Lilies which bloom in the shallower parts. Beyond all this a field, close cropped by cattle, introduces a quieter note; and this is carried on by the belt of tall trees which frames the entire scene.



LEXDEN PARK, COLCHESTER.

SUMMER BEDDING.

The dwarf wall on the terrace has twenty-two large vases, at present filled with Petunia Holborn Star, Marguerites, and Lobelias, to give red, white, and blue. Of the eight beds on the lawn, the two largest are set out with Ivy Geranium Madame Crousse and Iresine brilliantissima, edged with Geranium Little Dot, Lobelia, and Echeveria. In other beds Geraniums Paul Crampel and West Brighton Gem afford the predominating colour.

"The Irish Yews with Golden Yews worked on top are rather unique," said Mr. King, as we looked in their direction. "They are clipped once a year, in September."

"And what are the Roses on the arches?" I asked, as we turned to the right, and made our way along a path bordered with shrubs.

"Claire Jacquier is this pale yellow, which, as you see, is very free-flowering. Blush Rambler is good; so is Carmine Pillar; and later on Dorothy Perkins will be a rare sight. In the small beds in front of the Roses I shall plant tuberous Begonias shortly—as soon as the Violas are past their best."

The path led us to a small Rose garden, the beds edged with Box. Among varieties which I noted as doing well were Bessie Brown, Ben Cant, Waltham Bride, Lady Hillingdon, and Mrs. J. Laing.

UMBRELLA AND PILLAR ROSES.

Beyond this garden is a wide stretch of lawn, which runs along the right hand side of the lake. Cut in the grass are circular, square, and oblong beds, with umbrella, pillar, and standard Roses. One umbrella trained Rose which

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attracted particular attention was Blush Rambler. It was fully twelve feet high, and the growths spread out and touched the ground all round, covering a space eight feet across. It consisted of one plant only, and the quantity of buds augured well for a grand show of blooms later. Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, and White Dorothy are grown in other beds, but here, to produce the effect, several are planted together. On pillars two floriferous and very decorative single Roses are Mrs. Rosalie Wrench and Cupid, rich carmine-pink and flesh-coloured respectively; others grown in this form are Rene André, Hiawatha, Philadelphia Rambler, and Tausendschön. Nearer the water are several large beds filled with Delphiniums and other herbaceous perennials; while farther back is a long row of Irish Yews, backed by an avenue of Thuya Lobbi and Cupressus Lawsonianus.

"The Delphiniums are all seedlings," said Mr. King; "and among them are some very choice colours. Before the war these beds were filled with 'summer bedders,' and we used to require quite ten thousand plants; now some, at least, of the beds will be permanently filled with herbaceous stuff."

"How many acres of lawn have you?" I asked, as we arrived at the head of the lake, and prepared to strike off into the park proper.

"There are about three acres altogether, and we managed to keep some of it mown through the last four years. I was able to get five women gardeners, who were a great help to me in all departments, and did their work very well indeed."

SOME GRAND OLD TREES.

The trees in the park are remarkable for their size and beauty, and as we followed the path Mr. King explained that beneath them, in spring, the ground is carpeted thickly with Daffodils, Primroses, Winter Aconites, Scillas, Wood Anemones, and Bluebells, each in great masses. A stately Lime a hundred feet high, majestic Horse Chestnuts, Sweet Chestnuts, Walnuts, these in turn are passed. And now we come to a Copper Beech which, from its situation, is not well favoured with sunshine, and in consequence the foliage, instead of being coppery, is for the most part green; and close at hand is another, on the outside, which gives no cause for regret, for its colouring is rich in the extreme. Gaps in two or three places show where giants were brought low in the great blizzard of March, 1916; and one or two otherwise perfect examples of Cedrus Deodara have branches missing from the same cause.

Reaching the limits of the park in a forward direction, we now wheeled round towards the left, still passing under grand old trees. In this place Foxgloves spring up by the thousand, and the Bracken is two and three feet high. Here are some majestic old Oaks, twenty-seven to thirty feet in girth, and all save one in a good state of preservation. Running through this part of the park are the remains of the rampart thrown up in 1648, when Colchester was besieged by Cromwell's troops.

Presently we arrive on the outskirts of the wood, having worked round from the west to the east side of the park, and soon come to higher ground, at the top of which is the new kitchen garden. This, when finished, will be about two acres; but about half of it is still in a rough state, and has only lately been fenced in.

"I am going to have it trenched this autumn," said Mr. King, as we walked round looking at the crops in the cultivated portion. "The plants are suffering from the drought, and we cannot give moisture; indeed, during the war we were rationed for water, and could not use it except for household purposes. The soil is light and shallow here, on a gravel subsoil. When it was first broken up there was not more than six inches of good soil in some places, but we have dug in tons of leaf-mould—of which we can get plenty in the woods—and manure, and it is now three feet deep all over."

"You cultivate Potatoes extensively in this garden?"

"Yes; we grow a large quantity."

"What are the leading varieties?"

"There are several here. This bed is Arran Chief, which has recently been earthed-up."

"The haulm looks very healthy, and the plants are nice and even in the rows."

"That is so; but on this side King Edward is not so good. This, I think, is probably due to the seed. The next lot, Great Scot, has also suffered from the drought, and there are gaps in the rows. Sutton's Abundance is a splendid cropper, and of fine quality."

COLOURED POTATOES.

"What is this bed?" I asked, as, passing on, we came to a very healthy-looking lot.

"These ten rows are a variety that is seldom grown—Mr. Bresse. It is a deep pink Potato, with the smallest top of any that I know, so that the rows can be planted only twenty inches apart. It is very healthy, and I have grown it for years, and never changed the seed."

"Has it good cropping and table qualities?"

"Its table qualities are first-class, but it is a small cropper, seldom carrying more than

MR. H. J. KING.

five or six tubers to a root. On the other hand, they are always of fair size, with never any small ones."

"What distance do you allow for your taller varieties?"

"Three feet between the rows, and twenty inches between the sets."

"What other varieties do you grow?"

"There are several rows of British Queen, and a good bed of Eclipse. Then I am trying Majestic and Eightyfold, a pink round; and I have Myatt's Ashleaf, also Vicar of Laleham, a good old Potato, of excellent quality, with a dark purple skin."

"Peas are, I take it, another important crop with you?"

"Among the varieties here are Gradus, Alderman, Giant Delicatesse, Dwarf Monarch, and Captain Cuttle, a useful maincrop."

"Do you save your own Onion seed?"

"I am letting these two rows ripen seed. The varieties are Ailsa Craig and Sutton's A1. The autumn-sown Onions in these beds are Blood-red, Nuneham Park, and Carter's Re-selected White Spanish, a grand keeper. Sown in heat early in the year are Carter's Record, Giant Rocca, and White Leviathan, which are bulbing well."

"To judge by the beds, you will have no lack of Brussels Sprouts."

"No; we plant out six hundred every year. The varieties are Holborn Exhibition and Perfection. The Brown Dutch Bean, sent out by the Royal Horticultural Society, does remarkably well, and I have four long rows of it. The seeds are dried for winter, and are much appreciated."

"You seem to grow some of everything?"

"There are many things here that are rather uncommon. For instance, there are several rows of Salsafy. This is a vegetable that, for some reason or other, people do not grow as they might. It makes a most agreeable change, and is no trouble to grow."

"How did Parsnips germinate with you?"

"Very well indeed, as you can see by the even rows. The varieties are Hollow Crown and Carter's Maltese."

BUSH FIGS FROM CUTTINGS.

"And what are the prospects of the soft fruit crop, of which you have so fine a lot of bushes?"

"There should be splendid crops of Raspberries, Currants, and Gooseberries. Strawberries are not so good, owing to the drought. Before we leave this part of the garden you might like to look at these bushes of Brown Turkey Figs. They are from cuttings I inserted five years ago, and are carrying a nice crop of fruit."

The old kitchen garden is some distance from the house, across the main road, and to reach it we made for the point from which we started, passing on our way down a pleasant dell, through an avenue of pink Chestnuts. The severe snowstorm at the end of last April has left its mark on one or two Cedars hereabouts, some of the branches being broken down.

The path we had followed brought us again to the terrace, and the conservatory being close by, we spent a little time examining the plants. One of the features here are the Oleanders, now in full flower.

"As soon as they go out of bloom," said Mr. King, "I shall cut them back, and stand them out of doors to ripen. On the wall we had a really fine Bougainvillea, which used to be a sight when in bloom. But last winter, owing to the shortage of fuel, it was badly injured by frost; indeed, I thought it was killed outright, and was going to remove it, when I noticed a little green shoot breaking out, so I shall leave it. Whether it will make any growth to speak of, or come through next winter all right, is another matter. Fortunately, I have a smaller plant in a pot which can take its place, if necessary."

"You specialise in Geraniums, also?"

"We grow a good number, as you observe, and have some of the latest and best varieties. This very rich scarlet is Sirdar; the large, purple-crimson is Frogmore; Mauretania is the name of the blush-coloured flower with a ring of salmon; Jennie Hill, Lady Clifton, and Ethel are other good sorts."

Hydrangeas and Perpetual-flowering Carnations also helped to brighten the conservatory, and after noting the miscellaneous plants, we came out and proceeded towards another house.

"This," said Mr. King, "was formerly the stove, but as we could not get sufficient fuel most of the plants had to go. But we have a nice lot of seedling Begonias coming on here and in the Vinery, some four hundred in all. The Fuchsias are very good sorts, and include President, Phenomenal, Ballet Girl, Mrs. Marshall, and this lovely coral-red—splendens—whose dark foliage throws up the colour of the flowers. Then we have more Geraniums and Hydrangeas, and a hundred Coleus of good colours."

The Vinery adjoins this house, and in this there are three Vines, Foster's Seedling, Madresfield Court, and Black Hamburgh. The borders are outside. On the staging beneath the Vines are seedling Begonias, and at the back many pots of Tomatoes, some in the early stages, intended for late work.

"You do not intend to be short of Tomatoes?" I remarked.

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"No; for altogether we have two hundred plants indoors and two hundred outside. There are several varieties, including one that I have raised myself, a cross between Princess of Wales and Sunrise. I am testing it against Masterpiece, Sutton's Best of All, Princess of Wales, Carter's Sunrise, Satisfaction, Potentate, and Perfection."

THE OLD KITCHEN GARDEN.

The old kitchen garden, just over an acre in extent, is, as I have mentioned, divided from the rest of the estate by the main road. It is in a high state of cultivation, and here are grown the best of the fruits and vegetables. The principal path is bordered on each side by herbaceous plants, and behind these are Pear trees, concerning which, in answer to my question, Mr. King said:

"Pears will be a rather better crop than last year, though not so good as was promised a little while ago, the drought having caused a lot of fruit to fall. Louise Bonne of Jersey usually does well here, and there is again a good sprinkling. Williams' Bon Chrêtien will carry a nice lot, though many have fallen. We have a number of trees of Marie Louise, which is a lovely Pear. Emile d'Heyst is a good keeper, lasting till March. Others that we like are Josephine de Malines, Beurré Bachelier, Doyenne d'Eté, Brockworth Park, Glou Morceau, Beurré Diel, Pitmaston Duchess, and Doyenne du Comice. Some of these we grow on the west wall."

"The Apples are carrying very fair crops."

"Yes; they are more satisfactory. We get some remarkably fine fruits in this garden. I have had Peasgood's Nonsuch weighing twenty-seven and a half ounces. Some of our best are Irish Peach (a beautiful early), Newton Wonder (a good keeper), Blenheim Orange, Lady Sudeley, Cox's Pomona, Cox's Orange Pippin, James Grieve, Stirling Castle, Ribston Pippin, and Autumn Pearmain. Of the soft fruit, White Currants are always good. The variety is White Versailles, with large berries of fine quality. Our Black Currants usually get 'big bud' badly. The varieties are Boskoop Giant and Naples."

A NEW TOMATO.

Deciding next to visit the houses before looking at the vegetables, we went through the Melon pit, where there are four varieties, Emerald Gem, Early Favourite, Blenheim, and Hero of Lockinge; and then passed on to the range of Cucumber houses, three in number. The first has Model, with a batch of Mr. King's Tomato; the second Telegraph, with a nice lot of young Begonia Rex, propagated from leaves; the third, formerly a Melon house, is filled with more of his Tomato, which I was able to see in various stages of growth. It is short-jointed, has good, dark, stout foliage, and nice, shapely fruit of rich scarlet colour.

The next house is the Peach range, divided into three compartments, and containing several of the leading varieties, with Tomatoes in boxes for late work.

Emerging once more into the open, we walked round examining the vegetables. More Potatoes were noted—Duke of York, British Queen, Dobbie's Exhibition Red, Eightyfold, and King Edward; and then several rows of Peas. The Pilot carried nicely-filled pods, and other varieties were Carter's Commonwealth, Quite Content, Alderman, and Carter's Harvestman. Farther round were fourteen rows of Little Marvel, ready for picking, with salad plants between the rows.

"A good French Bean is Carter's Sunrise," remarked Mr. King; "it is very early. Others are Canadian Wonder and Longsword. The Broad Beans are Leviathan, and the Runners, Carter's Giant. The Celery is Solid White and Incomparable Crimson."

"You intercrop Tomatoes and Cauliflowers?"

"Yes; the Tomatoes will be finished in time for the Cauliflowers. The varieties I use are Carter's Forerunner and Defiance Forcing, which are followed by Dwarf Mammoth and Early Emperor, and these by Autumn Giant. All our Brassicas do well, though when I came here I was told they could not be grown because of club-root. But I am a believer in good cultivation, so I had the ground deeply trenched, and obtained practically fresh soil. There is a good depth of soil here—four to five feet—and we are not troubled by disease."

"Your Onions are bulbing nicely—do you feed them?"

"I give them soot-water, and a small application of nitrate of soda, and also water from a dead well. The soot-water helps to keep the fly off. Then I also use plenty of wood ashes."

Outside the kitchen garden were Chrysanthemums, about to have the final potting.

GOOD CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

"We have about six hundred Chrysanthemums—four hundred in pots and two hundred for early flowering. All told there are about two hundred varieties, Japanese, Decorative, and Singles. W. Turner I find makes a splendid bush plant, and last year I had specimens five and six feet through, carrying two hundred blooms apiece. It is a very fine white for Christmas. I stop it twice, then let it grow away. It had no heat, except enough to keep out frost."

"What others have you good for late work?"

"The best white Decorative is Cheshunt White, which gives us flowers for cutting right up to March, and D. B. Crane is also good for late cutting."

"Have you done much showing?"

"I have won over five hundred prizes altogether. At the last Rose show at Colchester I gained the challenge cup for vegetables and pot plants; and at the last Chrysanthemum show had first prize for the best bloom in the show. I also exhibited a lot at Portsmouth and Chichester before I came here. I have done very well with groups, but I take most interest in vegetables and fruit."

"Shows, of course, were stopped by the war."

"Mostly; but we managed to keep the Lexden show going, and to prove how it was appreciated I may say that last year we held it on August Bank Holiday, had over seven thousand visitors, and took £160 gate money. I have been on the Royal Horticultural Society's panel of experts, and have done a lot of judging. Last year Mr. A. G. Gentle and I judged two hundred and seventy-five allotments in a fortnight."

"How long have you been at Lexden Park?"

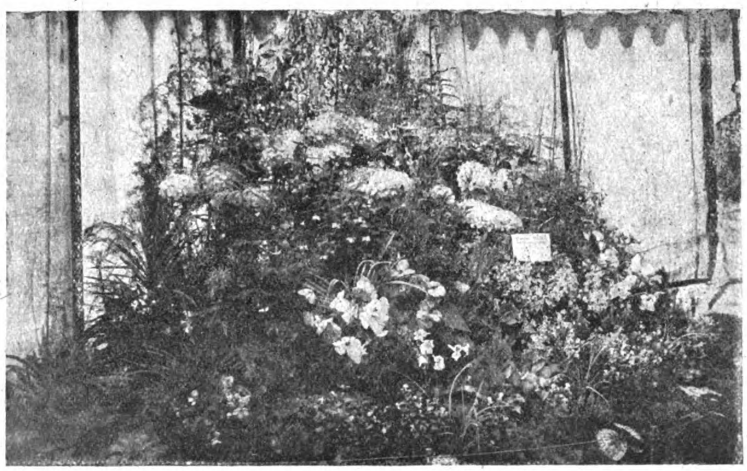
"Ten years. Previously I was for ten years at Sinah, Hayling Island—six years as head."

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

FLORAL FETE AT CHELSEA.

To aid its War Relief Fund, organised to re-stock the devastated gardens and orchards of our Allies, the Royal Horticultural Society last week held a three days' Floral Fête in the grounds of Chelsea Hospital. Unfortunately, the weather was not altogether kind, for dull skies and a keen wind made for the discomfort of visitors; while an even greater calamity occurred on the night preceding the opening. A gale sprang up early in the evening, which ripped one of the large tents into ribbons, and severely damaged some very choice exhibits. What this means can be easily appreciated by those who grow even a few flowers. Among the chief sufferers were Messrs. E. Webb and Sons, whose Gloxinias, Begonias, and other greenhouse plants were altogether spoiled, and they were consequently left with nothing to show. Groups of Ferns, Streptocarpus, Geraniums, Perpetual Carnations, and herbaceous plants were also badly knocked about; but in most cases their owners were able to stage smaller exhibits in other tents.

There was a good display of Roses, the premier group being put up by Mr. Elisha J. Hicks, who gained the Wigan Cup.



THE FIRST PRIZE GROUP, PUT UP BY MR. H. J. KING AT THE LAST COLCHESTER ROSE SHOW.

A very attractive display was that of Messrs. James Carter and Co., which occupied a large space in the principal tent. Their Gloxinias were wonderful in their rich colourings; and hardly less so were their Sweet Peas, while considerable and effective use was made of the hardy annual Viscaria cardinalis, which provided a rich bed of crimson. A new strain of Poppies, somewhat after the style of P. nudicaule, with strong stems, and many bright colours, was shown by Messrs. Baker's, of Wolverhampton.

Four new Roses of his own raising were exhibited by the Rev. J. H. Pemberton, the most noticeable being Star of Persia, a striking yellow. It is a variety of R. lutea. Messrs. Alexander Dickson and Son also had some very taking blooms; and Messrs. B. R. Cant and Son set up a delightful bank of Roses, including the fine climber Emily Gray, pale yellow, with deep green, glossy foliage.

A bold group of a new seedling Geranium, named Victory, was greatly admired. It was put up by Messrs. W. S. Watney, Ltd., and should prove invaluable as a bedder. The parents were Paul Crampel and King of Denmark, and it is quite as free-flowering as these well-known varieties. In colour it is a bright salmon, which glistens as the sun shines on it; the foliage is stout, and has the deeply-zoned leaves of Paul Crampel; the habit is sturdy and compact.

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sont libres et faciles; tout enfin annonce chez lui une supériorité qui caractérise la grandeur de l'espèce à laquelle il appartient."

The foregoing remarks upon some of the organisms studied during the session are necessarily limited by the space at my disposal. In conclusion, it may not be amiss to state the medium which was found most suitable for mounting the more delicate parts for examination under the microscope. After trying several media, it was found that the following gave excellent results, allowing the fine plumose setæ to be clearly seen: Glycerine, 1 part; alcohol, 1 part; distilled water, 2 parts. Gold size should be used for making the cells and for sealing them after the cover-glass has been put on, and when dry a coat or two of good asphalt cement should be added.

My best thanks are due to Mr T. Scott, F.L.S., Naturalist to the Scottish Fishery Board, and an Honorary Member of the Society, for revising the classification in the above Report.

In Memoriam: *MARK KING (1828–1901).*

By Mr JOHN LINDSAY.

At the concluding winter-evening meeting of the Society for the present session, on April 24, a paper was read by one of our honorary members, Mr Mark King, on "The Flora of the Shores of the Firth of Forth." In submitting his communication, the writer said that he had hoped to make it more worthy of the subject, but that he found his years of threescore and thirteen were not equal to the task. This paper, which is now published in our 'Transactions,'[1] is a valuable contribution to a large and important subject, and betokens much labour and careful observation, conjoined with botanical skill, on the part of the writer. Shortly after this communication was made to

[1] See *ante*, p. 202 *et seq.*

the Society, the members were startled by the announcement that the writer of it had died suddenly, on the 9th of May. His tall, straight figure, and striking individuality, are still fresh in our memories, and we can hardly yet realise that he has gone from our midst.

Mark King was born at Lilliesleaf, Roxburghshire, on December 28, 1828. He was the eldest of five sons, all of whom left their rural home early in life—as is still the custom with village youths, often to be afterwards widely scattered. Two of these brothers are now in positions of influence in Vancouver, British Columbia, while a third is pushing his fortunes in South Africa. Mark chose the occupation of a gardener, no doubt from his love of flowers, and served his apprenticeship in the Earl of Minto's gardens at Minto House, Hawick. On leaving this place as a young journeyman, he proceeded to Yorkshire, where two or three years were passed; and he then returned to Scotland, spending some time at Stanwell Nurseries, Leith, under his lifelong friend Mr Hugh Fraser, now an honorary member of this Society. Having a great desire to learn something of chemistry, Mr King seized the opportunity of becoming an assistant in the chemical works of the late Anthony Laird, at Magdalene Bridge, Musselburgh. This, however, cut him off too much from his botanical studies, and it was soon given up. In 1865 he became gardener to the late William Kinghorn, Esq., of The Grove, Bonnington, Leith, in whose service, and that of his successor, he remained until he retired on a pension a few years ago. Here much of his leisure was devoted to the pursuit of field botany, and many miles were often walked on a Saturday afternoon to collect some botanical rarities, which would be planted in a special part of his garden, to be tenderly watched and cared for. One of his favourite hobbies was the observation of "weeds" which had found their way into gardens, fields, or nurseries from foreign countries, or to the ballast-heaps of our shores. With these he had an intimate and wide acquaintance. On two different occasions during the past session he exhibited to the Society wild-flowers gathered on the South African veldt. These were collected by his youngest brother, Robert, during hours of enforced waiting with the hospital train, of which he was the engine-driver, and sent on to the plant-loving

brother at home. Strange to say, when, last May, Robert returned to this country on a short furlough, after eighteen years' absence, the first news he heard was the announcement of his eldest brother's death.

So far back as March 1884 Mr King contributed his first paper to the Society, on "Some American Plants worth Notice." This was followed in February 1885 by "Notes on the Genus Lamium," and by "Veronicas in the Neighbourhood of Edinburgh" in January 1886. In January 1891 he read a very interesting paper on "Plant Multiplication," and in December 1895 another on "Poisonous Plants." This last paper was very favourably noticed in the 'Gardeners' Chronicle' and in 'Nature' on its publication in the 'Transactions' of our Society. He was also a member of the Scottish Horticultural Association, and contributed to its 'Proceedings.' He was a man of sterling probity, well read in many subjects, and greatly esteemed by all who knew him.

EXHIBITS IN NATURAL HISTORY.

At the winter-evening meetings during the past Session a number of interesting objects in Natural History were shown by members of the Society. The following were amongst the number: The President, Mr W. C. Crawford, exhibited a pure culture of fresh-water algæ made by Professor Chodat, Geneva; also specimens of gold-bearing quartz from the Transvaal, and a sample of *pioggie di sangue* or blood rain from Naples, which last was also shown from Dumfriesshire by Dr Watson. The Secretary exhibited a nest of the weaver-bird from Assam, while Miss Mitchell showed a nest of the humming-bird from Jamaica. A yellow-coloured mavis, captured in Dalmeny Park, was shown by Mr C. Campbell, as also skins of a pied variety of mole from the same locality. Mr G. A. Harrison exhibited a nest of the trap-door spider, and Mr Adams a death's-head hawk-moth caught at Dunfermline. A small collection of fungi was shown by Mr Calder, and a

plant. The reason assigned for its having practically dropped out of cultivation was that it was difficult to grow. The visitor to the Hassocks Nurseries, who can see some hundreds of free flowering specimens, would not think so from its appearance. It is found to increase readily from cuttings, and here could be seen plants 15 inches to 18 inches in height in vigorous healthy growth and foliage, full of spikes of blossom. It should become a highly popular market plant. Acacia armata and A. diffusa are largely grown, the latter a highly ornamental decorative plant; small ones were laden with blossom.

One must go to Hassocks to see the regal Leschenaultia biloba major in all the brilliance of its rich blue blossoms. Tiny plants 4 inches high, from cuttings, were seen bearing a flower or two at the point. These points are pinched out, and then the plant breaks into growth and forms the foundation of a good specimen; but it takes three or four years before a plant gets into anything like size; at Hassocks its management is perfectly understood and it thrives.

Boronias serrulata, heterophylla, the later blooming elatior, with the fragrant B. megastigma, are largely grown also. They bloom abundantly. Two years ago a creamy sport appeared on B. megastigma, and this is in course of being fixed, and will eventually make a pleasing variety.

Grevillea alpina is a hard-wooded greenhouse plant not often seen. It is of compact, shrubby growth, and produces a number of small Pea-shaped red and yellow blossoms, and it remains a long time in bloom. Posqueria longiflora is a noble Ixora-like plant, and, though not yet in bloom, is laden with bold trusses. It is an evergreen stove subject. What can be more beautiful in the way of a variegated-leaved plant than Saxifraga sarmentosa variegata with its gay tricolored leaves? It appears to be a whimsical plant, for Mr. Richardson said it would succeed in one particular part of a certain house only. Here it was perfectly at home, as could be seen from dozens of vigorous plants.

Agapanthus umbellatus albus is here in vigorous evergreen form. Mr. Baines tells us in his book on "Stove and Greenhouse Plants" that there are two forms of the white African Lily, that known as candidus being much superior to the other. This is probably the vigorous growing evergreen form at Hassocks.

Echeveria retusa is here in splendid colour, the flowers apparently larger than are usually seen. They last a long time in a cut state. It is difficult to find in the whole nursery a plant freer of bloom than the Australian Tetratheca ericoides; or, according to Mr. Nicholson, T. pilosa, of Heath-like growth; the specimens are laden with thin mauve-purple blossoms. It is a free growing and free blooming subject.

Such are some of the treasures at the Hassocks nurseries; but they by no means exhaust the contents of the many plant houses.

R. Dean.

HARDY FRUITS IN SEASON.

Apple Winter Queening.

The Apple season is coming to an end, and the varieties now to be seen are not numerous. Yet the condition of an Apple at this time of the year is proof of its value as a keeper, and if it has also a bright appearance it is sure to attract attention. Winter Queening is a case in point, for we have few better or more attractive Apples. It is not exacting, for it does well on cold, stiff soils, and if left on the tree as late as possible will keep well for a long time. The variety is usually classed as a cooking Apple, and indeed it is a capital baker, but at this season it is not to be despised for dessert. On the retentive soils in the Weald of Kent I have seen some splendid examples, and there the southern sunshine puts on brightness of colour on the fruit which never fails to tell in the market.

H.

Apple Nancy Jackson.

This useful late Apple is more grown in the northern part of the kingdom than elsewhere; it is grown under different names. I saw this in only one collection at the great Apple congress at Chiswick in 1883, held by the Royal Horticultural Society, but it is only fair to state that the northern part of the country had much fewer exhibits than the south. It is a great favourite in the northern portion of Yorkshire on account of its free cropping and good cooking qualities, and though its season is supposed to be from December to March it keeps sound well into May when given cool storage. It may be said we have newer kinds of great merit, but I do not know one that keeps better. The fruits are a fair size, conical, and bright crimson on the sunny side, yellowish green on the reverse, flesh firm, crisp, and very juicy. Even now it has a brisk acid flavour. At Alnwick Castle this is one of our best late Apples, and it crops even when others fail.

G. Wythes.

THE SEVEN SISTERS ROSE OVER DRIVE AND SHRUBS.

THE SEVEN SISTERS ROSE.

This old-fashioned Rose, the Seven Sisters, is here shown growing on an archway over the drive in the garden of Mr. C. M. Betterton, Overseal, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. It is about 12 feet high, and at the time the photograph was taken was a mass of bloom, not only on the arch but also over the shrubs which grow near to it.

OBITUARY.

MR. THOMAS KING.

Few men were better known in horticultural circles in the West of England than Thomas King. As cultivator, exhibitor, and judge he had gained many honours in his lifetime. He was an able gardener, with a thorough knowledge of details. What he grew for exhibition was always of the best, and it was staged in an attractive manner. A keen, fully qualified, and thoroughly straightforward judge, he gained the confidence of exhibitors in a remarkable degree. He was a man of singularly high character and of the most genial disposition, and his death is sincerely regretted by all classes in the town of Devizes, where he spent the greater part of his life.

Born at Roundway, near Devizes, in 1835, he went into the gardens of Roundway Park in due course, and in time, by industry and application, qualified himself to take a leading position. His opportunity came at the end of 1860, when he was placed in charge of the gardens of Devizes Castle, at that time the residence of R. Valentine Leach, Esq. Mr. King in course of time thoroughly reorganised the gardens, new houses were built, and he at once entered upon a successful career as an exhibitor. He grew splendid specimens of Fuchsias, and on one occasion, at a large exhibition held by the Royal Horticultural Society at South Kensington, he won two first prizes of £10 each with Fuchsias, and also received a special medal for high culture. He grew and exhibited excellent Grapes, his Black Hamburgh and Muscat of Alexandria being noted for their finish. He produced very fine Peaches and Nectarines, and held his own when competing with the productions from such noted places as Rood Ashton, &c. I never saw more highly finished Chasselas Musque Grapes than he used to exhibit at the Trowbridge and other shows. He had a method of culture which overcame the constitutional tendency of the berries to crack. When some years ago Mr. Leach offered the property for sale he made arrangements by which he took over the gardens on his own responsibility, finding an outlet for his produce in the neighbouring cities and towns. He then ceased to exhibit, but his services became much in request as a judge at Bath and other places. He also superintended the Chrysanthemum exhibition held annually in the Corn Exchange in connexion with a bazaar by the Devizes Benevolent Society, and he will be much missed at future shows. By his death I, in common with many others, lose an old and valued friend. Mr. King was a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society.

R. Dean.

M. LOUIS ROWLAND.

M. Rowland, who for the past eighteen years was head gardener at the National School of Horticulture at Versailles, died recently. He was one of the best practical fruit growers of the day.

KING Stephen of Lockeridge-villa Shrubland-road Leyton Essex died 24 January 1902 Probate **London** 25 March to Stephen King cabinet-maker and Frederick Charles Clarke gentleman Effects £4490 12*s.* 3*d.* Resworn January 1902 £5026 4*s.* 3*d.*

KING Susannah of 2 Shrewsbury-road Bayswater Middlesex spinster died 12 November 1901 Administration **London** 31 January to Mary King spinster Effects £37 18*s.* 4*d.*

KING Thomas of 66 Church-street Birmingham watch and clockmaker died 16 February 1897 Probate **Birmingham** 4 February to Joseph Hands solicitor Effects £1258 9*s.* 6*d.* Former grant April 1897.

KING Thomas of 92 May-street West Kensington Middlesex died 20 February 1902 Probate **London** 3 March to George Hart stone-mason and James King platelayer Effects £623 10*s.* Resworn June 1902 £564 6*s.*

KING Thomas of Devizes Wiltshire died 18 April 1902 Probate **London** 21 May to George Allen King gardener and Agnes Mary Norton (wife of Frederick George Norton) Effects £786 17*s.* 10*d.* Resworn September 1902 £948 17*s.* 10*d.*

KING Thomas of 7 Belle Vue-road Appleby Westmorland retired farmer died 23 May 1902 at Kirkby Stephen Westmorland Probate **Carlisle** 10 June to Thomas Robinson farmer Effects £3861 16*s.* 8*d.*

KING Thomas of Rowdell Washington Sussex died 23 September 1902 Probate **London** 11 December to Joseph King Rawlings gentleman John Mothersdale bank-manager and Herbert Shillito Marsden accountant Effects £241208 12*s.* 9*d.*

applied successfully here, except for a few hours during the hottest part of the day. For, if grown all the time in a tent, they would become so thin and weedy that they would be utterly spoilt.

Plants at Auction.

April 9th.—I attended a sale of plants the other day, and was astonished to hear the auctioneer offer "a standard Verbena," which he described as bearing white flowers of remarkable beauty. When I got near enough to see this singular plant, I found it was a Guelder Rose (Viburnum). The lots that followed were quite as surprising, and as many were put up merely as plants unknown, I doubt if they fetched a fifth of their value—or what would have been their value had they been properly cared for. As it was, the roots had been exposed so long to the sun and air that they were dried up. Inspection of some of the labels explained the mystery. They were utterly illegible. I knew what the pencil marks were supposed to represent, because I recognised the plants, but the auctioneer had evidently no horticultural knowledge, and was quite in the dark. Just think of a grower spending time and money in the cultivation of plants, and then marketing them in this manner! Yet I do not for a moment suppose that this is a solitary instance. It should surely be unnecessary to say that every plant offered for sale should be labelled so clearly that there can be no mistake about the name, stamping with rubber type being the best way to do this.

April 10th.—It is often important to sterilise soil before delicate seeds are sown in it. I see that formalin is recommended for the purpose, in the proportion of rather less than half an ounce to a gallon of water. The soil should be saturated with the solution, and the formalin should be allowed to evaporate before the seeds are sown. A couple of days should be sufficient for the purpose.

Effective Native Trees.

April 11th.—Though exotic trees are often used for planting in avenues, they are rarely as effective as native trees (as shown in the illustration), for they do not harmonise so well with their surroundings. An avenue of Beech or Chestnut is exquisitely beautiful in spring, and, indeed, at all seasons. The play of light and shadow is marvellous, and the blending of many shades is perfect. H. C. DAVIDSON.

PART OF THE GARDEN AT WHITEHAVEN.

Alpine Gardening for Ladies.

INTERVIEW WITH THE MISSES KIPPING, A.R.H.S., AT HUTTON, ESSEX.

CONSIDERABLE attention has lately been attracted at the fortnightly meetings of the Royal Horticultural Society by collections of Alpine plants sent from Hutton by the Misses Kipping. These young ladies have certainly justified their claim to be regarded as practical and earnest members of the profession, who are evidently determined to make a reputation in the gardening world. On a brilliant afternoon in March I visited the scene of their very interesting operations, and subsequently they lent me some photographs, taken in winter. The pretty house at Hutton is on high ground, in the midst of undulating and well-wooded country on the Chelmsford side of Brentwood, and the garden is about two acres in extent, more land being available at any time it is required.

THE MISSES KIPPING IN THEIR GARDENS AT HUTTON.

"Three years ago," said Miss Kipping, as we strolled under a charming pergola, which is one of the attractions of the garden, "this place was simply a field. You see what it is now. There was a good deal of work to be done, of course. We did the planning and laying out, only employing labour for the rough."

"Your sister and yourself?"

"Yes, we were both trained. We were for three years pupils at Mrs. Banger's, at Southwick, Brighton. In my opinion it is quite indispensable to undergo a considerable period of training. If you try to teach yourself, you can only gain information at the expense of your pocket, and it is more satisfactory to pay directly. At first we learnt how to handle tools and how to economise time. Then we began to acquire practical knowledge in the cultivation of plants, though how much or how little you gain of this depends largely upon individual energy."

"Did you at the outset determine to give your undivided attention to Alpines?"

"We meant to be specialists. But we started two years since with perennials generally. Now we only grow the kinds suitable for Alpine gardens."

"You might tell me which you include amongst these."

"Aquilegias, Auriculas, most of the tribe of Campanulas, Delphiniums particularly D. formosum (blue, with a white eye), German Iris, Linum flavum and narbonnense, Polemonium Richardsoni, Statice latifolia, Scabiosa caucasica, Thalictrum adiantifolium, Veronicas, also some of the Thistle tribe, as Echinops rito, make good specimens. These are all suitable to grow at the back of an Alpine garden."

"Now, about the Alpines you grow, and the treatment you give them?"

"Achillea tomentosa, a neat, grey, Fern-like foliage, bearing heads of yellow flowers; Ajuga reptans var., the Bugle-flower, flowers bright blue, from June to August, very pretty variegation; Alyssum saxatile citrinum (primrose), and flore pleno (the double flower). Most of the grey-foliaged Alpines prefer the sunshine,

and flourish in a south aspect. A small quantity of lime added to the soil helps them. The darker-foliaged plants usually do better in the shade, but the mossy Saxifrages and nearly all the Sedums will grow anywhere."

A Plant for a Sun-baked Position.

"Does that apply to Aubrietias, of which I see you have a nice collection?"

"No, it does not. Dr. Mules, for example, should be planted in a little shade; the flower is the intense purple which everyone admires. Henry Marshall (mauve, with white eye), and Moerheimi (beautiful rose, quite one of the best varieties), will thrive in the sun. For a sun-baked position, Calandrinia umbellata makes a splendid carpet of very brilliant magenta. I do not recommend it to people with weak eyes. This is a plant which requires stones and drainage."

"What kind of soil do you advise for Campanulas?"

"Good loam. Campanulas yield masses of bloom in the late spring—May and June are their best months. There are no more useful varieties than C. carpathica garganica, pallida, pumila, pulla, and some of the taller kinds, like C. persicifolia alba (single white), and

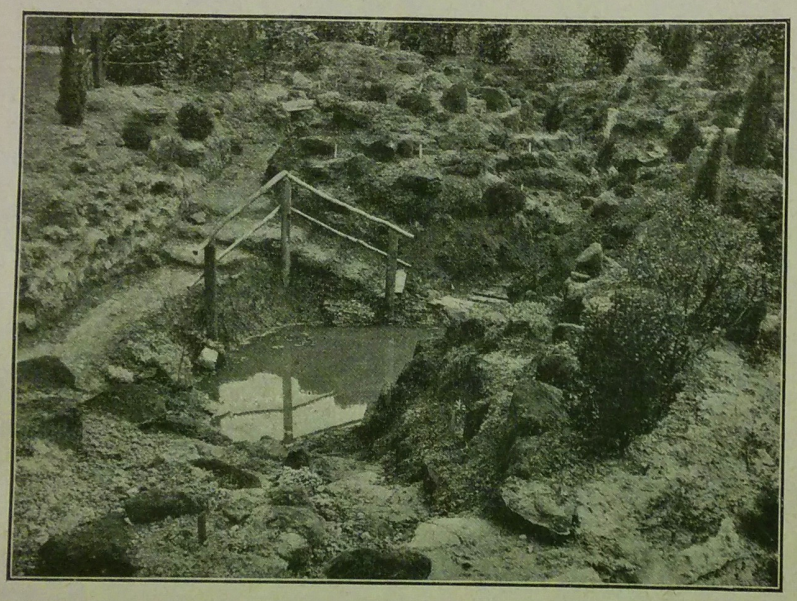
"What about Geums?"

"G. Heldreichi and G. miniatum are about a foot high, and very desirable for a rockery, and G. montanum, quite a dwarf, is a lovely yellow. Then there is Geum virginium, whose leaves are a beautiful green, edged with a bluish tinge. Gypsophila—I mean the variety cerastioides (white, with a black centre, and with flowers about an inch from the ground), is excellent. So, too, is Iberis gibraltarica—a charming pink, which has the merit of beginning to bloom on the first of March, and continuing to bloom until August, when it is once established in clumps. It also makes a pretty edging plant. Iberis sempervirens is a white variety, with dark green foliage."

Edelweiss from Seed.

"Do you advocate the use of quantities of Iris?"

"The dwarf Iris, pumila, of which there are several varieties—I. pumila purpurea (an early-flowering kind), cœrulea (pale blue), lutea (golden-yellow), nudicaulis (dark blue). For effect, these miniature Iris outrival their German cousins, and they look especially charming when planted in groups between small rocks."



The Rockery at Whitehaven, Hutton.

cœrulea fl. pl. (a beautiful double blue). Cerastiums Biebersteinii and tomentosum, the latter a smaller leaf variety of Biebersteinii, have a silvery foliage, and are very useful for covering rough ground, at the same time making a good effect. The Alpine Wallflower, Cheiranthus alpinus, is a very bright and attractive yellow."

A Dianthus that Blooms Itself to Death.

"Which of the Dianthuses do you recommend?"

"I think D. Alice is a pretty little Alpine to fill up nooks. Dresden China and Aucubæfolia, with its variegated leaf, are easy to grow. There is no more striking Dianthus than Napoleon III. It is a very brilliant red, and flowers so freely that it blooms itself to death early in the year. Before it comes into flower, some of the offsets should be broken off, so that there may be plants available the ensuing season.

"Of the Erigerons," continued Miss Kipping, "Roylei is a pretty mauve in miniature form, and philadelphus has branched heads of rose flowers, with green eye. The beautiful Gentiana verna should be sown in stiff clay. It is difficult to grow, but does well in suitable soil."

"Any suggestions as to planting are acceptable."

"It is not generally known that Edelweiss (Leontopodium alpinium) can be raised from seed. Two-year-old plants of this make a fine display with their well-known grey rosettes. I might mention that for those who suffer with an over-moist garden it would be best to purchase plants of Edelweiss in the spring-time, as they will not stand too much damp, and, when planting, lay in a few big stones underneath the root, so that it appears to be half out of the ground. The less soil it has, the greyer the foliage will be; rich soil turns it green, which, of course, spoils its beauty. An Alpine garden should not be without the new Myosotis Star of Love, with beautiful blue flowers, three inches from the ground."

Poppies for a South Aspect.

"And the Evening Primrose?"

"Yes, both Œnothera macrocarpa (yellow) and taraxaciflora (white) should be included. They will grow under trees, or in any bare place. The Alpine Poppy, Papaver alpinum, a pretty species, with grey foliage, is quite hardy. It is almost a miniature form of the Iceland Poppy, with more variety of colour—pink, yellow, white, and orange, with a satin-like appearance. The Alpine Poppy should always be planted with a south aspect. The Alpine Phloxes, frondosa (pink, with dark centre), and setacea lilacina (brilliant blue), love moisture."

"Does that apply to Primulas?"

"Yes, Primulas revel in moisture. The variety farinosa is seen to perfection in the meadows adjoining Ullswater. The other varieties are cortusoides and japonica. An Alpine which grows into a carpet of pink flowers during May, and also makes a very pretty wall plant, is Saponaria ocymoides splendens."

The Great Saxifraga Family.

"I suppose you can name many varieties of Saxifraga to choose from?"

"It is a great family, and we have quite twenty varieties. For the convenience of those who have not studied the Saxifraga family, the quickest method of remembering them is to divide them into two classes—the encrusted section and the mossy section. Many of the encrusted are grey-foliaged, with stiff rosettes; the flowers, which do not form until the plant is very well established, are always very beautiful, and, as in the case of the pyramidalis type, on long, branched stems. One of the earliest spring varieties, apiculata, grows into dense tufts of spiky grey foliage, and sends out masses of primrose-colour bloom. The best of the encrusted section is longifolia, with large grey rosettes. By the way, it is several years before one rosette blooms, and then the plant dies. S. pyramidalis is a rapid grower, and in that respect an exception to the other encrusted varieties. It very soon forms cushions. Bucklandi has very pretty dark green foliage, with miniature leaves, and sends up its white flowers in April."

"Which are the best of the mossy section?"

"S. Rhei (coral-pink) and Guildford Seedling (red) are quite the best. Kingiana is a creeping mossy variety, with a little white flower; Wallacei, which has a large white, bell-shaped bloom, is the best of the mossy section with regard to size."

Sedums and Sunshine.

"Is position an important point in the planting of Sedums?"

"They are all the better for plenty of sunshine. Obtusatum is a very good variety, with deep green, leathery leaves; Fosterianum, which forms a grey carpet, and Lydium, which forms a bright green carpet, are both useful. For brilliance, and because it also flowers in October, with purple heads, the new variety spectabile atro-purpureum should also be grown. A carpet of pink can be obtained from Ewersii (this is the Sedum which the bees like so much), and a deeper carpet of pink from Rosa. To cover bare stones there is nothing better than Sempervivums (the well-known House-leek tribe), and, moreover, they scarcely require any soil, save arachnoideum, which should be planted with lime rubble. S. Triste (a dark crimson kind), and S. atlanticum (green, with red edge), S. montanum (a compact plant, bright green) should be selected. These plants flower at a time when the rockwork is not quite so gay, in July and August, and for their blooms alone, which are very handsome, they should be cultivated."

"I suppose the majority of Alpines are not suitable for a south border?"

"Most of them certainly like partial shade, and it is therefore worth while to mention Silene alpestris, a dainty little white bloom, which flowers in summer, and thrives on a south border. Until quite lately it was supposed that all Alpines must be in the shade. You must not omit to include in your list for an amateur collector the three varieties of Thymus. There are citrodoreus argenteus (with a silver leaf, aureus (golden, quite a different type), and lanuginosus, a creeping plant, with

woolly leaves and mauve flowers—a singularly attractive variety."

A Carpet of Brilliant Blue.

"Can you name any other late-flowering varieties?"

"Tunica saxifraga does not flower until August; this dainty Alpine has flowers like Gypsophila paniculata—it can be raised easily from seed. Earlier in the season, a carpet of brilliant blue can be obtained from Veronica rupestris; and Viola cornuta should be grown if only because of its resemblance to a blue butterfly. Some of the minor varieties of Vincas, with their blue flower and variegated foliage, are very attractive."

"Primroses are rather a speciality with you, I think?"

"Yes, we grow a large number of hybrids. They are not named, but we aim at getting many shades of colour, and, as perhaps you are aware, we have exhibited at the hall of the Royal Horticultural Society."

"Have you exhibited at the local shows?"

"Occasionally, and we have had several awards, but our object is to get them from the Royal Horticultural Society. Included in our exhibit on March 3rd at Westminster, we had a Kerria japonica alba, and a white Ribes, which excited a good deal of attention. We grow a few named Primroses. Now you must see our own rock garden."

WHITEHAVEN, HUTTON.

The Cost of a Small Rock Garden.

"You intend this as an object-lesson?"

"Well, the idea is to show people who come here the effect that can be produced by a small outlay. Many people are under the impression that in order to make a rock garden it is necessary to spend a few hundred pounds. But, by choosing inexpensive stone, and arranging drainage—which, with grit, is, of course, essential—it is not difficult to secure a good deal of pleasure for a comparatively small sum. Much, however, depends upon the quantity of stone used. A small rock garden might be exceedingly well stocked with the coarser-growing varieties for from £5 to £10, according to quality. This one of ours is not on strictly scientific lines, but is intended mainly as a home for the requirements of each variety."

"Are all the varieties you grow in the garden represented in the rockery?"

"All the principal, and, in fact, we want to show in the rockery a clump of everything we grow. It always enhances the effectiveness of a rockery if a piece of water can be arranged amongst the rockwork. All the paths should be drained to one point, to form a small pond, and a few bog plants, with Iris Kæmpferi, etc., planted on both sides, render it more complete. By the way, I have not told you yet about our hardy Carnations."

The Cultivation of Hardy Carnations.

"No, but I intended to ask you about them, because I observed that you have a considerable number."

"They are a great feature, and we hope to make them more prominent. Each summer we have been here we have layered several hundred. When we came here, we were told at Chelmsford that Carnations would not grow in this soil. In spite of this, we persisted, and now grow several thousands, which are strong and flourishing. The great point in the culture of Carnations is to keep the word 'hardy' in your mind, and not put the plants under glass. As long as Carnations are treated without glass, and left to the mercy of the weather, they continue to be strong, and yield bountiful blooms in the summer."

"Have you many shades of colour?"

"We grow a great variety of colours—Selfs, Bizarres, and Picotees. Undoubtedly, the self shades are the favourites, and we have succeeded in raising several good yellows and whites; the former are never quite so hardy, but up to the present we find our's looking splendid. One of the best, a dark pink, is Rose du Barri. So far, we have not sold Carnations in any quantity, our object being to get up a very large stock before we commence marketing them."

"I see you have a number of frames."

"They are used entirely for propagating the Alpines. No plants are sent out until they have had a winter out of doors, and this being a bleak, exposed place, three hundred feet above sea level, they will do well afterwards almost anywhere. The majority of plants are despatched by rail in boxes. Most of the Saxifrages and Sedums are sent in pots. We employ a man for the heavy work, but my sister and myself do all the rest of it."

"Perhaps you would not mind saying how the Alpines, when received, ought to be planted."

"The roots should be able to run down a fair depth, and shallow pockets should certainly be avoided. If planted firmly, and watered occasionally when the weather is dry, growth will soon commence. When once fairly established, they should be left alone, and they will then soon carpet the ground. In our experience, Alpine gardens, especially amongst ladies, are becoming increasingly popular. For people who have travelled much, they seem to have a special fascination, and the study of the nature of each individual plant becomes a genuine pleasure. Moreover, the pleasure of growing Alpines can be enjoyed at such a small outlay. A single plant only costs a trifle; the next year it is a mass, and can be divided into a score, and those who cannot afford a rockery can gratify their fancy by having a border."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Dahlia Culture.

POT ROOTS v. YOUNG PLANTS.

IT is often surprising that Dahlia-growers who buy young plants, and then pot them on, do not instead purchase small, dry roots, known as pot roots. These little roots are obtained by simply leaving the young plants struck in spring in small pots all the summer, when they form tubers exactly as the larger plants do in the open ground, but, owing to the pot, the roots grown in these are, of course, miniature roots, averaging in size about that of three Walnuts. These roots have an enormous amount of energy stored up, ready to pour forth whenever the requisite root space is given them; and they are very much easier to manage than young, newly-struck plants.

Every year large numbers of these tiny tubers are exported to America, Australia, and elsewhere, but it has never become at all usual for the general body of growers at home to buy Dahlias in this condition. Those who wish to try this method should obtain the roots in early spring (the sooner the better, if they want the best sorts), and during April pot them in a fairly good compost, and place them in a moderate temperature—fifty degrees are sufficient.

The roots will quickly produce shoots, which grow with amazing rapidity, and run up somewhat high before branching out into leaves. In no case should they be allowed to stay in heat once they get a good start, but should be put out in a frame, where they will soon get sturdy and outstrip the young plants.

The Best Results.

I have very often noticed that plants grown from pot roots do far better when planted out, and, in fact, right through the summer, than those from cuttings. It will be seen by anyone who knocks out a pot root which has been potted a week or two, that a great number of strong roots are rambling round the sides of the soil, and this, of course, accounts for the well-being of the plant as a whole.

It is quite as simple a matter to grow a good Dahlia plant from a pot root, as to grow a sturdy Potato plant, and in some measure the two tubers resemble one another. If at all dry and shrivelled when potted, the roots should be left for a few days unwatered, in order to gradually get plump, as, if very dry, as they often are in spring, it would very likely rot them if water was suddenly given in quantity. Once young roots are started, they are safe, and do not henceforth need very delicate treatment.

P. P.

THE production of sulphate of ammonia in this country during the year 1906 amounted to 289,391 tons, an increase of 20,000 tons over the previous year. In the same period, 108,486 tons of nitrate of soda were imported, this being 4,000 tons more than in 1905.

each having its bottom lower than the pipes which enter it and lead out of it, and covered with a grating. The mud is then washed into these catchpits, and the clear water passes on. They should, of course, be cleaned out as often as necessary. They have another advantage, for by their means it is easy, if a drain gets blocked, to push a stout wire through it.

AN EXPLANATION WANTED.

March 1st.—Can anybody tell me the meaning of the words "hack ham" in the old weather saw, "March hack ham, comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb"? In a "Provincial Dictionary" the word "hack" is said to be used in some districts for "to cough frequently"—of course, the expression a hacking cough is common—and in Devonshire for "to shiver with cold"; and "ham" is given as a form of "them." In this case the meaning would be—March makes them cough frequently, or shiver with cold. But it hardly sounds satisfactory, especially the "ham" for "them," though it may be explained as rhyming with "lamb."

TRELLIS FOR CLIMBERS.

March 2nd.—In few gardens in this country is trellis work employed, as it is on the Continent, for its decorative effect. Even the ordinary form of cheap trellis is capable of improving the appearance of many a porch and portico, while it is almost indispensable for training climbers on the house walls. It should be painted a neutral colour, so as not to clash with the plants; when used as a framework to the door or windows greater latitude may be allowed. Much labour can be saved in training the plants, indeed, many will then almost train themselves. H. C. DAVIDSON.

IRIS STYLOSA.

For the amateur, especially, this is one of the most charming of early-flowering subjects, giving a wealth of blossom from November until April, with but a minimum of cost or trouble in cultivation. A narrow border at the base of a south wall, high or dwarf, is an ideal site, as a thorough ripening of the growth during the summer is in favour of free-flowering the following season.

When once the plants are established they need little attention afterwards, beyond an annual mulching with leaf-mould in the spring, and a good soaking of the roots now and again during a spell of drought in summer.—E. MOLYNEUX.

HUTCHINSIA ALPINA.

Viewed in the form of a small plant, with two or three heads of flower, Hutchinsia alpina does not impress the observer. It looks poor, and without much charm. But when it has been established and is happy, showing its appreciation of its quarters by spreading into a good plant some foot or more across, we begin to appreciate its capabilities and charms. It pleases us with its masses of finely-cut, rather Fern-like small leaves, and numerous heads of white flowers, examples of what some of the comparatively despised Crucifers can do if they have a chance to reveal themselves.

It is a really good and reliable rock garden plant, easy to grow, and hardly ever failing to give us plenty of its flowers in early spring. It is easily raised from seeds—much more easily than say, Lobelia or many other favourites of the summer bedder; it will grow in a cool, shaded place, or in full sun if the ground is not too dry. It will fill a crevice between stones, or thrive in the moraine; while it is quite happy in the front of an ordinary flower border, always provided that it is not overhung with other flowers. In a word, it is an easy and beautiful subject. Its height is really six inches, and it flowers regularly and long, especially in a cool spot.—S. ARNOTT.

THE REVIVAL OF TOPIARY.

AN EXPERT'S VIEWS.

Interview with Mr. J. Klinkert, of Richmond.

TOPIARY, or the clipping and training of trees and shrubs into various shapes, has been practised from ancient times. That the Romans were familiar with the art we know from the description by Pliny the younger of his gardens at Tusculum, where Box was "cut in a thousand different forms." In England topiary reached its highest development in the early years of the eighteenth century, and has been more or less popular ever since. There are indications that Fashion is once more favouring this style of gardening, and this view was emphatically confirmed by Mr. John Klinkert, of the Royal Kew Nurseries, Richmond, when I called upon him a few days ago.

"During the war the trade in clipped trees was stagnant," he said. "It suffered in common with other forms of ornamental gardening; but as soon as the armistice was signed it at once revived, and orders came in in shoals. The demand now is much greater than it was for some years before the war."

THE SCOPE OF TOPIARY.

"Do you think people are taking a renewed interest in topiary?"

"I certainly do. It is a form of gardening that went out of fashion for a time, as other things do; but clipped and trained trees have their distinct uses and artistic capabilities, and these are again coming to be recognised. Those who object to them as not being natural should, if they are logical, banish standard and weeping Roses from their gardens, for these are equally unnatural. Even the neat, straight hedge, which adds so much to the beauty of the garden, should come under their ban. But strictly speaking, ordinary beds and borders are scarcely 'natural,' for plants are assembled together from all parts of the earth, and grown under conditions quite foreign to Nature's plan."

"What would you define as some of the uses to which topiary may be put with artistic effect?"

"Where there is ample space, there is the Dutch, or as it is often called nowadays, the Italian garden. In this, of course, you can have a number of specimens, according to taste. Then topiary lends itself well to certain forms of architecture. A classical style of building is well suited by the somewhat formal lines of clipped trees—indeed, these seem to go so fittingly together that we invariably think of them in association. As one writer has observed, this treatment serves to 'break and gradually to soften the outlines of the mansion, and to form a connection with the irregular and unstudied forms of meadow and forest beyond.' A certain amount of formality often gives an added charm to a place."

A TOPIARY GARDEN ON A LARGE SCALE.

TOPIARY IN THE SMALL GARDEN.

"Could it be introduced as effectively into a small garden—say the average suburban garden?"

"Yes; quite. In an ordinary small garden a few clipped trees judiciously disposed help to lift it out of the commonplace. For example, a tree at each corner of the Rose garden not only serves to break the monotony of the straight lines, but affords a pleasing contrast—the free-growing Roses and the formal, close-clipped tree. Along a path, planted at regular intervals, or at the beginning and end, topiary trees are very effective. You may have one, say, on each side at the entrance to the garden, and a corresponding pair at the end. Then they are particularly neat at the head of stone steps, also at the foot, and, being evergreen, they are much better for this than vases filled with Geraniums and other plants that must be constantly renewed. They are nice, too, at the corners of the lawn, and give it a note of dis-

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tinction; while they can hardly be left out of a sunk garden. In fact, they are just as artistic in the garden of a suburban house as in that of a stately mansion."

"What style of tree would be most suitable for a small garden?"

"Where space is limited, and the owner does not want to go to much expense, I would suggest square or round pyramids or cones, small balls, umbrella-shaped standards, cigar shapes, chickens, ducks, and geese. These can be had from a guinea upwards. If a larger design is wanted, a round or square pedestal with birds on top, a corkscrew or spiral, or a peacock, would look very well. Fancy designs, such as birds, are, of course, intended more for topiary gardens proper, where it is essential to have many shapes to make a good effect."

TREATMENT OF TRAINED TREES.

"Are the trees complete when sent out, so that they want no further training?"

"Yes; once the tree is planted they require no further attention beyond clipping back with the shears once or twice a year. The best time to clip them is the middle of June, when the spring growth should be cut back to the old wood, which can easily be identified, because it is darker. This cutting back does the tree good, and it consequently improves from year to year. Of course, with some designs, such as balls, pyramids, and squares, they can be allowed to get larger, if it is thought desirable."

"Is any other attention required beyond clipping?"

"Nothing but what would be given to other plants. If the weather is hot, and a spell of drought sets in, they will appreciate an occasional soaking with water, especially where they have a broad base, for there the soil naturally gets dry, and the hose should be turned on to reach the roots. As to manure, a top-dressing once a year with ordinary stable manure is quite sufficient, and this may be pricked in if it looks objectionable. The trees have no insect pests or diseases, but if anything should appear an occasional syringing is all that would be necessary. This, indeed, in dry weather freshens them up nicely."

THE TRAINING OF TREES.

"How long does it take to make a finished specimen?"

"The time may be anything from five up to thirty years, according to the design and size. That is why trained trees seem rather expensive, although, when you get a properly made tree, it lasts for generations."

"What do you mean by a 'properly made' tree?"

"By that I mean one with a clean, single stem. This is absolutely necessary if you want a perfect specimen which will retain its outlines as long as the tree itself lasts. It takes longer to grow a tree this way, but the shape is then better, and all parts are nourished by the one root system. Many people buy what can only be called rubbish—specimens grown and shaped from bushes, which last no time, and soon get gappy and shabby. The first thing, when buying a clipped tree, is to see that it has only one stem. Another mistake often made is to think that topiary trees should be in tubs. That means that, to keep them growing, they must be fed with artificial fertilisers. But that is not good for them, and is as bad as drug-taking in a human being. As long as he takes the drug he is able to keep on, but as soon as he leaves off there comes a collapse. The same applies to the tree in the tub—when it is planted out and no longer gets the feeding it has become accustomed to it gets in an unsatisfactory state."

"Then trees should be grown from the start in the open ground?"

"Precisely. It spoils trees to train them in tubs. All my trees are grown in an open, exposed position, so that they have plenty of 'stay' in them, and make a mass of fibrous roots, which enables them to be lifted with a large ball, and replanted without their receiving any check. Treated thus, they get no stoppage in growth, but go away in the new soil as though nothing had happened."

WHEN TO PLANT.

"When is the best time to plant?"

"As the trees are specially prepared, they can be planted at almost any time, though for preference I should say from September to the end of May. During June, July, and August we often get long spells of hot, dry weather, when newly-planted trees suffer unless they are well supplied with water, and syringed occasionally. I have, however, lifted trees and exhibited them at Chelsea at the end of May, brought them back, and kept them out of the ground for six weeks before replanting, and though it has then been July they have never flagged."

"How is it that they suffer no check?"

"Because of the system of packing. The trees are lifted by skilled men, and put in baskets, the space all round the roots being filled with moss. They are practically planted in moss in the baskets, so that no roots get hurt. This is the method I always adopt in sending out plants, and I have received hundreds of letters thanking me for the way they have been packed. When they arrive at their destination all that is necessary is to unpack them and plant them in the ground prepared for them."

"What species of trees are used for topiary work?"

THE BEST TREES FOR TRAINING.

"Nothing is so good as Box and Yew, and they are the only sort that should be used. Holly does not do well in some soils and situations, and is not so reliable for transplanting, so that satisfaction cannot always be guaranteed with it; whereas Box and Yew do well in any soil, and for planting at almost any time. But there is only one sort of Box that is fit for topiary—Buxus sempervirens; no other is satisfactory in growth. Further, it must be grown from cuttings, never from seedlings. You then get a smooth, solid surface to the tree, with no breaks or gaps, so that all you have to do is to keep it even by clipping. The training of trees taking so long means, of course, that a lot of capital is locked up in them; but notwithstanding this fact, small sizes and simple designs are to be had quite cheaply."

The walk through the extensive nursery grounds, to inspect the large stock of trees in various shapes and sizes, was most interesting. Every tree is numbered, the numbers corresponding with those shown in the catalogue, so that it may be said of each that it is distinct from any other, although, with the smaller and simpler pieces, the difference may be negligible. In addition to trained trees, there is a considerable area devoted to hardy herbaceous and Alpine plants. It was easy to tell that Mr. Klinkert is an enthusiast in all that pertains to the art of gardening, and this was confirmed by his words as we parted:

"I am always happy to give advice on any point that arises, or any difficulty that presents itself. Apart altogether from the business side, I love gardening for its own sake, and am pleased to do what I can to enlighten anyone who cares to write to me for information."

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Next week: The gardens at Northridge, Boxmoor.—Interview with Mr. T. H. World.

ROCK GARDEN RECONSTRUCTION.

I wonder could we have a census of opinion as to what condition rock gardens have fallen into during the past five years. I fear the story would often be a tale of makeshift or neglect, and in some instances total abandonment. National work proves a supreme call to all patriots, and not a few rock gardens will look in vain for the return of their devoted owners.

It is obvious, too, that it will yet be some time before the transit facilities of five years ago can be indulged in, so far as the erection of new rock gardens is concerned; unless perhaps in the case of those favoured few who have access to stone in their own immediate neighbourhood. In some respects this may not be an unmixed evil, as it will give us a reconstruction period in the garden that, if accepted frankly, and taken full advantage of, should enable us to mature plans for the autumn of 1919 in such a way that makeshift and chance work should be entirely eliminated from our programmes. In rock gardening it should always be so, for once this work is laid down it is best left undisturbed for years. In other words, it should be allowed to become a permanency, wherein time mellows the surface and aspect of the stone and the plant life develops, each into its allotted niche.

PRESENT WORK FOR THE ROCK GARDEN.

For the present, then, let us bring the neglected rock garden quickly and firmly upon its feet again; and although the weather is not altogether propitious for handling plants *in situ* at the moment, there are other directions in which we can make our labour felt. For instance, new compost is sure to be wanted, and this can be collected and mixed together in an outhouse, pending a favourable moment for outdoor work. Equal quantities of good garden soil, and loam that has been stacked long enough to destroy plant life, form an excellent medium for rock plants. To this add liberal quantities of sharp grit and crushed chalk, mixing all thoroughly together.

Materials to avoid for the ordinary run of rock plants are fine sand, leaf-mould, and peat. These have particular use for special subjects, which I hope to detail in time for planting. However, the majority of hardy, vigorous, sun-loving rock plants like grit, and enjoy it as sharp as possible. That from a flinty, untarred road is excellent, where it has been crushed by traffic; but failing this, use any good substitute, also fine granite chips and crushed stone or brick.

Limestone should enter into the compost for the majority of plants, and the most acceptable form is that of broken chalk, in default of which use the best sample procurable of old mortar, such as has already been used for building purposes.

The advantage of keeping the compost under cover till wanted lies in the fact that it is always in a workable condition, and is available in any quantity, hence it can immediately be planted when placed in position, and a sticky condition never arises, which is all to the benefit of the plants, and assures their progress.

WHAT TO DO FIRST.

In rehabilitating the rock garden it is wise to divide the work up into sections, beginning with the aspect that most readily responds to lengthening days. Positions where coarse, unruly growth has usurped and exhausted all the virtue from the soil will require opening out to some considerable depth. This must be done thoroughly, and in such a way that all soil coming in contact with the rocks is removed, and replaced with fresh, sweet compost. Other sections may be easily rejuvenated by taking out a portion of old soil, and working some of the new compost in place by the aid of a garden fork.

In those instances where good plants are doing well, and have room for expansion, it will be sufficient to work away the old soil, exposing the roots, then level up again to the crown with fresh compost. In the case of Gentianellas, mossy Phloxes, and spiny Saxifrages, work some fine gritty compost well amongst the growth, although with the early section of the last-named it were better to defer this top-dressing till after the flowering period is over.

THOMAS SMITH, Coombe Court Gardens.

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Marguerite Douglas, a charming white. But already the list of named varieties is a long one.

March 31st.—Some time ago I was asked a question about "two new vegetables, Stachys and Oxalis." Stachys tuberifera, the Chinese Artichoke, is, of course, not new. The tubers can be obtained from almost any seedsman, and also from a good many greengrocers. They have not, however, become very popular, because of the trouble involved in preparing them for table. Cooks say it is a very wasteful vegetable, and this is an argument which they can push home when it suits them. Oxalis I did not know, though I was aware that one species was used as a food in Peru. I have just discovered that Oxalis crenata is the species referred to. The tubers, though small, are said to have a delicious flavour; they keep for a long time, and as they can be put straight into the pot they should be regarded with favourable eyes by the cook. There is only one difficulty in growing them, and that is to keep them alive during October and November, for it is in those months, after top-growth has ceased, that the tubers are produced. If frost threatens, therefore, they should be protected in some way, a light sprinkling of Bracken or Straw over the stems and leaves being usually sufficient.

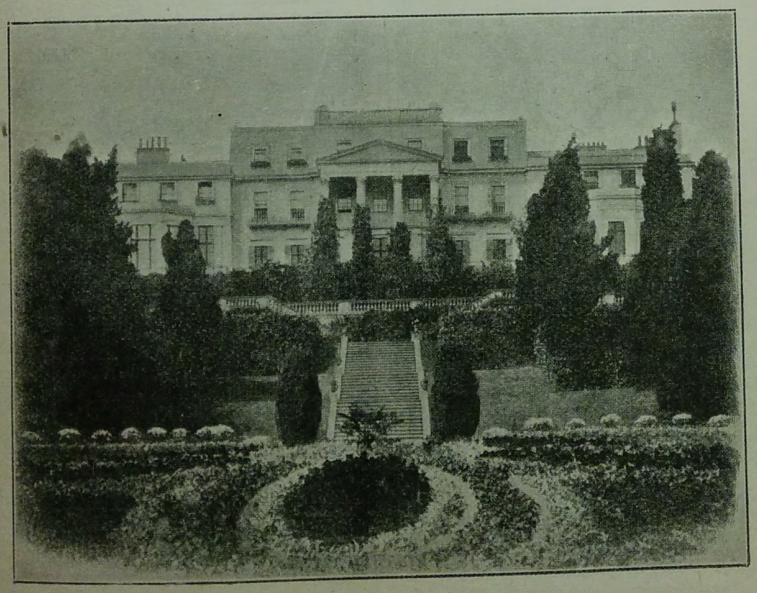
April 1st.—If it is desired to get a long succession of flowers from any particular plant, such as a climbing Rose, this is not difficult to manage, provided that it is growing near a greenhouse. All that is necessary is to take some of the stems inside the house, and to leave the others outside. The flowers on the former will then appear well in advance of those on the latter. I have done this with various plants, Roses especially, and I have never seen any harm come of it; nor, so far as I am aware, is there any reason why it should. A Wistaria here has adopted the method on its own initiative. It grows against the wall by the side of a conservatory in which a fire is seldom lighted, and, passing along the top, creeps under the ventilator and drops down several long shoots. They are now covered with great bunches of lilac bloom, though the part of the plant outside will not flower for another month. There is one peculiarity about this phenomenon. Though the shoots are too high up to be examined closely, they certainly look like last year's growth; yet the Wistaria ordinarily flowers on the old wood. It may possibly be that they ripen better, and so produce flowers earlier where they are than they would do in the open air.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 131.—Mr. FREDERICK KNELLER, at THE GARDENS, LINTON PARK, MAIDSTONE.

THERE must be a considerable number of people who have had the pleasure of seeing the beautiful gardens at Linton Park. Mr. F. S. W. Cornwallis, the owner of the estate, who is well known in the horticultural world, and who is the new President of the National Fruit Growers' Association, not only takes the greatest interest in his pleasure grounds, but he likes other people to enjoy their charms, and accordingly they are freely thrown open to the public on the Wednesdays and Saturdays in June, July, and August, when they are at their best. It is not surprising that, though Linton Park is some four miles from Maidstone, hundreds of persons often take advantage of his kindness. My visit was paid on a March afternoon, and there was not even the glory of the sunshine to add brightness to the scene. Yet I was perfectly able to understand why the gardens at Linton are considered exceptionally attractive, and if only time had permitted I could have spent hours, under the guidance of Mr. Kneller, the head gardener, in looking at the exotic Conifers alone. These, as Mr. Kneller said, are the leading feature, and for several Mr. Cornwallis has received cups from the Royal Horticultural Society. The situation of these splendid specimens is as good as could be imagined, but, even apart from their romantic surroundings and sheltered position, they would excite the keenest admiration. I asked Mr. Kneller to tell me the age and dimensions of some of the most notable.



Linton Park, Maidstone.

"We will take the Abies first," he replied. "There is a nobilis fifty-seven years old, growing very freely, eighty-three feet high, seven feet eight inches in girth, and thirty-eight feet in diameter of branch; a Smithiana, also thirty-seven years old, seventy-four feet high, nine feet in girth, with a bare stem; an Albertiana, forty-two years old, seventy-two feet high, five feet eight inches in girth, thirty-eight feet in diameter of branch, very handsome and vigorous; and a Cephalonica, fifty-seven years old, seventy-three feet high, eleven feet in girth, and seventy feet in diameter of branch, very fine, and growing well. There is also a very handsome and vigorous tree of Abies concolor, which is forty-two years old, eighty-seven feet high, eleven feet seven inches in girth, and forty-three feet in diameter of branch."

"How about your specimens of Cupressus?"

"The two most remarkable are, I think, C. Lawsonii, which is splendid from bottom to top, thirty-seven years old, fifty-seven feet high, five feet in girth, and twenty-six feet in diameter of branch; and C. macrocarpa, forty-nine years old, sixty-eight feet high, nine feet six inches in girth, and forty-six feet in diameter of branch. A Cedrus Deodara, in grand health and condition, is sixty-two years old, seventy-three feet high, ten feet nine inches in girth, and sixty-six feet in diameter of branch; and a very fine, upright tree of Libocedrus decurrens is forty-two years old, fifty feet high, four feet nine inches in girth, and nine feet in diameter of branch."

"You also have some magnificent examples of Pinus."

"Yes, the most magnificent is Pinus excelsa, which is sixty years old, sixty-four feet high, nine feet in girth, and eighty-two feet in diameter of branch. There is a Pinus austriaca, sixty-two years old, eighty-three feet high, nine feet in girth; and a Pinus insignis, fifty-seven years old, seventy-five feet high, and ten feet in diameter of branch. A fine bush of Picea Clanbrassiliana, eight feet high, and twelve feet in diameter of branch, is worthy of mention."

"I should like the names of a few more."

"One of the most perfect specimens is Thuja gigantea, which is forty-two years old, sixty-eight feet high, seven feet two inches in girth, and thirty-one feet in diameter of branch. Another is Thujopsis Borealis, which is growing very freely. It is thirty-seven years old, fifty-two feet high, five feet four inches in girth, and twenty feet in diameter of branch. Then there is a noble specimen of Wellingtonia gigantea, forty-two years old, eighty-one feet high, and twelve feet four inches in girth."

"What is the average height of the Wellingtonias in your remarkable avenue?"

"About forty-five feet. The avenue of Wellingtonias is two hundred yards long, planted from fifteen to twenty feet apart."

"And your avenue of Elms?"

"We call that the Alcove Walk. The length is three hundred yards."

"There is one Oak which ought not to be omitted."

"You mean the Quercus super, planted by Sir Horace Mann, on the 20th September, 1778. I believe that it is one of the finest in the country."

"Can you tell me the acreage of the park and gardens?"

"The distance round the park is three miles, and the gardens cover thirty acres. The estate itself is 22,000 acres."

"I conclude, from the large bed in front of the mansion, that bedding out is one of your chief features?"

"Yes, we bed out about a hundred and twenty thousand plants, including Geraniums, annuals, and the usual popular varieties. There is also a large collection of flowering shrubs, many of which are uncommon. The Magnolias (grandiflora) are particularly fine, and we have great masses of Rhododendrons."

"The conservatory is a commodious building."

"It has just been put under repair, and is now about to be planted up and furnished with new creepers."

"Perhaps you can give the names of some of the creepers?"

"The pillar plants and creepers will include Bougainvillea glabra, Brugmansia arborea, Bignonia grandiflora, venusta, and magnifica, Billardiera longiflora, Lasiandra macrantha, Luculia gratissima, Clematis indivisa and lobata, Plumbago capensis and alba, Solanum jasminioides, Acacia Riceana, Cassia tomentosa, Lonicera sempervivens major, Trachelospermum jasminioides, Cœsalpinia japonica, Lardizabala biternata, Berberidopsis corallina, Tricuspidaria hexapetala, and Lapageria rosea and alba. The Lapagerias will be at the back."

"We shall also," continued Mr. Kneller, "have Acacia leprosa, dealbata, and verticillata, Habrothamnus elegans, Brachysema acuminata, Physianthus albens, and several other climbers."

"What shall you have in the adjoining Fernery?"

"About a thousand small Ferns and Lycopods. Since I came here the stoves in the Fernery have been uncovered, and now we propose to keep it in good order. I should add that the large border in the centre of the conservatory will be filled with choice flowering shrubs, including some of the best Rhododendrons."

"How many houses are there in your fruit range?"

"Eight. The range, which is a hundred yards long, is all of teak wood, and is heated by two powerful Cornish boilers. There are two Peach houses and five Vineries."

"What is the age of the Vines?"

"They are about six years old. There are one Muscat, two Black Hamburghs, and one each of Madresfield Court, Lady Downe's, and Gros Colmar."

"Which do you consider the best varieties of Peaches and Nectarines?"

"I think that the best Peaches are Hale's Early, Grosse Mignonne, Bellegarde, Barrington, Dymond, and Princess of Wales. We find the last very fine. Of Nectarines, I prefer Lord Napier, Violet Hative, Rivers' Orange, Humboldt, and Guldoni."

"The remaining house, I see, is devoted to Roses?"

"Yes, it contains about thirty-six plants, which are planted permanently. They are the best of the Teas, and include Niphetos, climbing Captain Christy, Maréchal Niel, and others."

"Do you go in much for Melons and Cucumbers?"

"We have a nice little range of houses for them and for stove plants. For the early crop of Melons I think that there is nothing to beat Hero of Lockinge. The two best Cucumbers are Sutton's Market Favourite and Every Day. Our ranges, and also the Mushroom house, potting-shed, and bothy for six men, were put up six years ago by Messrs. Mackenzie and Moncur."

"Your Mushroom house is on a considerable scale?"

"We cultivate largely. Since the 17th of October we have gathered seventy-five bushels from the Mushroom beds, which cover a hundred and thirty square yards."

"I notice that you have some healthy-looking Malmaisons in two of the houses, and a number of Carnations outside."

"Mrs. Cornwallis is particularly fond of Carnations, and therefore we have a large quantity. There are five hundred plants of Malmaisons, including all the leading varieties, of which Duchess of Westminster, Iolanthe, and Mrs. Martin Smith are typical. Of Border Carnations there are no fewer than eight thousand. Three of the best are H. J. Cutbush, Lord Roberts, and Countess of Paris. Chrysanthemums are also grown largely. We have fourteen hundred potted up in the frames."

"How many Violets?"

"Probably three thousand plants in the frames. Princess Louise is the only variety we grow, and it is about the best double."

"I suppose you force a quantity of vegetables?"

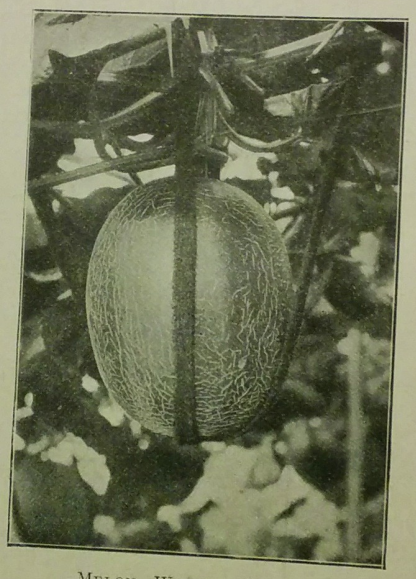
"Yes. Of Potatoes, we find that the best for forcing are Sutton's May Queen and Sutton's Ringleader. The Parisian Forcing is an excellent early Carrot for the same purpose, and of Turnips the best is Sutton's White Gem. A constant supply of Lettuce is kept, and Sutton's Forcing is the best I know. We have had Asparagus, Seakale, and French Beans regularly since December."

"What are the special features of the kitchen gardens?"

"One feature, as you have doubtless observed, is that they are divided, and we have portions in various directions. Hardy fruit, especially Apples on the bush system, is the great feature. The best varieties include Queen, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Worcester Pearmain, Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Chelmsford Wonder, the most useful Apple of the later introductions. There has been one specimen of Peasgood's Nonsuch here weighing twenty-seven and a-half ounces, and one of Gloria Mundi twenty-two ounces."

"How about Pears?"

"We have very few Pear trees. The soil does not suit them; it has not sufficient clay. But this is a great Apple district. We are just going to replant all the old bush fruit, including a large bed of Raspberries. The varieties will be Superlative, Yellow Superlative, Queen of England, Yellow Antwerp, and The Guinea."



Melon—Windsor Castle
(Exhibited by Mr. F. Kneller).

"The view from your exceedingly pretty and comfortable house takes in a portion of the gardens?"

"Yes. As you speak of the cottage, I may say that it is generally admired. I have been in many parts of the country, and I have never seen a gardener's cottage the appearance of which I liked so much, and the interior is as comfortable as the exterior is pretty."

"How long have you been at Linton Park?"

"Fourteen months."

"Where did you start your gardening career?"

"At The Grange, Alresford. From there after my apprenticeship, I went to Manley Hall, Manchester, Sam Mende's place. I was next in charge of the fruit houses at Gunnersbury Park, Lord Rothschild's place, and subsequently general foreman at the seat of Lord Forester, Willey Hall, for three years."

"Where did you first undertake the duties of head gardener?"

"At The Vyne, Basingstoke, one of the largest houses in Hampshire. I was there for three years, and I then became head gardener at Steventon Manor, Micheldever. My next post was at Studley Royal, Lord Ripon's seat in Yorkshire, and from Studley Royal I came [illegible] to Sir Edmund Loder's lovely place, Leonardslea."

"I believe that you have done a great deal of showing?"

"I think that the number of prizes I have taken exceeds three hundred, including [illegible] Banksian medals. I exhibited a great deal at Studley Royal, and also at Steventon Manor. Most of the prizes were for Chrysanthemums and vegetables, but a number for fruit."

"Have you any preference in the matter of cultivation?"

"I am very fond of fruit and vegetables, and particularly of Grape-growing. I have taken Banksian medals for Grapes on five different occasions."

"Any hints which you care to give in regard to Grape cultivation would be acceptable."

"My opinion is that the reason why many gardeners fail in their Grapes is that they grow too artificially. Very often Vines are planted in what are practically tanks, and closely walled in. My experience is that when Vines are allowed to ramble freely shanked Grapes are rarely known, the Vines, as a rule, live much longer, and the Grapes are decidedly finer in quality. Shanked Grapes are often one of the greatest curses to a gardener, but I believe that they can be entirely got rid of by giving the Vines the liberty which I advocate."

"Is there any vegetable in which you are specially interested?"

"I go in very strongly for Onion-growing. I have already in boxes twelve thousand pricked off. They are of the Ailsa Craig type, and Sutton's Exhibition. This method I consider much better than the old-fashioned plan of sowing seeds. The Onions planted out are generally free from grub, mildew, and other diseases which usually trouble this vegetable."

"Finally, Mr. Kneller, are you making any other improvements to your delightful and remarkably well kept garden?"

"We are going to add to the herbaceous borders, which are already numerous, and to increase the number of Roses. In the near future we also hope to have a good Alpine garden; in fact, the place has been marked out. I have always been very fond of Alpines."

Alfred Wilcox.

The Elkshorn Ferns.

The Platyceriums are a sturdy and vigorous section of the Fern family. In planting, blocks of wood are preferable to cork, being more durable and substantial, and should be about one and a-half or two inches thick, the length and width to be governed by the size of specimen desired—eighteen inches by nine forms a very nice size. Large pieces of peat should cover the block, and on this the crowns should be placed, and well covered with a compost of peat, leaf-mould, and charcoal, finishing off with a layer of moss, the whole being secured with copper wire, fastened to small nails or wire staples driven in the extreme edges of the block.

Although, perhaps, seen to best advantage growing in this way, they will thrive in pots or hanging baskets, and when seen growing on a large stone, in an artificial rockery in a warm house, show great vigour, producing enormous sterile and fertile fronds, no doubt on account of the equable and constant humidity in the atmosphere. Platycerium alcicorne is the best known species, and is very suitable for amateurs, as it thrives in an ordinary greenhouse. It was introduced nearly a century ago from New South Wales. Platycerium grande requires greater warmth to do it justice; it is a most magnificent species, of noble aspect and grand dimensions. It is a native of Moreton Bay. Platycerium Willincki is another fine form, with broad, deeply-imbricated, sterile fronds, six or seven inches in diameter, and erect, while the fertile fronds often reach three feet in length. P. Wallichi and P. Hilli are also well deserving of culture.

Walter H. Agnew.

May 5th.—There is no more charming plant for a hanging basket than Asparagus Sprengeri. It is beautiful at all seasons, but especially so when it is covered with red berries in autumn. At this season it grows rapidly without any artificial heat if it is well supplied with moisture. Stiff training should be avoided; the sprays should be allowed to fall about naturally.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 188.—Mr. N. Kneller, at Malshanger Gardens, Basingstoke.

FORTY years ago, in April, Sir Wyndham Portal purchased Malshanger Park, his well-known seat in Hampshire, and, aided by his head gardener, Mr. N. Kneller, set to work to create the beautiful park and the lovely gardens which are not only familiar to Sir Wyndham's many friends, but also to the thousands of people whom he allows to have access to them once a week during the summer. Mr. Kneller is still head gardener at Malshanger, and on the occasion of my visit at the end of March was kind enough to tell me, as we went round the place, several interesting facts. And, first of all, he drew my attention to the latest addition, the Wild Garden, which is a favourite resort of Sir Wyndham, and he spends a great deal of time in it. Close to this garden, which is on the north-west side of the house, is the Prunda alba, planted by King Edward, when he was Prince of Wales, on the 8th of July, 1896, at which time he was a guest, with the Duke of Devonshire, at Malshanger.

"The garden itself," said Mr. Kneller, "was made about ten years ago, and is principally laid out with Ribes, different kinds of Spartium, Aucubas, and other flowering shrubs."

"You found that easy work, I expect, after your earlier experience?"

"It was not like making the park and the gardens, the job which had to be done when Sir Wyndham took possession of the estate. The park, which is a little over a hundred acres, was all made out of fallow and corn fields, and the lawns were, in turn, taken out of the park. The trees were so planted on the lawns that the best views possible might be obtained from the house, which Sir Wyndham also greatly enlarged and beautified."

Malshanger, Basingstoke.

"Have you any idea how many trees and shrubs were planted in the making of the place?"

"Upwards of six hundred thousand. Beeches are the great feature so far as trees are concerned. They love chalk, and all our soil is chalk. Yews also do remarkably well."

"Of course, there are certain trees which were planted before Sir Wyndham bought the property?"

"Yes, and some were brought here by him, such, for instance, as the Tree Pæony on the lawn, which is just about a century old. Last year it had seventy flowers as big as a hat on it. When it was given to Sir Wyndham, it was over fifty years old. You see that we protect it by Spruce Fir, which is taken off the second week in April. Spruce Fir is very useful for such purposes."

"In planning the gardens, did you have any assistance except from Sir Wyndham?"

"The late Mr. Milner was here for two or three days, and gave us some advice and hints, but, practically, the gardens, like the golf links and park, were made without outside help."

Making our way to the Long Walk, which constitutes one of the charms of Malshanger, I asked Mr. Kneller to tell me about some of the fine specimens of Coniferæ.

"The Thujopsis borealis, which is nearly fifty feet high, was struck by me from a cutting given to Sir Wyndham by Canon Portal forty-two years ago; and the Abies morinda, near it, was raised from seed sown by me thirty-six years since. The clumps of old Scotch Firs were there when we came. Here, as you notice, there are Daffodils in quantity planted all over the rough ground."

"How long is it since the very fine specimen of Cedrus deodara was planted?"

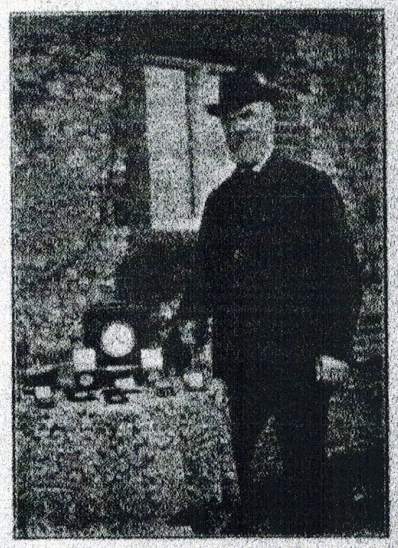
"About forty years ago. It was turned out of a flower-pot and planted by Mrs. Challoner Chute, one of Sir Wyndham's daughters. The specimen of Thuja gigantea, now over forty feet high, was planted when it was less than three feet high, about the same time. Also the Taxodium, and the Nordmanniana."

"Did you make the green at the end of the Long Walk?"

"Yes, and it may interest you to know that that was done at the suggestion of the present King, when he was here. It is a great improvement. As to the Long Walk itself, it was made out of the roughest of ploughed fields."

"The length of your lawns must be considerable," I said, as we returned.

"They are some two hundred yards long. A thousand people can move about on them. Of course, the natural advantages of the position



Mr. N. Kneller.

of Malshanger are considerable. Standing on a hill, all the drainage runs down."

"How old is the original part of the mansion?"

"Between six and seven hundred years. It was the residence of Bishop Wareham. The original walls are four feet wide. One of the old towers, of which there were four, was converted into a fruit room; owing to the thickness of the walls, it serves the purpose admirably."

Then we went into the fine, large kitchen garden, which is another great feature, and at this point I may mention that, in planning the gardens, regard was paid to the question of convenience. The lawns, trees, shrubs, kitchen garden, with frames and houses, are all within easy access from the Lodge, and Mr. Kneller's pretty house stands in the kitchen garden.

"You did not actually make this?" I inquired, as we entered.

"Well, it was all remade. When we came it was full of old Apple trees, with neither grass paths nor borders. The flower garden and terraces were made in two years, because I had between thirty and forty men at work on them, but it took several years to reconstruct the kitchen garden."

Just outside the kitchen garden, which is about an acre in extent, is an old orchard, with Apples, Plums, and Damsons, chiefly old varieties, and in the corner a tool-shed, which, for cleanliness and tidiness, I have never seen surpassed. There is a place for everything, and everything, whether scythe or dibber, hoe, or prong, is in its place.

"I observe that Apricots flourish on your kitchen garden walls?"

"Apricots have always flourished here; the soil suits them. There are several varieties, Moor Park, Large Early, Turkey, and Rivers' Prolific. The Large Early and Turkey are, I think, the best."

"Did you plant them?"

"Some of them. I have had trees go wrong, possibly because they were not so hardy, but they were quite the exception; and to show how well they do, I may tell you that I have picked a hundred dozen off one tree—that tree is a hundred years old."

Asking questions as we proceeded, the Apples on the espalier system suggested an inquiry as to the varieties.

"There are over fifty sorts on espaliers only," joined Mr. Kneller, "and they are loaded with fruit in the season. The best varieties include Ramley's Seedling, Warner's King, Lady Henniker, Stone's Seedling, Charles Ross (the latest addition, and a very good Apple), Allington Pippin, Lord Suffield, Lord Derby, Ecklinville Seedling, Adam's Pearmain, Peasgood Nonesuch, Beauty of Bath, Gladstone, Sandringham, and Duchess of Oldenburg, one of the very best."

"Your Peas look well."

"I have just taken the nets off. The two early varieties I grow are William the First and Veitch's Extra Early. I begin to gather the first week in June. Other varieties are Alderman, Gold Finder, Ne Plus Ultra, Gradus, Sutton's Marrowfat, Gladstone (a fine Pea for late work), and Autocrat, which is also very good."

"What are the varieties of Pears growing on the same wall as the Apricots?"

"Pitmaston Duchess, Doyenné du Comice and Jargonelle. One very fine Jargonelle tree was planted about thirty years ago. My method is to keep on clearing out the old trees and planting new ones in their places; but it has to be done gradually."

"Judging by the nets over the Peaches, you are troubled by birds?"

"Considerably, and the nets are also wanted to protect the Lettuces growing under the wall. The Peaches are Royal George, Early Alfred, Princess Beatrice, Early Silver, Hale's Early, Dymond, Alexandra, and Amsden June."

"You have a large number of Lettuce plants."

"About five hundred. I grow Hicks' Early for the first; also Sutton's Cos, Veitch's Mammoth, Paris Cos, and Cabbage varieties. I get Lettuces three and four pounds each in weight."

"When do you sow them?"

"At the end of August. I prick them out in October in a cool frame, take them up with a trowel, and plant them in March. This system insures good results. Radishes and Lettuces sown out of doors follow these Lettuces."

"Your kitchen garden is no less ornamental than useful. How many varieties are there in the herbaceous border on each side of the green walk in the centre?"

"Some two hundred, including Delphiniums, Pæonies, Rudbeckias, Phloxes in variety, Lupins, Irises, Oriental Poppies, and at the back Sweet Peas and Dahlias—the former Eckford's best, and the latter the leading Cactus varieties—from end to end, with a row of standard and dwarf Roses on each side. In flower just now are Scillas, Hepaticas, Polyanthus, Aubrietias, Daffodils, Arabis, Crocus, Shot Hyacinths, Violets, Wallflowers (Sutton's mixed), red Anemones, Lungworts, Hyacinths, and several varieties of Christmas Roses. On the arch is Clematis montana."

"And on the pergola?"

"Crimson Rambler, Paul's Carmine Climber, Garland Rose, and Honeysuckle. My own cottage is smothered with Gloire de Dijon and Henriette in the Rose season, and Clematis montana and Ampelopsis Veitchi also do well."

"Then, close to your house you have a bed of Sedums?"

"Yes, it has been there for twenty years. The variety is S. Sieboldii, with the rose-pink flowers. We call it the insect plant, because it attracts all the insects from the early summer until the frost comes. Sir Wyndham draws his chair up in order to look at the different insects, and we can count fifty or sixty in the sunshine when the Sedums are in full bloom."

The Gardener's Cottage at Malshanger, Basingstoke.

"What are the varieties of Plums on the north-east wall?"

"Goliath, Greengage, Orleans, Jefferson and Pond's Seedling. Underneath are the herbs, including Sage, Marjoram, Sorrel, Chives, Horehound, Tarragon and Thyme."

"The west wall you devote to Pears?"

"Yes, chiefly Bergamotte, Duchess d'Angouleme, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Uvedale's St. Germain (a very good stewing Pear), Winter Nelis, and Knight's Monarch."

"But you grow a great many more varieties of Pears on cordons?"

"Twenty-five. The Pears on cordons do extremely well. I started them on a high wall six years ago. Last year we had a splendid crop, and this year they are all full of bud. They include Brockworth Park, Souvenir du Congrés, Doyenné du Comice, Durondeau, Glou Morceau, Beurré Clairgeau, Beurré Diel, Triomphe de Vienne, Bellisime d'Hiver (a very large Pear), Duchess de Bordeaux, Marie Louise, Fondante de Thirriot, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Dr. Jules Guyot, Grosse Calebasse, Winter Nelis, Le Lectier (another large Pear), and Uvedale's St. Germain."

"Here, too, your Cabbages are a feature."

"There are eight hundred in the beds, and they will be fit to cut in a week. The variety, Wheeler's Flower of Spring, is very good."

"Do Raspberries thrive?"

"As a rule, but not in dry seasons. The varieties are Carter's Prolific and Superlative. Bush fruit, Gooseberries and Currants, do very well, and we are not troubled by the Black Currant mite. Cherries, on the other hand, fail entirely. If we get fruit, it is eaten up with black-fly. I have tried to grow them several years, and have had no satisfaction from them."

"Which is your favourite Strawberry?"

"Royal Sovereign is the best indoor and outside, but I have a quantity of Fillbasket, and I think that the Laxton will be a success."

"Do you grow many of the new kinds of Potato?"

"Up-to-Date still remains my favourite for the house; and we also grow Sir John Llewellyn, Fidler's Kidney, Ideal, and Satisfaction."

There are also two slips of kitchen gardens, and in one were beds of Seakals (the white variety), Broccoli, and Rhubarb; while in the other were the Onions, for which Mr. Kneller is famous.

"All Ailsa Craig?" I said.

"There is nothing to touch it. I sow mine in December, prick out in boxes, take up with the trowel, and plant in April with earth on each. The plants you now see in boxes will yield Onions of tremendous size in August."

"I believe that you also give special attention to Carrots?"

"They come next to Onions. The varieties are Sutton's Intermediate and Veitch's Model. As to the mode of growing, I make a hole in the ground with an iron bar, fill up with good soil, and then drop the seed into it, sowing in March. The object is to secure both shape and quality, which are essential in a Carrot."

Violets, Princess of Wales, are grown in frames, and Mr. Kneller picks Mushrooms from the bed every day for a long season. As we passed into one of the houses, I asked about Chrysanthemums.

"I do not show Chrysanthemums," he said, "but we grow about two hundred for cutting flowers. In this house Cucumbers are grown, and Strawberries are forced. There will be some of the latter ready in ten days."

"You have a house devoted to Tomatoes?"

"Yes, and I have taken a great many prizes for them. I grow one of my own raising, Kneller's Perfection, a very large, smooth red, with a fine flavour. I sold it to Mr. Wilson, of Hereford. It was raised six years ago."

"You must need a quantity of bedding plants?"

"There are twenty-five beds in the flower garden to be filled, and they take about twelve hundred plants. I grow three hundred Begonias, Sutton's Miniature Pink and Red. The principal Geraniums are Queen of the Belgians, Henry Jacoby, and Madame Sallerai; they are edged with Golden Feather, Lobelia speciosa and Iresines."

"How many Beans are there in the stove?"

"About two hundred in pots. The variety is Sutton's Forcing, and we began to pick early in March. The Melons grown are Best of All and Gem. The stove plants include Dracænas, Crotons, a few Orchids, Eucharis Lilies, Anthuriums, two dozen Cape Violets in pots, which want a good deal of heat, but last in flower six months, and Stephanotis on the roof."

"Which do you prefer of the Cyclamens?"

"The red and white. We have about fifty plants in the flowering house. The Primulas are Queen Alexandra, and the Azaleas include a French variety, as well as the Deutsche Perle. Salvia splendens is still in flower."

"How many Browallias do you grow?"

"About three dozen. They are easy to grow, and want greenhouse heat only.

"I am replanting the Vinery," continued Mr. Kneller, "Black Hamburgh and Alicante being the principal Grapes grown. Here there are a few Tea Roses in pots, about half a score of varieties, including Viscountess Folkestone. In the Fernery, with Ficus repens covering the walls, are Palms, Maidenhair and other Ferns, Asparagus, and Begonia Gloire de Lorraine."

"And the conservatory?"

"We take the flowers when they are at their best to the conservatory. Just now the contents are mainly Camellias, Cineraria stellata, and Arum Lilies."

Then we strolled outside and inspected the ancient sundial some six hundred years old, and I expressed my appreciation of the ornamental Grape Vines which, Mr. Kneller informed me, have been a feature of Malshanger for thirty-five years.

"It is no longer necessary to grow the varieties of V. vinifera?"

"No, the species of Vitis supply all the material that can be needed, even for a large garden. Vitis armata, the Japanese V. coignetiæ, V. Thomsonii, and V. Thunbergi, are specially good, and produce in combination an effect which cannot readily be surpassed. Not only the ornamental Vines intermixed with Roses and Clematis, but also the edging of the herbaceous borders with Cerastiums, has a very striking appearance in summer."

"Your own career, Mr. Kneller, has been, I believe, almost entirely bound up with Malshanger?"

"I have never been out of Hampshire. But before I came here as head gardener I was under two first-class men in succession; one was Mr. Stiles, head gardener at Bighton House, Alresford, where I stayed seven years, and helped to plan a new garden; and the other was Mr. [illegible], head gardener at Newton Vallence, [illegible]shfield. Two great events have occurred in the forty-four years of my life here. One was the visit of the Prince of Wales, and the other the celebration of Sir Wyndham's golden wedding in 1899. For six days we kept up the Jubilee for all sorts of people."

"Your remarkable collection of medals proves that you have been exceedingly successful in showing?"

"I have taken over four hundred prizes, including ten gold and silver medals, two silver cups, and a handsome marble clock."

"What was the clock given for?"

"The best eighteen stove plants. But most of my prizes have been obtained for Apples, and general collections of vegetables, and Onions. I have shown with success in London, Reading, Winchester, Basingstoke, Norwich, Hereford, Dorchester, Banbury, Oxford, and in Scotland. The greatest triumphs were at Banbury and Reading."

"How large is the gardening staff?"

"There are about seventeen working on the estate, and from eight to ten in the gardens. I should never have kept the young men if Sir Wyndham had not established a reading room for them. It is open for six months in the year, and papers, light and fire are provided for them. One of my sons assists me with the farm, and another in the gardens."

"With all your experience and your successes as an exhibitor, I should like to know whether you attach special importance to any particular aspect of gardening?"

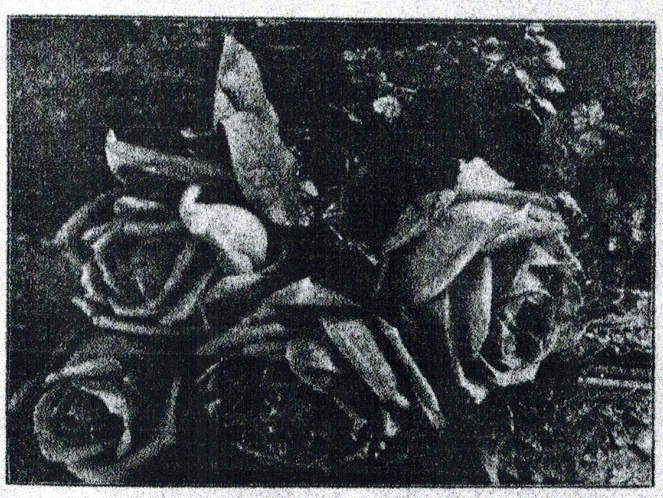
"It is impossible to over-rate the importance of both practical and scientific training. But if, in the end, a man does not know how to do the work in the garden, he is not of much use."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 144.—TREATMENT OF SHADY CORNERS.

DEAR KATE,—So you want to know what you should do with that shady corner of your garden, where you find it difficult to make things grow? First, renew the soil, for probably this is exhausted by the roots of the trees and shrubs; certainly it is so, if any of them are Laurels, for these plants, with their large evergreen leaves and strong growth, take more out of the soil than any other shrubs. Another common difficulty in such a place is airlessness, the position being shut in too much by foliage on all sides for most flowers to do well. In this case you had better cut down some of the shrubs, and thin out the growths of others until you are sure that light and air will reach the plants to grow underneath. If you have a difficulty in doing this for any special corner, keep that for growing Ferns in, as they like just such a place, where they can always have shade and still air; but no flowering plants will flourish there.



MARECHAL NIEL ROSES.

There are plenty, however, which will grow in semi-shade; and I will just tell you what we have in such a place here, a corner which is seldom without some flowers. First of all, in January there were Snowdrops amongst the grass (for part of it joins the lawn), and these were soon followed by yellow Crocus blossoms, then purple and white Primroses (which sow themselves in this corner), early Daffodils, and

CROWN IMPERIALS.

blue Scillas, all of which are planted without any straight lines or formality, for we take the bulbs in our aprons, and drop them about indiscriminately at planting time, putting in each bulb just where it happens to fall, for it is a great mistake to set out a half-wild garden as though it were a Cabbage plot. The Daffodils are not over before the lovely little azure stars of the Apennine Anemone appear, making sheets of bloom close to the ground. We also have the double form of our own Wood Anemone; this appears about the same time, in April, and both are lovely. On the outskirts of this shady corner there are various flowering trees and shrubs, Rhododendrons of the early-flowering section in carmine, crimson and white, carefully eschewing the ordinary magenta-flowered Rhododendron ponticum, and choosing such hybrid varieties as Mrs. Holford, Prince Camille de Rohan, Nobleanum, and Arboreum coccineum, and planting them in the autumn. A Laburnum, too, droops its golden chains over these, and the pink flowers of the Almond tree are conspicuous here in March. In May the Foxgloves begin to show colour, and we grow them in masses, especially the great, creamy-white bells of Digitalis maculata, spotted inside with crimson. Bluebells, too, push up amongst the rest, our own wild British Scilla nutans being the most graceful of all, but you should have some white ones, if possible, amongst the blue.

The great heads of scarlet and yellow blossom produced at this time of year by Crown Imperials are very effective in a shady corner for they will do better here than in the open border; there are three distinct tints in these bulbs (Fritillaria imperialis)—deep scarlet, bright yellow, and sulphur-yellow—and all are worth growing, to brighten up such a place as this.

There are, of course, other Fritillarias, but, personally, I don't like them at all, for every one of them tries to look as much like a snake in the grass as possible, and I object to snakes. Their dusky flowers are marbled and reticulated exactly on the pattern of a snake's head, in dull brown, even the white Fritillary, which is the best of them, has symptoms of snakishness which are not comfortable to see, and I won't have any of them in the garden, though they do very well in shade, if left alone.

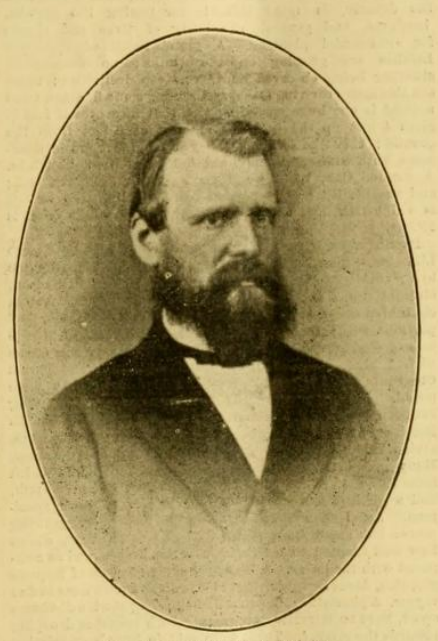
In the summer a great group of Tritoma grandiflora lights up this shady corner, and Violas in masses are growing near the edge of it, Archibald Grant, in royal purple, Bullion in deep yellow, and Bethea in pure white, being three of the best of them. Pansies, too, and Violets, will grow in the shade, and I had

worth. Messrs. J. Veitch & Sons, and others. In 1862, Gireoud became head-gardener to the Duke of Sagan, at Sagan, whose extensive gardens offered him a wide field in which to display his abilities. In 1868, he became garden-inspector, and later ducal garden-director. He was the recipient of various medals, received in 1889 the patent as royal Ockonomierath, and the French Good Service Order for agriculture and horticulture.

HENRY KNIGHT.—Mr. Henry Knight, whose death, we announced in our last issue, was not, as some have supposed, a Scotchman, but was born at Taunton on December 14, 1831, and therefore at the time of his death was in his sixty-second year. At the the age of fifteen he lost his father, and having to obtain employment, was for three or four years afterwards in Messrs. Veitch & Son's seedshop, at their Exeter nurseries. He then went to the gardens at Dalkeith Palace, then under the charge of Charles Macintosh, in the year 1853, where although we find his name on the garden books as a journeyman, it was probable that he was really an improver. Those who knew him at that time say he was a "nice, quiet, well-be-haved lad," and he bore the same excellent reputation till the end of his services at Dalkeith in 1859. In the meantime Macintosh had retired, and was succeeded, in 1855, by W. Thomson, by whom Knight was ultimately raised to the post of senior foreman under glass with the charge of the fruits, serving in that capacity for several years. On one occasion the Countess of Pavia called during the summer season at Dalkeith, and was shown over the gardens, and being favourably impressed with what she saw in the way of fruit culture, and in the general appearance of the place, requested Mr. Thomson to select for her a gardener who would be likely to carry out gardening operations in the same excellent style at her place, Château Pontchartrain, Seine et Oise, in France. Without hesitation, he recommended Mr. Knight, who in the year 1859 or 1860 entered the Countess' service as head gardener. There he remained eight years, and carried out a great deal of heavy and expensive work in remodelling the gardens, constructing lakes, roads, &c., and erecting a considerable number of glass structures. He much astonished the Parisians with the size and quality of the Grapes he grew at Pontchartrain; and in 1866 he sent some to a meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, which are said to have greatly astonished the leading Grape growers of that day in this country. Mr. Knight's name also appears in the list of exhibitors at the great International Horticultural Exhibition held in London in that year. He remained at Pontchartrain eight years, and in 1867 he was appointed gardener to the Duke of Roxburgh, at Floors Castle, Roxburghshire. Being desirous of becoming acquainted with horticulture as pursued in the South of England, he left Floors on the death of the Duke, and became head gardener to the late Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P., Greenlands, Henley-on-Thames. Here he remained for four years, resigning his situation as a consequence of disagreement with the estate agent; and when His Majesty the King of the Belgians required a Superintendent of the Royal parks and gardens at Laeken, Mr. Knight was recommended by Dr. M. T. Masters, the editor of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, who was thanked by the King himself for having done so, who likewise informed him that the Duchess of Roxburgh, then one of the Ladies-in-waiting to Her Majesty the Queen, confirmed Dr. Masters' statements. The Duchess' connection with the English Court may afford a reason for the statement we have seen that it was on the Queen's recommendation that Knight was appointed.

The Royal demesne and château of Laeken are distant about 2 miles from Brussels, and rank as regards the beautiful park and gardens among the finest in Europe. The conservatory (fig. 69, p. 376) is of enormous dimensions, although the effect of the building as a whole is somewhat marred by the unnecessary massiveness of the iron-work. Knight, however, was not responsible for that, the design and the materials being supplied by Belgians. Many new glasshouses were erected, and others rebuilt according to modern ideas, and the gardens greatly altered and improved during the past twelve years.

Mr. Knight enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the King, and he was highly respected by the members of the Belgian royal family. Only last year, on returning home after a visit to the King of the Belgians, the Duke of Westminster wrote to Mr. Knight expressing his congratulations at the splendid order and artistic appearance of the gardens under his charge. Mr. Knight had been ill for about six weeks previous to his death. He leaves a family of six, three sons and three daughters, two of whom, a son and a daughter, are settled in Australia, and two are unmarried, and reside at Laeken. The eldest son, James Knight, is engaged in farming in Australia; the second is in the banking business; and the youngest, Thomas, is being brought up to the gardening profession at Messrs. B. S. Williams & Son's, Upper Holloway, London, N. Mr. Knight was a man of marked ability; he was fully conversant with the French language, and his



THE LATE HENRY KNIGHT

geniality made him a great favourite with all. The funeral took place at Laeken on Saturday, September 12, and was attended by a large concourse of mourners, the funeral procession to the cemetery numbering 400 persons, His Majesty the King of the Belgians being represented by Baron de Goffinet, Colonel-Equerry to His Majesty; the King also sent a magnificent wreath of Orchids, the centre of which was composed of Cattleya Leopold II., grown by Mr. Knight. Amongst others present were Count de Kerchove de Denterghem, Sir Francis Plunkett, G.C.M.G.; M. Boxtal, Burgomaster of Laeken; Baron Wyckerslooth, and Messrs. J. Linden, C. Murray, Rodegas, Dr. Thomson, and others, besides the entire *personnel* of the Royal Gardens and Parks. It may be mentioned that Mr. Knight was for many years a valued correspondent of this journal, at first over the signature of "Chevalier," and latterly over those of "H. K.," and "K."

ORCHID NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

ONCIDIUM HEMATOCHILUM.

THIS is one of the handsomest of the Lanceanum section of Oncidiums. True, it is only about half the size of O. Lanceanum, but it throws a handsome raceme with a large number of flowers, and the spikes vary from 2 to 3 feet in length. We have known the species for years, but it is by no means plentiful; and it was a pleasure to note a plant of it in that varied collection of Orchids formed by E. Ashworth, Esq., Harefield Hall, Wilmslow (Mr. Holbrook, gardener). The plant had two racemes, one bearing eighteen and the other thirteen flowers. The colouration and, indeed, formation of both sepals and petals are alike, the ground-colour being pinkish-yellow, with crowds of Indian-red blotches, which is so characteristic of Lanceanum. The lip has two stiff-looking wings, all but sessile, and the unprotected column rests on a circular knob immediately above the wings; the lower portion expands from a linear line to a considerable circular blade with similar ground-colour to the segment, only the blotching is more pronounced.

EPIDENDRUM GODSEFFIANUM.

This is one of the atro-purpureum section of Epidendrums which is worthy of cultivation, as it is essentially distinct from many of its compeers. The flower-spike is showy, the one in question in the Harefield House collection bearing eighteen flowers, and the individual flowers take the eye being of good form. The sepals and petals are ovate, clumping well together, having a sienna ground, the cinnamon colour shining through; and the margin forms a fine decided line of old gold colour. The upper lobes of the lip are pinkish-white, while the lower obcordate blade has whitish ground with prominent purple lines. It was growing in the Cypripedium-house, which seems a good one for these West Indian Epidendrums.

DENDROBIUM HOOKERIANUM.

This is a distinct species, and a welcome one flowering, as it does, at this season of the year. It has the yellow colour of D. Brymerianum, and a little of the fringed lip of that delightful Orchid. It seems to be a lanky grower, after the way of D. triadenum, but is much less robust in habit, and throws its short spikes of flowers towards the extremity of the pseudo-bulb. Its flowers are large, measuring about 4½ in. across. The sepals are broadly linear, acuminate, and turned back at the edges until nearing the point; the petals are of much the same formation, but more inclined to be ovate, and the colour of the whole of the segments is yellow. The lip is circular, springing from a convolute base, completely concealing the column, and is in colour similar to the segments, with the very prominent fringe, above alluded to; the two eyes at the base are of deep maroon, with an orange blotch above them, leaving a broad band of yellow running right up to the base of the column.

DENDROBIUM DEAREI.

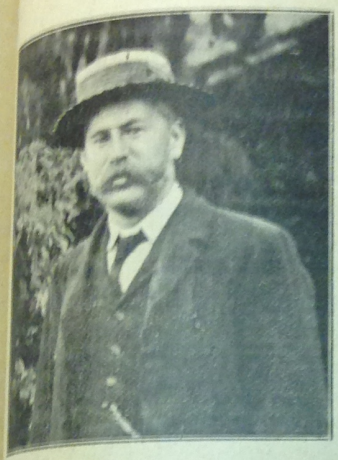
This is one of the most desirable, and undoubtedly the most lasting of all the white Dendrobes. Mr. Ashworth has always grown and shown this well, and the fact of one of the plants that came under my eye being at the Manchester Whitsuntide Exhibition, and is still in flower, shows how persistent are the blooms. We all admire the species because of its evergreen habit, the pale-green ovate leaves, forming a grand setting for the crowd of flowers that come in various numbers towards the extremity. The flowers, too, are exquisitely white, of as good formation, too, as D. Phalænopsis, and the greenish lines running together at the upper blade of the labellum adds to its attraction. Mr. Ashworth's gardener has the plants in various houses, but it appears to be most at home in a brisk East Indian temperature, and appears to like limited rooting-space and moisture at the roots.

ZYGOPETALUM MAXILLARE GAUTIERII.

The fine plant which we noticed at p. 95, col. c., grown by Geo. Shorland Ball, Esq., Ashford (gr., Mr. Hay), is now in full flower. It has thirty-six of its grand violet and white blended flowers fully expanded, and is quite a refreshing sight among other flowering Orchids. The robust character of its leaves, and shining distended pseudo-bulbs, command attention, springing as they do from a Tree-Fernstem.

J. A.

be preposterous. How can he prove any-
of the sort unless he travels in one of
baskets? I don't see that the substitu-
"culpable negligence," as suggested by
would be much better. The fact
article has been damaged while in the
of a railway company should be suffi-
to establish a claim against them, unless
be shown that the packing was at fault.
March 8th.—I see that, in the recently-pub-



Mr. Charles Knowles,
The Head Gardener at Bagshot Park.

"Book of the Winter Garden," its author,
D. S. Fish, speaks of the Winter Helio-
(Petasites, formerly Tussilago, fragrans)
"well suited for sunny banks, and the milder
of the garden." He should certainly
added a warning. It is true that he says
"Those who wish to have it in quantity
soon do so, as there are gardens where
is evidently a superabundance of the
spreading plant," but that can hardly
taken as a warning. At any rate, it is not
sufficient one. Though this plant is offered
some nurserymen's catalogues, it cannot be
as other than a weed, and a pestilent
too. Its flowers have little claim to
Their sole attraction is their scent of
or prussic acid, and that is often too
to be pleasant. The plant extends by
of running, underground stems, much as
Thistle does, and when once it is estab-
it spreads in all directions. It should
be admitted to the mixed border. If it
gets in, it can seldom be turned out again,
every scrap of these underground stems
carries a bud will form a new centre for
misdirected energies. If it is to be grown,
proper place for it is the wild garden.
March 9th.—Photographers may be surprised
hear that wood can photograph itself with-
the interference of light. At a meeting of
Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticul-
Society, Dr. Russell exhibited photographs
by the action of the wood itself in com-
darkness. In most of them the spring
appeared as light circles, and the autumn
as dark circles, but, curiously enough, in
Conifers, such as the Cedar and the Deodar,
spring wood showed as dark circles, and
autumn as light. The result is due to the
of peroxide of hydrogen from the
in the wood and its action on the plate.
March 10th.—Modern taste is opposed to the
garden, and, personally, I do not care
But where trees and shrubs have grown
around it, as in the photograph, and have
the seclusion which it usually lacks, it
certainly seen at its best. If not too large,
becomes a very pleasant cosy corner in
mer.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 230.—Mr. Charles Knowles, at the Gardens, Bagshot Park.

THE beautiful gardens at Bagshot Park, the historic seat of the Duke of Connaught, are celebrated for the glory of the trees and the splendour of the flowering shrubs. But they include many other features of interest to horticulturists, and on the occasion of my visit, Mr. Charles Knowles, the head gardener, afforded me every facility for seeing these also, though he warned me, before I went, that the season of the year was unfavourable. Bagshot, however, even on a grey afternoon in the middle of January, is full of charms, and it was not difficult to imagine its appearance in June. Proceeding from the pleasantly-situated residence of Mr. Knowles, into the enclosed kitchen garden, which covers two acres, there being four more outside the walls, my attention was at once attracted by the Italian well-head, in imitation of the well-head at Osborne, which was only put up last year.

A Mass of One Colour.

"Here, too," said Mr. Knowles, "is a plantation of Yews, with seats all round, which I recently made. The arches are covered with climbing Roses—Celine Forestier and Dorothy Perkins. We are about to alternate arches of Apples and Pears on bushes with arches of Roses right along the centre, using such varieties as Crimson Rambler, William Allen Richardson, and Duchess of Wurtemberg, in addition to Dorothy Perkins. The idea with regard to the varieties is to secure a mass of one colour. Both the Duke and the Duchess prefer this to a mixture of colours."

"I see that you have herbaceous borders both along the centre and the sides of the garden. Do you go in for any special varieties?"

"I should describe them as a good general collection, including most of the well-known and popular varieties. We go in very largely for Violets, the varieties being Princess of Wales and Princess Beatrice. I have gathered some of the former, grown outside, already."

The Fruit Houses.

As the fruit houses are in the kitchen garden, we took them next, and Mr. Knowles called my attention, in a new house, to some nice-looking Nectarine trees, which he brought in from outside. The variety is Cardinal. There are Roses on the wall—Perles des Jardins and Climbing Niphetos, which go well together.

"What do you grow in the late Peach house?" I enquired.

"Grosse Mignonne and Barrington. We also grow Belle Beauce, which ripens ten days earlier than Early Louise. The other variety of Nectarine grown is Elruge. The Maréchal Niel Rose on the back wall of this house grows luxuriantly. By hanging a shoot down when it is in bud we get the colour a beautiful yellow."

"Have you any particular varieties of Grapes?"

"In one house we have Black Hamburgh and a few Buckland's Sweetwater; in another, Muscats; in a third, Black Alicante, which does wonderfully well, and in a fourth, Black Hamburgh only, but I intend to make it a Muscat house."

A Specimen Araucaria.

One of the many beautiful specimen trees to be found in the delightful grounds of Bagshot Park, the seat of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught.

"What about Figs?"

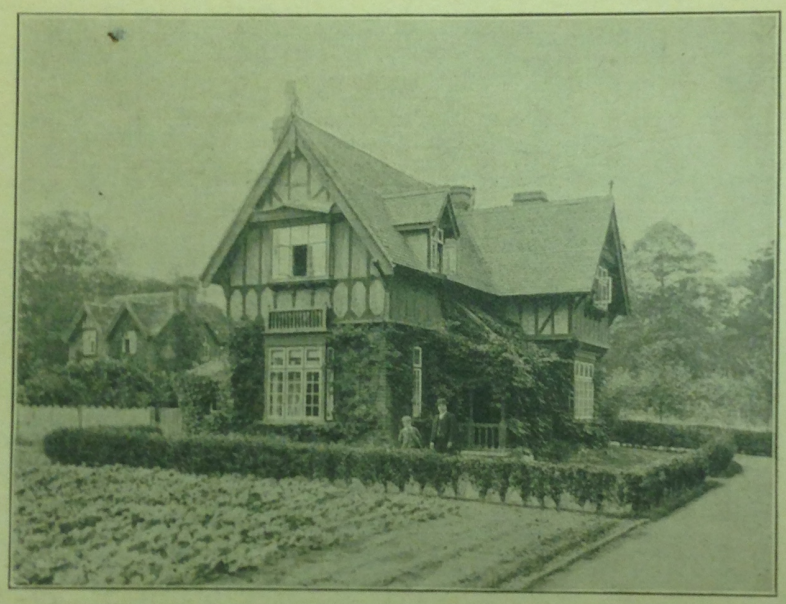
"I am making the experiment of growing Brown Turkey Figs with Grosse Mignonne Peaches. In the Fig house itself we get heavy crops of White Ischia. Since the trees have had a brick tank built round them they have been exceedingly prolific. The second crop was especially heavy."

"When did you get the first?"

"On the 20th April, and the second the middle of June, just in time for Ascot week. As you may imagine, we almost live for Ascot week here."

"I suppose you grow the usual fruits outside?"

"Yes; I do not think that we have anything exceptional. Pears are grown on the east and west walls, and the trees include a fine old specimen of Pitmaston Duchess. Plums only are grown on the north wall, because nothing else will do there. We can get a fine crop of Peaches on a west wall sometimes. We have a very nice collection of Apples on the Paradise stock, and Cherries on the bush. The varieties of the latter are Emperor Napoleon, Governor Wood, and May Duke. The advantage of growing them in the bush form is that we can net them."



THE GARDENER'S HOUSE AT BAGSHOT PARK.

"You might, please, mention the principal features in the plant houses."

"One house, as you see, is devoted to Geraniums, and we grow some of the best scarlets. They are all used for cutting, and two of the best varieties are Margaret Daisy and Coronation. In the Palm house there are only Kentias, and of Orchids we go in for Calanthes and Cœlogyne cristata. One house is used for Carnations, and another for Stephanotis and Ferns."

"You seem to have had a nice batch of Coleus thyrsoides."

"We find them very useful for decorating the luncheon table, but of no value when artificial light has to be used."

A Pretty Pergola.

Leaving the glasshouses, I noticed a very attractive-looking bothy, which was put up about ten years ago for the accommodation of six young men, who may be congratulated on the comfortable manner in which they are housed. A little distance beyond we came to a pergola, and Mr. Knowles said, "This was planted two years ago, and links the gardens together. It used to be an old rough walk, but I thought that it would not be difficult, with the shelter provided, to make a pergola. The length is about one hundred yards, and it is cross-cornered. Lilies and Pæonies are planted on each side, and on the pergolas, Clematis in variety, Vitis in variety, Wistarias (notably, the beautiful form of white Wistaria from Japan), Jasminum, and Lonicera. Then there are Roses, in combination with Acanthas, and Pyrus japonica running up the same poles as Clematis. One flowers in the spring, the other in the summer."

Rhododendrons and Azaleas.

"Of course," I observed, as we passed some magnificent specimen plants of Ponticum Rhododendrons, "Rhododendrons and Azaleas are among your most important features."

"Yes, and here is a little garden with specimens of Rhododendrons and Ghent Azaleas. The arbour in the centre is planted with Roses (Alfred Carriere) and Clematis Jackmanni, the white and purple going well together. One of the beds is filled with Tree Pæonies, two of the varieties being Lord and Lady Rosebery. In addition to Ghent Azaleas, Azalea indica alba grow beautifully outside, and we have sheets of pure white flowers in the flowering season."

"Can you tell me the measurement of any of the specimen Rhododendrons?"

"Some of them are quite thirty-three feet through. But, speaking of specimens, there are several remarkable trees which I think might be mentioned."

"Including, I presume, some which have been planted on the lawn near the house in commemoration of the visit to Bagshot of distinguished persons?"

Notable Trees.

"One of those, Abies pinsapo, was planted by Queen Victoria in 1880, and her late Majesty also planted the very fine specimen of Abies lasiocarpa concolor violacea, now some twenty feet high. In 1885 Prince Leopold of Prussia planted a Tsuga Menziesii, and the Duchess of Connaught a similar tree. But the most remarkable memorial tree in the ground is the Abies firma, planted by the late Emperor Frederick of Germany in 1880."

"That is certainly a wonderful specimen, and, I suppose, rather rare?"

"It is not common in this country, and belongs to the Japanese species, of which Abies bifida is a mere form. You will notice that the erect habit and rigid leaves, which point laterally in two directions, are more nearly erect than those of most other specimens. With regard to trees, however, many of the most remarkable are in the Pinetum, in which His Royal Highness is specially interested. The pseudo Tsuga Douglasii, and Abies grandis, A. concolor, A. nobilis, and Pinus excelsa are amongst these."

"One of the finest in the grounds, surely, is the Araucaria imbricata?"

"It is seldom, I think, that one can be seen in better condition from the summit to the base, although the height is not very great. Close to the Araucaria is a rather remarkable specimen of the broad-leaved Abies (Cunninghami sinensis), which, in August, stands out distinctively, because it appears to be of quite a blue colour. Other famous trees are Silver Fir, Tulip trees, Magnolias of various species, some thirty feet in height, while Beeches and Chestnuts of large proportions may be seen in various parts of the grounds."

"Then there are the Cedars at the entrance to the park."

"Those three Cedars always provoke admiration, because, while planted closely together, they have not only developed into colossal specimens, but have so adjusted themselves to the limitations imposed by each other that in the distance they almost appear to be one tree."

Roses and Hollies.

Returning to the pretty little Rosery, not far from the mansion, with beds planted chiefly with Hybrid Perpetuals, and an entire arch of Psyche, Mr. Knowles pointed out a number of baskets, which are filled with Heliotropes in the summer, and Wallflowers and Myosotis in the winter.

"Hollies," I resumed, "appear to flourish with you exceedingly."

"There are a large number of good specimens, of which Waterer's Golden Queen is perhaps the best. Near the Camellia house, however, is a very fine specimen of the Hedgehog Holly."

The Camellia House.

"What do you grow on the pergola in front of the Camellia house?"

"Wistarias over the arches, and Jasminums and Loniceras up the poles. Opposite the pergola are a number of beds of Magnolias in variety. They all do well here, but metallica especially."

"Do you give the Camellias in the house any heat?"

"Just enough to keep frost out, and we get quantities of flower The Roses flourish in the Camellia house, including Fortune's Yellow, which you do not often see. In the little garden beyond the house, Begonias, Pæonies, Montbretias, and Iris Kæmpferi come on in succession in the summer."

"I gather that you do not plant for the spring."

"Not this year, because, as you know, the Duke and Duchess are away in South Africa. I might add that in the centre of that little garden is a Lily pool, with climbing Roses growing round. From those Rose trees we sometimes cut forty dozen flowers in a single morning for the table."

The Rockery and Avenues.

Further away, we came to the rockery, which is old-fashioned, but contains some pretty grotto work, and has the advantage of picturesque surroundings. Close by is a nursery, in which the plants that are indigenous are grown.

"These," continued Mr. Knowles, "are largely Azaleas. Rhododendrons seed themselves, owing to the quantity of peat and moisture in the soil. We are always cutting Rhododendrons back."

"Next to Rhododendrons and Azaleas, you give priority to Kalmias."

"They unquestionably flourish exceedingly at Bagshot, particularly Kalmia latifolia, which often grows to the height of eighteen feet. The varieties vary in colour from nearly white to deep pink. Here, you will notice that there are three distinct avenues. They all lead to the Orangery. One is called the Rhododendron walk, with plants from five to twelve feet high, and, by the way, one of the finest varieties is Rosslyana, which flowers in March, and is bright scarlet. Another avenue is lined on either side with Azalea pontica in variety, growing more than five feet high, and of very large circumference; and the third has Yews on both sides."

Begonia Carminata—Madame Charrot.

The Orangery and Terrace.

"Do you grow anything in the Orangery?"

"No. On the walls, Wistaria alba, which the Duke brought from Japan, flowers luxuriously in summer."

"What are the creepers grown on the mansion?"

"Jasminum, Pyracantha, Escallonia, variegated Ivies, and Crimson Ramblers. In near proximity are a number of flowering shrubs, such as Japanese Cherries, Lilacs, Laburnums, Ribes, and Viburnums. In the small garden facing the billiard room there are three beds now full of yellow and blue Violas. We never grow mixed colours."

"And on the terrace?"

"At present there are Wallflowers, Myosotis, and Violas, but if the family were at home there would be Tulips and Narcissi. The conservatory is only used as a winter garden."

"How do you fill the vases on the terrace?"

"With Wallflowers, Silenes, and Myosotis. These last are also grown in the centre of the little garden in the shape of a Pear, with Bamboos in the centre. A large bed on the right consists entirely of China Roses. Then there is the new Rose garden, which was formerly a flower garden. Each of the fourteen beds is composed of Roses of one colour, all Teas and Hybrid Teas. The Rosery is sheltered by brackens."

The Diamond Garden.

Passing away from the terrace, and noting a collection of Hollies, with a number of Ericas below them, we stayed for a time to look at the Diamond garden, with Mercury in the centre. Here are numerous clipped Yews, golden and green, the bedding being the same as in other parts. As the grounds altogether cover some six acres, we were only able to explore a portion thereof, and at this point we returned to the outer kitchen garden, in which a quantity of small fruit is grown, including the Loganberry and Raspberries, while in the frames, Seakale, Endive, Rhubarb, etc., are largely cultivated.

"At one time," said Mr. Knowles, "I used to go in for growing Fuchsias largely, and I have had them from six to seven feet high, the varieties including Charming, Prince of Orange, Rose of Castile, and Mrs. Marshall."

Alfred Wilcox

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 188.—WINDOW PLANTS.

Dear Kate,—So you want to know what to grow in your windows? As the aspect is a sunny one, you can really have a beautiful show of flowers, if you know the right plants to get, and manage them well. The scarlet Geraniums, which have spent the winter there, should now be trimmed into shape, cutting off all the long, leggy pieces, which can be cut up into lengths about six inches long, and put round a pot of light, sandy soil, as cuttings. They will make nice plants by the late summer, if potted on, and kept growing; you should pinch out the middle of their shoots once or twice before that, to make them bushy.

The old plants will look ugly for a time, but as soon as their fresh growths are half an inch long you can turn them out of their pots, shake off all the soil from them, and prune their roots, cutting away any old, woody part of these, but keeping the fibrous roots intact as much as possible. Give them smaller pots than before, good loam without any manure (except a little soot), and proper drainage, making them as tight as you can in the pot by ramming down the top soil with the handle of the trowel. You should use the soil in a moist but not sticky state, and the plants may then be given several days to recover from the shock in a rather shady place, without any more water; but within a week they should be back again in the sunshine, and have abundance of air.

Do you keep your windows open a few inches at the top? We never shut our windows, except those on the ground floor, which are left open until we go upstairs. People are slowly but surely learning that health is impossible without a constant supply of pure air, night and day; and plants need this as much as we do. But sharp draughts on bitter mornings should be avoided, and the upper sash is the one which should be open, not the lower one, close to which the plants will do best.

A Batch of Begonias.

Begonias of all kinds are excellent room plants, and you should now obtain a few tubers of the double and single tuberous Begonias, and start them in a wooden tray of leaf-mould, loam, and sand, with a little charcoal-dust added below the tubers. At this dormant stage, these Begonias are in danger of rotting if they have too much water, so that they will need but little until they begin to grow, and that little is best given with a light syringe when they are dry, keeping the tubers almost out of the soil at first, and sprinkling a little more compost around them when the green shoots appear. They can be potted up separately in small pots, just large enough to hold them comfortably, as soon as they are growing well, still keeping the tuber near the surface of the soil, and watering it (always with tepid water) carefully.

When the plant shows buds it should be shifted into a rather larger pot, with a little of a good fertiliser or dried cow manure added to the compost; and you should not let it want for room all the summer, potting it on again and again, before it gets pinched for room, for, in this case, it will stop flowering, whilst with repeated shifts it will be a lovely sight until October. Plenty of water will be needed for it when in blossom, for, if once the shoots droop, the plant will go to rest, or perhaps die outright, which is very provoking. Soot-water, too, in a clear, thin state, will suit it twice a week in the summer.

The fibrous-leaved Begonias can now be cut back, allowed to make fresh shoots, and then repotted. Begonia metallica is one of the prettiest for a window, as it has handsome, crimson-veined foliage, with pale pink and silver flowers. Then B. carminata Madame Charrot is a beauty, with long, salmon-pink blossoms and slender stems. You can strike the tops of these plants in sandy soil, if you keep them in a shady window until rooted, then pot them up separately; and the smaller-flowered varieties—Worthiana in apricot-yellow, and Weltoniensis in pink—are excellent room plants.

Shrubs for the Window.

Have you a Myrtle in your window? The large-leaved kind (Myrtus angustifolius) is a most desirable plant in a pot, for its neat, fragrant foliage is always useful as a background for flowers, and its beautiful blossoms in August are delightful. It is a great advantage in window-gardening to have a few small shrubs as well as flowers, and you might well add a Laurestinus and a Choisya ternata to your collection, for these shrubs blossom when quite young, and make very decorative plants for a window (either inside or out) in the earliest spring.

Both can be grown from cuttings in the summer, and they should be potted on in good, rich loam, as they require more room. All hardy shrubs should stand in a sunny place

Silver Wing Tulips.

out of doors in the summer, to ripen their wood, but must not be forgotten in their need for plenty of water then. Those who have no other place for them can manage by nailing a piece of wire netting outside the window, and placing the pots on the ledge for the summer, but in this case it is necessary to shade the pots from the full sunshine, or the roots become burnt, and the plants suffer. Cork-bark, or wood painted green, can be used for this purpose.

For a balcony or a verandah these shrubs

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Knowlton, Thomas (1691–1781), *gardener and botanist*
by Thomas Seccombe, *rev.* P. E. Kell
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Knowlton, Thomas (1691–1781), gardener and botanist, was born at Chislehurst, Kent, and baptized there on 6 September 1691, the eldest of the five sons of William Knowlton and Ann Stokes. Little is known of his early life. In 1720 he was employed as a gardener by Sir Henry Penrice (1677–1752) at Offaly Palace, Hertfordshire. In the same year, on 27 June, he married Elizabeth Rice (*d.* 1738). They had two children, Elizabeth and Charles, the latter of whom attended St John's College, Cambridge, and pursued a career in the church. After leaving Penrice's service Knowlton superintended the botanic garden of Dr James Sherard at Eltham in Kent. After a short time working for the duke of Chandos in Canons he entered the service of Richard Boyle, third earl of Burlington, at Londesborough, Yorkshire, and there he remained for the rest of his life. His freelance work at other estates in Yorkshire appears to have made him a wealthy man, and he invested his profits in property.

Knowlton became known as a botanist of merit. He corresponded with E. M. Da Costa and other members of the Royal Society, and won the esteem of Sir Hans Sloane. He subscribed to Mark Catesby's *History of Carolina* and actively encouraged others to do the same. To him is due the first discovery in England of the ‘moor-ball’, a species of fresh-water algae of the Conferva family, called by Linnaeus *Aegagropila*. In order to find even a moderate number of these balls, he had to spend many hours wading in the lake at Walling Fen, in water from 2 to over 3 feet deep.

Knowlton was also something of an antiquary. He discovered the exact site of the ancient city of Delgovicia, near Pocklington in Yorkshire, and communicated some observations on this and other subjects to the *Philosophical Transactions* (44, 1748, 100–102, 124–7). Two large deer's horns which he discovered, one resembling the horn of an Irish elk, are figured in the same volume (plate 422). He was at first distinguished by his interest in and knowledge of indigenous plants. In 1726 he travelled to Guernsey to study the cultivation of the Guernsey lily. He became increasingly interested in exotic species, for which he first built a hot house at Londesborough in 1729.

Knowlton died on 28 November 1781 at Londesborough. Toward the end of his life he was totally blind. He was buried in Londesborough churchyard. The genus *Knowltonia* (Ranunculaceae), now subsumed into *Anemone*, was named after him by Richard Anthony Salisbury in 1796. A John Knowlton, gardener to Earl Fitzwilliam, whose will was proved in February 1782 (TNA: PRO, PROB 11/1087, sig. 85), was perhaps a brother of the botanist.

THOMAS SECCOMBE, *rev.* P. E. KELL

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Archives U. Glas. L., corresp. and diary | BL, corresp. with E. M. Da Costa, Add. MS 28539 · NHM, letters to Samuel Brewer

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Thomas Seccombe, 'Knowlton, Thomas (1691–1781)', rev. P. E. Kell, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Sept 2012 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/15777, accessed 13 Nov 2014]

Thomas Knowlton (1691–1781): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/15777

ating in sticky glands. That looks very like stinct, does it not? And as it would puzzle e cleverest hair-splitter to draw a really clear e between instinct and reason, it seems as if must go pretty far back to get to the ends of strange bundle of threads which we call man nature.

July 8th.—I have come across an interesting icle on "Intensive Cultivation," in an Irish ricultural paper. The writer refers to an ex-riment in Australia. The ground was divided o five plots; the first plot was ploughed over, e second twice, and so on; and the whole was n with corn. "The effect of the extra plough-s was most marked, and on the plot which d been ploughed five times the yield was about ble what it was on the first plot." The sub-t under discussion is whether the resources of e soil, if properly utilised, combined with se of the atmosphere, are not sufficient for the duction of good crops without the aid of nure. Jethro Tull is cited in support of this tention. He was "a firm believer in the gic of thorough cultivation. But, added to that, he used to grow all his crops on ridges. After each crop the ridges were turned over into the trenches, and so fresh soil was brought up to receive the succeeding crop. For fourteen years Tull grew wheat in this way on the same land. He used no manure, and the last crop was better than the first. At a time like the present, when the Japanese are teaching the world some valuable lessons in naval and military tactics, it is interesting to recall the fact that in their agriculture they follow the ridge system advocated by Tull. Unlike him, however, they believe in the value of manure, which they invariably apply, not before or at seeding time, but when the crop is in full growth"—surely the right time provided that the manure is in a soluble form, so that it can be utilised at once. It would certainly seem that in the combination of the two methods the Japanese have adopted the best means of making the most of the land. The beneficial effect of ridging ground for Potatoes is known to every gardener and farmer, so why should not the system be extended?

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 145.—Mr. O. Lamb, at the Castle Gardens, Warwick.

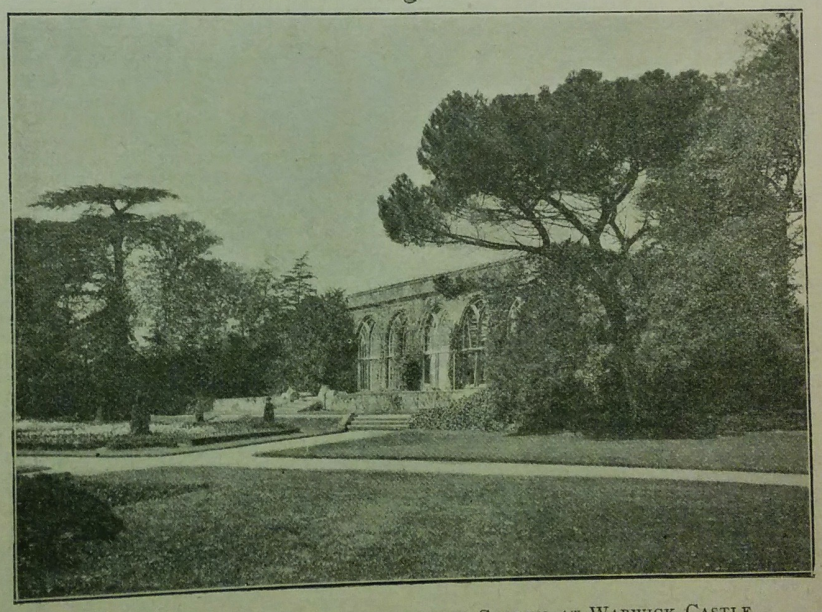
THE fame of Warwick Castle is world-wide, and foreigners visiting this country make a point of seeing a building which dates from before the Norman Conquest. Several English Monarchs have been entertained within its venerable walls, notably, Elizabeth, on her way to the revels at Kenilworth, in 1572; James I., in 1617; William III., in 1695; Victoria, and the Prince Consort, in 1858; and our present King on several occasions. Magnificent as the Castle is, the grounds, covering more than seventy acres, by which it is surrounded, are worthy of the stately pile; and in the course of a few hours, which, by the courtesy of Lord and Lady Warwick, I spent in inspecting them, under the guidance of Mr. Lamb, the head gardener, my only difficulty was to economise my time in order to see as much as possible.

Starting at the principal entrance from the Castle Hill, we approached the building from the Lodge. This winding road is cut through solid rock for a hundred yards, and fitly leads to the fortifications and towers of the Castle. There are three towers, the Clock, Grey Tower, and Caesar's, the last being the most ancient, its construction being supposed to have commenced at the Conquest. In the moat which partly surrounds the walls are some fine Yews, and at the time of my visit (in June) the Rhododendrons round the Castle, in combination with the Ferns, were singularly beautiful. But instead of proceeding towards the portcullis, outside of which the drawbridge formerly rested, we turned to the left, in order to reach the Rose garden, pausing for a minute or two to look at the adjacent Rockery, and waterfall emptying into a pool, where there are a few choice Nymphæas. The Rockery itself is furnished with a representative collection of rock plants.

"The great feature of the Rose garden," said Mr. Lamb, "is the quantity of climbing Roses. They have always done the best. The principal varieties are composed of Crimson Rambler and Clematis. In addition to Crimson Rambler, Carmine Pillar, Thalia (usually such a shy bloomer), climbing La France, and Claire Jacquier thrive remarkably."

When I had admired the happy arrangement of the numerous arches, and the lovely situation of the Rose garden, we made our way to "Lady Warwick's Terrace," on the Castle side, where Roses climb up the walls and flower in wild profusion, the varieties including Marie van Houtte, Pure White and Yellow Banksian, and Homère. In the courtyard are a lot of fine shrubs, and the Deodar Cedar of many large and striking specimens is at the west end of the Castle on the river bank.

"That Cedar," said Mr. Lamb, "is about two hundred years old."



The Conservatory and Corner of the Garden at Warwick Castle.

On the banks of the Avon I noticed a Eucalyptus globulus, and Mr. Lamb mentioned that it had stood there for two winters without injury, owing to the protection afforded by the walls of the Castle.

"How long have the Bamboos been on the river banks?" I inquired.

"About four years. They have been grown in a bog, and it suits them. The variety is Bambusa palmatum. When planted the clump was four yards in diameter—it is now quite twelve. Another variety has flowered several times."

As we glided along the river in the electric launch, *en route* for the Japanese garden and The Lodge, I observed that the banks on either side were adorned by flowers, chiefly Pæonies. Two miles up the Avon, which divides the Castle grounds, is Lodge Wood, and here, three years ago, Lady Warwick made a fine, old, quaint garden. The house, which is said to have been in former times Queen Elizabeth's old hunting-box, has also been put in excellent order, without impairing its appearance of antiquity. We approached it by a walk through the wood, but the proper approach will shortly be through the Japanese garden which Lady Warwick is laying out.

"It is not half planted yet," Mr. Lamb observed, "but flowering Cherries, Plums, and other shrubs will be used largely, with Bamboos and Liliums. As you see, there are a Japanese tea-house and a Japanese bridge already constructed, and the whole of the place will partake of the same character."

"And what are the flowers grown in Queen Elizabeth's garden?"

"They are all of the old-fashioned kind, such as Aconitum, Columbine, Fritillaria, Iris, Delphinium, Asters, Lavender, Lilies, Narcissus, Primulas, Violas, Dianthus, Papaver, Roses, Sedum, Saxifraga, Candytuft, Montbretia, Phlox, etc., also a few of the climbers, Ampelopsis, Virgin's Bower, Hops, Honeysuckle, Roses, Jasminum, etc. There is little formal bedding. The old-fashioned bowling-green is a feature, and the pergola will be very pretty. At the front entrance are a pair of fine examples of topiary work in the form of peacocks, a favourite device of the Tudor period. Queen Elizabeth's garden extends over about an acre and a half, and is charming in every aspect.

It would have been pleasant to have lingered for an hour in this delightful retreat on the top of the hill, commanding splendid views of the Castle and the country, but there was so much still to be seen that we hastened back to the launch. As we neared the Castle again, Mr. Lamb pointed out that even in respect to the shrubs along the banks care is taken in the blending of colours, Prunus Pissardi and the Scarlet Thorn being among those most in evidence. On landing, we repaired to the Cedar Walk, where in the season no fewer than four barrels of Narcissi were planted. Amongst other interesting groups were:—Colutea arborescens, Ceanothus, Berberis Darwinii and stenophylla, Brooms, Wistaria and double Furze mixed. Pyrus malus floribunda, Diplopappus chrysophylla, Purple Filbert with Oriental Poppies mixed, Acer negundo variegata, Acer californica aurea, Wei-

gelias, Forsythias, Golden Privet, Spiræas, Deutzia, and Arunda Donax.

"Trees of various kinds, as well as Cedars," said Mr. Lamb, "are a principal feature here—perhaps the principal. There are the finest and most rare specimen trees, viz., Quercus pyramidalis and Pinus excelsa. The Planes are also very fine."

"What tree did Queen Victoria plant on the occasion of her visit with the Prince Consort in 1858?"

"An Oak. The Prince Consort planted a Wellingtonia gigantea. Since then King Edward and other members of the Royal Family have planted trees."

After the Cedar Walk, the conservatory and terrace claimed attention. As we went into the former, Mr. Lamb mentioned that a beautiful fountain by the Countess Gleichen is shortly to be put in the centre of the beds beyond the Terrace.

"The conservatory," he continued, "was erected for the reception of the Warwick Vase. Until two years ago it had a leaden roof. But Lady Warwick then made a great improvement by substituting a glass roof, and at the same time she introduced two large beds for Palms and a miscellaneous collection of plants, including Begonias and Ferns in variety."

"There is an interesting history attaching to the Warwick Vase?"

"Yes, it was discovered at the bottom of a lake at Hadrian's Villa, near Tivoli, a little distance from Rome, and was purchased by a former Earl of Warwick, who had it conveyed to England and placed in its present position. It is considered a wonderful work of art."

"Now, with regard to the bedding?"

"I should explain that plants are grown here chiefly with a view to have a show in the spring, when the Earl and Countess are in residence. A great number of people visited the gardens in order to see our spring bedding."

"Of what did it chiefly consist?"

"On one of the terraces the centre bed was made up entirely of double Tulips Le Matador (brilliant orange-scarlet) and white Violas. The four side beds were filled with Tournesol Tulips (yellow), on a groundwork of Myosotis. The three corner beds were Le Blason Tulips on a groundwork of yellow Primroses. There were two large beds of Turban Violet Tulips on a groundwork of double Arabis; two others of Purple Crown Tulips and double Arabis; two of Narcissus Princeps (long, bright yellow trumpet), on a groundwork of dark Polyanthus, with yet another consisting of the blue Grape Hyacinth on a groundwork of Primrose Dame Violas."

"And the other terrace?"

"Single Tulips were a leading feature. In fact, our Tulip gardens were the gardens of the year. Two large beds contained Van der Neer, a purplish-violet variety, on a groundwork of white Violas, with corresponding beds of Wouverman Tulips, also on white Violas. There were two large beds of Keizer Kroon (crimson-scarlet Tulips), on white Arabis, with three corner beds of Thomas Moore (orange), on light brown Polyanthus."

"Did you have any beds of the Chrysolora Tulips?"

"Yes, four, with a groundwork of Forget-me-nots. We had also two beds of Proserpine (rich dark-rose), on cream-coloured Polyanthus; and along the borders under the wall were Aubrietias, Crocuses, and Wallflowers."

"I should like to have the names of the summer bedding."

"We keep to the blending of colours. One large bed contains standard Heliotropes, with alternate plants of Blue Gum tree, carpeted with Primrose Dame Violas. Another blend consists of Hyacinthus candicans and white Geraniums, with a carpet of blue Violas; a third of standard Fuchsias and Abutilons, with a groundwork of Sutton's Yellow Dwarf Antirrhinums. On the other terrace are beds of tuberous Begonias and sub-tropical plants, and some of these have the dark Castor-oil intermixed with Begonias."

"The view from these terraces down to the Avon is very charming."

"It has recently been improved by converting what was previously rough grass into a Rhododendron and Azalea walk. The Rhododendrons and Azaleas commence to flower very early and continue until the end of June. I make it a special study to suit the colours to the dark or light conifers behind."

"Can you tell me the names of the principal Rhododendrons?"

"We have used them for self clumps in the following order of flowering:—Handsworth Early (scarlet), Handsworth Early (white), Ascot Brilliant (brilliant), Titian, Marchioness of Lansdowne, John Waterer, Mrs. J. Clutton, Michael Waterer, Sir Joseph Whitworth, Mrs. Mendell, J. M. Brooks, Duchess of Bedford, and Kate Waterer."

"How many kinds of Azaleas do you go in for?"

"Two, the Mollis and sinensis. The varieties are Isabella van Houtte, Alphonse Lavalleé, Anthony Koster, Dr. Reichenbach, and Comte de Laincey."

At the entrance to the kitchen garden is a nice show of Sutton's Giant and East Lothian Stocks. The herbaceous border is of considerable length, with excellently selected varieties. But it only runs down a portion of the garden. Sweet Peas form a border half way down each side.

"They are grown," said Mr. Lamb, "in three pillars of one colour, standing in a triangle, with a groundwork of Mignonette running amongst them. The Sweet Peas are all different colours, and embrace about twenty-five varieties. But neither the kitchen garden, nor the houses are a feature. The former is between two and three acres in extent, and we grow a good deal for ordinary domestic purposes, but nothing unusual."

"How many houses are there?"

"Thirteen. In the early Peach house we grow Royal George, Pineapple and Elruge Nectarines."

"I notice that you grow Figs in pots."

"Yes, Brown Turkey and White Marseilles. The former are the better for forcing."

"Which are your favourite Melons?"

"The Castle is considered very good. It has been grown here for a long time. We also think Scarlet Premier and Sutton's Best of All good. With regard to Tomatoes, we have been cutting Sutton's Winter Beauty since the beginning of March. I have tried several, but I find that this is the best. We only grow one variety of Strawberries—Royal Sovereign, which is also grown outside."

Then we went into the stove house, and Mr. Lamb remarked, "Plants here are grown for the decoration of the Castle. We only use flowers on the dinner table at the Castle, and they are never of more than two colours."

"You go in pretty strongly for Carnations?"

"We have fairly started on a good stock. There are about five hundred Malmaisons. The three best are, I think, Princess (dark pink), Maggie Hodson (the best dark), and Nautilus (flesh colour), which Lady Warwick especially likes. Other very good varieties are Prime Minister, Nell Gwynne, Trumpeter, Lord Rosebery, and Lady Grimston. Miss Audrey Campbell is one of the best yellows, and Edith Lowe the best pink."

"Have you raised any Carnations yourself?"

"I raised Edith Lowe. All our Carnations are grown entirely for cutting in the winter and spring."

"I should like to know of any other plant you have raised."

"About five years ago I raised Schizanthus Wisetoniensis. I was then at Wiseton Hall. Mr. Edward Lowe, of Bush Hill, Enfield, showed it at the Temple two or three years since. It won a gold medal at the Paris Exhibition, and the highest award possible at Ghent."

"It seems to flourish here?"

"Yes, and the flower improves with cutting and being taken indoors."

"Is the culture difficult?"

"Rather. It is a shy seeder, and will not bear much feeding. Small pots should be used, and not over-much water. Schizanthus, at least this variety, should be kept close to the glass. I sow it in August, it begins to flower in April and May, and we continue cutting right through June."

In the late Peach house, where the varieties grown are Royal George, Barrington, Stirling Castle Peaches, and Pineapple, Lord Napier and Rivers' Early Nectarines, I was struck by the pretty effect produced by a number of Achimenes in baskets, and asked if Mr. Lamb found them easy to grow.

"Very. I start them in boxes in spring, when they are about two inches high, then plant them out in the baskets. When they are in the baskets I pinch them over once. Intermediate heat, with a little shade, is required. Then they are quite at home, and last all the summer."

"How many varieties do you grow?"

"Only two, the light blue, and the mauve. There are several others. The Achimenes are grown in the Peach house and the Vineries."

"You do not grow a number of varieties of Grapes?"

"We only grow one—Muscat of Alexandria. All the other varieties formerly grown here have been discarded in its favour. These Vines have not been planted more than three years."

"Were you at Wiseton Hall for a long period?"

"I was at Wiseton five years and a half, previous to which I was seven years at Gallow Hill, and before that I was at the Hermitage, Durham. I came here a year ago. Floral decorations have always been a very special study with me, and are so still."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Nemesia Strumosa.

THIS pretty annual is one of the most striking novelties ever introduced for summer bedding, and I am sure that anyone who has once grown it will continue to do so, for it is a flower that deserves a prominent place wherever annuals are a speciality, and one great point in its favour is the simplicity with which it can be raised.

The seed should be sown about the middle of February, in well-drained boxes or pans, in a temperature of forty-five to fifty degrees, using a compost of equal parts of good, fine soil, leaf-mould, and silver sand, and as soon as the seedlings are large enough they must be pricked out in boxes of soil two and a-half inches apart each way. The soil this time need not contain so much sand; in fact, two parts of soil and one part of leaf-mould will do, with a sprinkling of sand.

A very good mixture to sow the seed in, and also to prick the seedlings out into, is the soil that last year's Chrysanthemums were grown in, and this has the advantage of saving good soil that may be used for potting purposes. It must, of course, be passed through a riddle, and the rough portion may be used for drainage.

This subject may also be used as a pot plant for windows, or the conservatory, or any other cool place, and it is well worth the extra time and trouble to grow a few in this way. For pot plants it is better to sow a few seeds in "60's," and afterwards remove all the seedlings but three of the strongest. When the pots are full of roots, pot them on into "48's," using a mixture of two parts loam and one part leaf-mould, with a little sand added.

If large plants are wanted, it would be better to pot them on into 7-in. pots instead of 5½-in. pots at the final potting. They should have the points taken out twice (or three times if necessary), to encourage a bushy habit, and when the flower-spikes are showing, weak liquid manure will be found to be of advantage to the flowering. Nemesias should at no time be subjected to a high temperature, but be grown as cool as possible.

In the case of those that are to be planted out, it will be necessary to remove them from the greenhouse to the frame about the end of March to harden them off before planting out, and air should be given as often as possible. It will be time enough to plant out in May, and they should be planted about nine inches apart.

R.W.

THE GARDENS AT ENGLEFIELD LODGE, ENGLEFIELD GREEN.

Interview with Mr. Langdon.

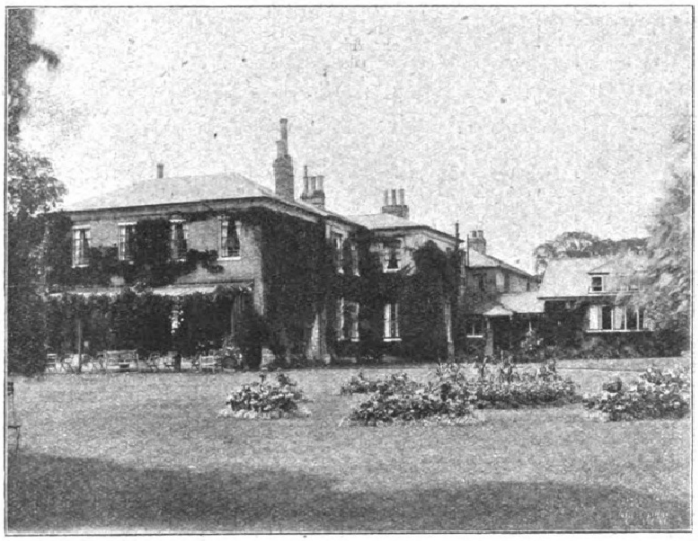
ALTHOUGH the gardens at Englefield Lodge are not on a large scale, they are both varied and beautiful, and contain many features of interest. They also possess the advantage of enjoying a charming situation. From the fine lawn in front of the house, which dates back about a century, a great expanse of country can be seen. The owner, Mr. F. Chetwynd Stapylton, who takes the keenest interest in the gardens, especially in the rockery—which is his special hobby—was not at home on the occasion of my visit on August 1, but the gardener, Mr. Langdon, took me round, and afforded me the fullest information.

On the right of the house is a delightful dell, with a stretch of ornamental water, which was re-arranged four years ago.

"The water," said Mr. Langdon, "is fifty-three yards in length, and its average width is twelve yards. The banks are clothed with Ferns in variety, including Osmundas, Lastreas, and Athyrium filix - fœmina (the Lady Fern); Iris siberica and gigantea; Hemerocallis (Day Lilies); Acanthus mollis; the giant Reed (Arundo donax); Bamboos palmata and metake; Bocconia cordata; and Sagittaria variabilis."

"You have not mentioned the Gunnera manicata or the Spiræas, which seem to flourish remarkably."

"Yes, they are both at home, and the former is a great feature of the banks. The Spiræas include giganteum, aruncus, palmata rosea, and Anthony Waterer. Some of the Spiræas are ten feet high. Close to the water is a fine bed of Pink Pearl Rhododendrons, which is quite in its element, and do remarkably well."



ENGLEFIELD LODGE.

Keeping the Water Clear.

"How do you manage to keep the water so clear?"

"I had a little difficulty at first, but I used the knapsack spray, charged with three gallons of water and three-quarters of a pound of bluestone. I sprayed the water with a jet twice, and after that I had no further trouble. There is three feet of water, and, as you see, plenty of goldfish in it. All I have to do now is to keep the banks well weeded, and give them a dressing of leaf-mould occasionally, which is very beneficial to the plants. From May until the end of July there is always something of interest to be seen in the borders. Of course, the surroundings add to the beauty, especially the fine Chestnut tree at the far end of the water, close to the rustic bridge. The terrace border on one side of the ornamental water is conspicuously filled with Foxgloves, averaging seven feet in height, and forming, when they are at their best, a brave show. Other contents of the border, flowering at different times, are Azaleas, Tritomas in variety (the Torch Lily), and Solomon's Seal; while the flowering shrubs include Berberis Thunbergi, aquifolium, and Knightii; Bocconia cordata; and Cytisus alba and præcox. In the early spring, quantities of Narcissus are planted in the border."

"The Chestnut tree, to which you alluded, is only one of many striking specimens."

"The most notable of the trees is, I think, the Copper Beech, which is said to be absolutely perfect in shape. I believe it is a century old. Some of its neighbours—the Planes, Cedars, Sweet Chestnuts, and Cupressus Lawsoniana—are worth mentioning; and in the season, clumps of ponticum Rhododendrons are very pleasing to the eye."

A Fine White Chrysanthemum.

"What is the soil?" I asked, as we proceeded to inspect the herbaceous border running from north to south of the lawns.

"Very light sand and stone. If we get twenty-four hours of sunshine, we are dried up. The first half of the border is backed by Dorothy Perkins Roses, Delphiniums, Phloxes, Eryngiums, Galega (white and blue), and in front are Pentstemons, fibrous-rooted Begonias, Funkias, Pyrethrums, Violas, and Lobelias. The second half of the border is somewhat different. Among its occupants are Chrysanthemum Mrs. Charles Lowthian Bell, which I consider an improvement on maximum."

"They certainly make a grand display in the border."

"And what is better still, they last a long while. In this border the Acanthus does well, also Œnothera flourishes, and in front the Alpine Phlox is a feature."

The Rockery.

At this point we made a descent into the rockery, which was only made two years ago, the stonework being all arranged under the personal direction of Mr. Stapylton, who also himself planted a number of favourite varieties.

"The effect in so short a time," I said, "is very remarkable. Of course, the situation, with its natural slopes, is a great advantage, but the plants have made most excellent progress. You might indicate some of the principal."

"The Saxifrage family are represented by Guildford Seedling, Andrewsii, apiculata, rosea, Englerii, hypnoides, densa, and lingulata superba. We are also strong in Sedums, particularly Sieboldii variegata, Kampochalicia, spectabile, and dasyphyllum. Ericas are another big family, and include carnea, australis, mediterranea hybrida, ciliaris, stricta, and vulgaris Alportii. The Alpine Phloxes are G. F. Wilson, subulata, and stellaria; the Androsaces, lanuginosa, tomentosa, Brilliant, and villosa. The collection also includes Gentiana acaulis, Geranium argentium, Lithospernum prostratum, Erodium macradenium, Campanula garganica, Pernettya speciosa, Azalea amœna, Ramondia pyrenaica, Daphne cneorum, Kalmia glauca, and Olearia Haastii. Then, there are Dianthus in variety, Spanish Brooms, Rock Roses, Christmas Roses, Ferns in variety, and several very nice species of Japanese Maples; and we have naturalised a quantity of Bluebells, which, for a few weeks, give quite a blaze of colour."

The Wilderness.

"Beyond the rockery," continued Mr. Langdon, "is a little wild garden, which, like the rockery, was taken out of a corner of the field. The position is south-east, and could not be better for the purpose. But this was only planted last September. The Ferns here include Polypodiums, the Lady Fern, Blechnum spicant, Scolopendrium vulgare, and Nephrodium. Primulas are well represented by cashmeriana, japonica, Sikkemensis, rosea grandiflora, and denticulata. In addition to Ericas and Funkias are Cardamine pratensis, Trollius Fire Globe, and Trillium grandiflorum. Earlier in the year Japanese Irises were in evidence, and English Irises thrive."

The Terrace Bedding.

Proceeding to the lawns, and passing another border of flowers and shrubs containing, among other plants, Tree Pæonies, Lupins in variety, and a few specimen Foxgloves to take off the flatness, I noticed a pretty chain of Roses and Clematis, and at the corner a large bed of Azalea mollis, with an effective border of Viola Maggie Mott. In this vicinity are full-sized croquet and tennis-courts, the latter only made last winter, and yet looking as if it had been in existence for years.

"The turf," said Mr. Langdon, "was taken out of a rough field, but it was all hand weeded and cleaned before it was laid down. The border round one side of the courts is practically limited to shrubs and a large display of Chrysanthemum Mrs. C. Lowthian Bell. The Roses on the poles adjoining the summer-

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house are Waltham Rambler, Psyche, Aglaia, Thalia, the Dawson Rose, and Mrs. F. W. Flight. The border consists of La France and Laurette Messimy, and it is edged with Verbena Miss Willmott. The trees in the borders are principally Limes, and Prunus pissardi supply the ornamental element."

"I see that fibrous-rooted Begonias are a feature of the bedding on the lawns."

"They occupy most of the space in the centre bed, and are dotted with Dracæna indivisa, edged with dark blue Lobelias. Of the eight surrounding beds, the groundwork of four is Geranium Mrs. R. Cannell, and of the other four Geranium Barbara Hope. The dot plants are dark blue Heliotropes, and the edging pale blue Lobelias. In the spring we use Tulips, double Arabis, and Aubrietias. The four beds close to the house are filled with Geranium Paul Crampel, edged with pink Ivy-leaf Geraniums, the vase in the centre containing Dracænas. These beds in the spring we fill with Polyanthus, Sutton's strain."

A Decorated Corner.

"And the climbers on the house?"

"Wistaria sinensis, Magnolia grandiflora, Irises in variety, Ampelopsis Veitchii, Clematis in variety. There is a great difficulty in getting things to grow on a cemented wall, but we do the best we can. On the trelliswork of the house Geranium Charles Turner and the double Henry Jacoby are trained from pots."

"You have a fine display of Campanula pyramidalis and Agapanthus umbellata in the decorated corner close to the entrance."

"The Campanulas are just coming on, and later they will show up much better. There are also Cannas in variety, and the whole of the flowers are backed by a specimen Holly tree."

"Then there are the Rose beds cut out of the grass on the lawns."

"In the centre is Crimson Rambler on a pole, and there are four beds of Hon. E. Gifford, with a groundwork of Viola Maggie Mott. There are two beds of La France, two of General Jacqueminot, two of Mrs. John Laing, one of Caroline Testout, and one of Duchess of Edinburgh. Other Roses near the ornamental water are mixed in a long border, with Verbena Miss Willmott in front, and Ramblers behind, chiefly Waltham. The front drive is mainly noticeable for the grand old Cedar facing the house, the only flower border being made up of Geraniums Mrs. R. Cannell and Barbara Hope."

Show Sweet Peas.

"How much ground do the gardens cover?"

"About four acres, and we endeavour to turn every corner of them to the best possible account. The kitchen garden, which we are just entering, is divided into two portions, and in both of these flowers are grown for decorative and cutting purposes."

"And here you grow the Sweet Peas with which you won first at the National Sweet Pea Show this year?"

"You mean the three distinct pinks? Yes; some of them are in one division, and the remainder in the other. The three I won with are Mary Langdon, one of my own seedlings; Ellen Chetwynd Stapylton, pale pink, raised here; and Mrs. R. Hallam. They were all grown on the single stem system, and the result was all the more gratifying, because last year was the first season I tried growing on single stems, which I think suit the soil best. The other varieties are Maud Holmes, Mrs. Hugh Dickson, Asta Ohn, Thomas Stevenson, Etta Dyke, Clara Curtis, and John Ingman."

"You got them up to a great height."

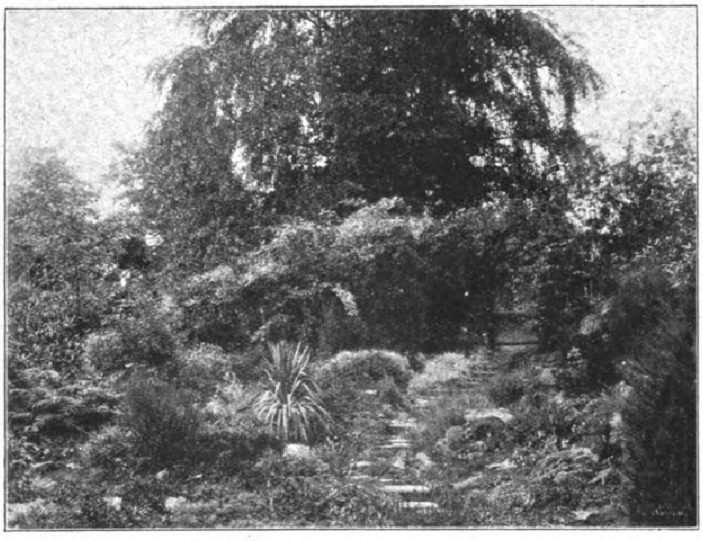
"They are upwards of ten feet high. I am now letting them go to seed. During the winter the Sweet Peas are kept in a cold frame, and put out of doors the first or second week in March, according to the weather. I only use high sticks. The long row of Ellen Chetwynd Stapylton in the other part of the garden averages eleven feet in height."

"What flowers are grown chiefly for cutting?"

"Roses, La France, Papa Gontier, Caroline Testout, and General Jacqueminot; Carnation Raby Castle; Pyrethrums in variety; Michaelmas Daisies, and Delphiniums. But Chrysanthemums are also grown largely for cutting."

"Do you show Chrysanthemums?"

"No, we only show Sweet Peas. Practically everything is grown for enjoyment, and exhibiting is quite the exception. The soil is too light for exhibition work. Great importance is attached to colour. Varieties of Chrysanthemums are selected chiefly in order to provide different shades of pink."



THE ROCKERY, ENGLEFIELD LODGE GARDENS.

A Pear Pergola.

"In spite of a scarcity of walls, you seem to grow plenty of fruit?"

"There are two useful walls, one dividing the two portions, and another at the far end of the first division. On these Brown Turkey Figs, Peaches Hale's Early and Waterloo, Plum Victoria, and the Greengages do well."

"When was the pretty arch of Pears planted?"

"Four years ago. The two principal varieties growing on it are Beurre Easter and Louise Bonne of Jersey. The crops this year are excellent. The Apple crops, generally speaking, are not so good, but the trees of Cox's Orange Pippin and Newton Wonder have plenty of fruit on them. Last year they did not bear specially well, and the crop of Newton Wonder were small. On the other hand, Lane's Prince Albert, Warner's King, and Bramley's Seedling, which bore well last year, have very little fruit this season."

"So far you have been speaking of the bushes and horizontally-trained Apples. What about the standards?"

"On the whole they are below the average. But there are good crops of Lady Henniker, Blenheim Orange, Wellington, and Irish Peach. For general purposes there is no Apple to beat Blenheim Orange. There is one standard nearly a century old; it bears regularly, but I can't tell you the variety. As to other fruit, Royal Sovereign Strawberries did well; Gooseberries were above the average, and the crop of Red Currants was satisfactory."

"Do you make specialities of any vegetables?"

"Celery is represented by three very good rows, and Savoys flourish exceedingly. We started picking Peas the first week in June. But the season is only continued to the end of July. The varieties are May Queen, Early Giant, Dr. Maclean, and Duke of Albany. For the rest, there is a big bed of Seakale—which will hereafter be dug up for forcing—and another of Beetroot Sutton's Blood-red. There remain the houses, which are on a very modest scale."

"You are fairly strong in Ferns."

"Yes, but I prefer Asparagus plumosus to any Fern, for cutting. In the greenhouse, Tree Carnations have been in bloom from the beginning of October, and there are still some flowers left. The varieties embrace Winter Cheer, Mrs. Bernard, Enchantress, Mrs. T. W. Lawson, and Winsor. Here, too, are good plants of Verbenas, to use for cut flowers in the autumn, and of Hydrangeas in pots. The Vinery, in which the varieties of Grapes are Black Hamburgh and Black Alicante, is filled up with Maidenhair Ferns in pots, and the Carnation house, with Malmaison Carnation Princess of Wales. On the back wall we have Tomato Winter Beauty. In another little house are Telegraph Cucumbers, and Hero of Lockinge Melons. The collection of Calanthes, which flower at Christmas, is good—I have had as many as thirty blooms on a spike—and the foliage sets them off. Begonia Gloire de Lorraine are coming on here, but the great object at Englefield Lodge is to make the outside beautiful, and everything else gives way to it. In winter it is kept in good order, but May, June, and July are the three most attractive months."

Mr. Langdon's Experience.

"How long have you been in charge of the gardens?"

"Upwards of ten years. My chief appointments previously were at Landford House, Salisbury; Hackwood Park; Bearwood; Ashtead Park, Epsom; and Hatchford Park, Cobham, where I was foreman for upwards of three years. I consider it good policy to shift about and gain a wide experience before seeking the post of head gardener; and have never regretted putting my belief into practice."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week a "Garden According to Inclination," in Northamptonshire, will be described.

THE Epipactis is a fine native Orchid, seldom seen, but deserving to be more widely cultivated. It will succeed in a good, loamy soil, with plenty of peat and some sand, in a position where it can receive an adequate supply of moisture. It is usually recommended for the lower parts of the rockery, but does well in the open border, or in pots in a frame. It is inexpensive to buy.

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eggs, sometimes as many as twenty, on the anthers inside. At a later stage, after the petals unfold, the eggs are inserted deep in a deep puncture made in the ovule. The tiny grubs begin to make their escape to the ground early in June, and, when the immature fruit falls, most of them have left. Still, they are often detained by various causes, such as the hardening of the skin, and any fallen fruit should be gathered and burnt. The top soil should be skimmed off during the winter and buried deeply, as is done for the Gooseberry sawfly. But perhaps the best remedy is to spray the blossoms with paraffin emulsion, and to repeat the spraying at short intervals.

February 22nd.—One of the finest of the large Trumpet Daffodils is Mrs. J. B. M. Camm, shown in the illustration. It is a pity that there should be another variety of practically the same name—J. B. M. Camm (without the "Mrs.")—and that they should be much alike. The perianth in both is white, and the trumpet in both is pale yellow. Mrs. J. B. M. Camm is the paler of the two, sometimes almost white; but that is the only difference.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of General Sir John Watson at North Court, Wokingham.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. ALFRED LANGRIDGE.

THE drive from Wellington College station to North Court, starting with the famous avenue, is through some of the prettiest of Berkshire scenery. On a pleasant afternoon in December, when I was able to visit the gardens, I thought that the situation of North Court could not easily be improved upon, and that the perfect views from the lawns, combining hills and valleys, woods and water, must be always regarded with satisfaction. Meeting me at the entrance, Mr. Alfred Langridge, the head gardener, suggested that we should begin with one of the features which was introduced at the time the place was laid out under the auspices of the late Mr. John Walter.

"Rhododendrons," said Mr. Langridge, as we strolled past the pretty lodge and along the drive to the Court, "are planted one on each side of, and all round, the eight acres of pleasure grounds, and are interspersed with Laurels. They have always been largely used, and we keep on buying novelties as they are introduced.

NORTH COURT, WOKINGHAM.

I have just planted a few more up-to-date varieties. There are several standards on the lawn."

"What is the nature of the soil here?"

"Sand and gravel, which are bad for fruit and vegetables. We have to feed accordingly. But we can grow anything if the land is well fed. I am also a great believer in trenching. The whole of the garden has been trenched since I came here. The principle has been, in fact, to trench and put a liberal amount of manure on the bottom spit."

"How many Rhododendrons are there altogether?"

"Between two and three hundred. Here are twenty of the best (which include many of the newest):—Congestum roseum, Charles Bayley, August van Geert, Altacharense, Barclayanum, Duchess of Sutherland, Everestianum, Frederick Waterer, Jacksoni, John Spencer, John Walter, Michael Waterer, Pason's Gloria, Stella, John Waterer, Vesuvius, Sir Isaac Newton, Prince Arthur, Prince of Wales, and Comte de Gomer. When we plant Rhododendrons, we use peat from an adjoining estate, also loam and leaf-mould."

"You have a fine specimen of Taxodium sempervirens on the lawn."

"Yes, it is considered very fine; also the Araucaria imbricata, which, with its male and female cones, is rather a rare specimen. One hot summer we got two bushels of seed from that tree, and I planted out a number in different places. Among the pick of the hardy Coniferæ are Abies Albertiana and A. Donglassi, Pinus densiflora, Picea pinsapo, Cupressus Lawsoniana, C. erecta viridis and Nutkaensis, Juniperus virginiana, J. communis, Thuja gigantea, T. Hoveyi and Picea grandis, with Cedars in variety."

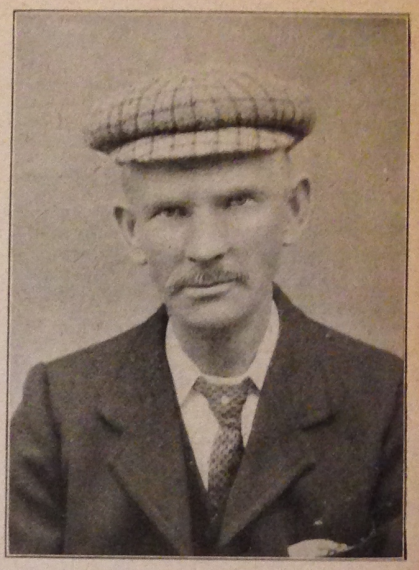
"I admire your beautifully-kept Yew hedge."

"It is pretty to look at, but requires an immense amount of attention."

The Scheme of Bedding.

"Is your bedding distributed much?"

"Most of it is on the south front, consisting of a square, with one large bed in the centre and eight running round. There are four other large beds. In the spring, eight of these beds are planted with Tulips—four with Chrysolora, four with Crimson King, and one with these varieties mixed with white Tulips, the edging being of double white Arabis and Myosotis Jewel, very dwarf and deep blue. The other three beds are filled with Daffodils,



MR. ALFRED LANGRIDGE.

mixed, and edged with double white Arabis and Myosotis Jewel."

"What is the summer scheme?"

"We use Geraniums largely, such as Henry Jacoby and Lady Constance, sweet-scented and Ivy-leaf varieties; Heliotrope Miss Nightingale, and the light variety; and tuberous Begonias (which, however, do not thrive so well as Geraniums), while all are chosen with an eye to colour. For edging in summer we use blue Lobelias and white Alyssum; also Sea Lavender (which is kept clipped), and white Pinks."

"I see that there is a fine Magnolia grandiflora growing on the Court itself."

"With Jasminum, Pyrus japonica, and several old-fashioned Roses, such as Devoniensis, which give a great mass of bloom. But the Rosery itself is at the far end of the lawn."

"How many beds does it contain?"

"Twelve, eight of which are edged with Sutton's blue bedding Pansy, the four others being planted with mixed Tulips."

"Do you make the soil?"

"Yes, that is essential. The Rosery was originally a kitchen garden, and I made the Rose beds. Of course, the avenue of Limes, under which masses of Daffodils are planted, was here before I came. I use a quantity of cow manure, which suits the soil better than horse manure. My plan in planting is to mix the colours, most of the Roses being Hybrid Perpetuals, but there are a few Teas. The archway is covered with Crimson Rambler."

"Can you tell me the names of your best Hybrid Perpetuals?"

"Abel Carriere, Alfred Colomb, Comte de Raimbaud, Duke of Edinburgh, Edouard Morren, Frau Karl Druschki, General Jacqueminot, Her Majesty, Louis van Houtte, Madame Gabriel Luizet, Madame Hippolyte Jamain, Madame Victor Verdier, Marchioness of Dufferin, Maréchal Vaillant, Marie Baumann, Mrs. J. Laing, Prince Camille de Rohan, Reynold's Hole, Baroness Rothschild, Senateur Vaisse, Ulrich Brunner, and Victor Verdier. Some are grown as standards and half-standards, but most are dwarfs, because these do best."

"Are there many climbing varieties?"

"In addition to Crimson Rambler, Captain Christy, Caroline Testout, La France, Reine Marie Henriette, Gloire de Dijon, Devoniensis, and Thalia are used as climbers. We also have of the Wichuriana Roses, Dorothy Perkins, Pink Roamer, Lady Gay, May Queen, and Francois Foucard."

Treatment of Agapanthus.

"Do you always stand the light tubs of Agapanthus out in winter?"

"This is the third winter. They keep in flower three months. As to treatment, we put three inches of coarsely-sifted leaf-mould round the surface, and give the plants plenty of water during the growing period.

"Another feature," continued Mr. Langridge, as we proceeded, "is the Jubilee garden, which was made in Queen Victoria's Jubilee year, including the subway to the main road. It is planted chiefly with shrubs, Kalmias, Azaleas, Berberis, as well as Rhododendrons. By the way, the American Arbor Vitæ does well for hedges; at least, this soil suits it."

Mr. Langridge's comfortable house faces the kitchen garden, and has a nice garden of its own. For spring the beds are filled with bulbs, and three or four varieties of Wallflowers, and in summer they are gay, according to the season, with Geraniums, Verbenas, Lobelias, Alyssums, Asters, Stocks, and Hollyhocks.

"You have more Roses," I said, as we approached the walled-in kitchen garden.

"These are all French varieties, which were planted four years ago. Two years since I had them taken up, trenched, and fed with cow manure in the bottom spit, and they have done splendidly. Barrow-loads of bloom were cut from them last season. I strike from cuttings, and put them in during August. Flowers are cut for quite five months, and, as you see, there are now in the middle of December a few plants in bloom."

"Do you use them for table decoration?"

"Very largely, together with Maidenhair Ferns. The combination of pink with green is very pretty."

"Are there any special features in your herbaceous border in the centre of the kitchen garden?"

"There is a fine specimen of Eucalyptus globula raised from seed four years ago, which stood through last winter without harm. The herbaceous varieties themselves are chiefly Phloxes, Pæonies, Verbascums, Gypsophila, Irises, Asters in variety, and also the following:—Anchusa italica, Anemones in variety, Anthericums, Aquilegia, Clematis, Digitalis, Echinopes, Fuchsias, Harpaliums, Solidago, Helianthus, Tradescantia, Veronica, Hypericums and Hollyhocks. With regard to Hollyhocks, we suffer a little from the disease, but get plenty of flowers. The border is edged with Mrs. Sinkins Pink, which we take up every three years and divide. The herbaceous border itself is refreshed every year, the contents being taken up and parted every two or three years."

"You seem to have plenty of water for your gardening operations?"

"Yes, in addition to the large tank in the centre, there is one equally large outside, and underneath the glasshouses there is another of considerable size. We have also the inside tanks, which are so useful for syringing."

Carnations in Bloom.

"Like the French Roses, the Border Carnations are in full flower?"

"That variety is Raby Castle, and we also grow Comet, Joan of Arc, Duchess of Fife, Dalkeith, Lady Jane Grey, Uriah Pike, Queen of Scots, Mrs. A. Gilbey, and Miss A. Campbell. We layer the Border Carnations at the end of August, and by that method secure the young plants and finer bloom. The Marguerite Carnations are great favourites of mine. The bed on the Fig-house border was sown in the summer, potted in 'sixty' pots, and kept in a cold frame all the winter, with plenty of air, save in very frosty weather. They were planted out about the middle of April, and were about two feet across when we began cutting. Still in flower, they commenced to bloom in July, and we have been cutting from them ever since. The variety is Sutton's Improved."

"And the Violets?"

"Outside and in frames we grow Marie Louise (the best winter Violet), Neapolitan, La France, and Princess of Wales."

"Now, I think, you might mention some of your principal wall fruit?"

"Morella Cherries run the whole length of the north wall, and we get very fine crops. The Plums on the wall are chiefly Greengage, Golden Gage, Jefferson's, Coe's Golden Drop, Early Orleans, Victoria, Magnum Bonum, and Blue Imperatrice. Moor Park Apricots are also grown on the wall, and Early Beatrice, Hale's Early, Prince of Wales, Old Noblesse, Waterloo, Bellegarde, Mrs. Gladstone, and Violet Hative Peaches. The Nectarines are Elruge, Lord Napier, Spencer, and Pineapple."

The Gardener's House at North Court, Wokingham.

Pears and Apples.

"You have also a number of Pears on the wall?"

"We grow Pears on the wall as well as standards and bush trees. If they make too vigorous a growth on the walls, or bush trees, I go in for root-pruning. I find that most of the varieties do better, and have a better flavour when grown on bush trees than on walls. I think the best include Duchesse d'Angoulême, Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Bosc, Beurré Clairgeau, Beurré Amanlis, Beurré Diel, Brown Beurré, Chaumontel, Foudante d'Automne, General Todleben, Glou Morceau, Josephine de Malines, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise, Napoleon, Jargonelle, Pitmaston Duchess, Bergamot d'Automne, and Bergamot d'Esperen."

"What about Apples?"

"All the Apples are grown in the outside portion, many of them only being planted four years ago. They are grown both as standards and as bushes, and include Sturmer Pippin, Duke of Devonshire, Ribston Pippin, Brownlee's Russet, Dutch Mignonne, Gascoyne's Scarlet, James Grieve, King of Tomkins County, Nonpareil (new), Blenheim Orange, Worcester Pearmain, Warner's King, Wellington, Adams' Pearmain, Lord Suffield, Keswick Codlin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Hawthornden, London Pippin, King of the Pippins, Lane's Prince Albert, Rymer, and Peasgood's Nonsuch. Some of the Apples are grown in the orchard, and there, also, we have Damsons and Quinces."

"Do you grow many kinds of Strawberries?"

"Only four, and Strawberries are all grown between the young Apple trees. The varieties are King of the Earlies, Royal Sovereign, President, and Waterloo. The Gooseberries are Berry's Early Kent, Crown Bob, Early Sulphur, Whitesmith, Whinham's Industry, and Warrington. The last is grown on the wall. We have four long rows of Raspberries, and the Loganberry is grown extensively. This year we gathered about sixty pounds, and the canes yielded fruit from the top to the bottom."

"Have you any special system of growing them?"

"When I planted the canes, I took a trench out two feet deep, put underneath a quantity of good loam and cow manure, and then trained the shoots along the fence when I planted them. But last year I carried them up eight feet high, with the result that the crops were much larger."

Features Under Glass.

"We might now take the houses?"

"As you can judge, Figs are rather a feature inside. These two trees of Brown Turkey cover thirty-six feet of wall. I should say they are nearly thirty years old. This house was put up over them twelve years ago, because they scarcely ever bore any fruit. Since they were covered I have gathered fine fruit from them five months out of twelve. In order to commence picking the third week in May, I start them the first week in January. I stop the shoots when they are about nine inches long, then they soon show the second crop, which begins to ripen about the third week in September, and continues until about November 20th."

"You grow Nectarines as cordons on the back of the house, as well as in the front border?"

"Yes, the house has been entirely devoted to Nectarines for five years. The varieties on the cordons are Early Rivers, Elruge, Rivers' Orange, Humboldt, Pineapple, and Victoria. We grow five of the same varieties on the front border. Nectarines are also grown in the Peach-house, and one season I gathered thirty-five dozen fine Nectarines from a tree of Elruge in the front border. The Peaches grown on the front border are Early Grosse Mignonne, Dymond, and Violet Hative."

"Which do you consider your best decorative Japanese varieties?"

"Miss Ida Barwood, Guy Hamilton, Lord Brooke, Madame Gustave Henry, Kathleen Thompson, Mrs. J. Hood Wright, Mrs. Joseph Thompson, Mrs. Rundle, Niveus, Sunstone, Princess Victoria, Viviand Morel, Mrs. H. Weeks, Florence Percy, Simplicity, Miss Nellie Pockett, Black Hawk, Eda Prass, Etoile de Feu, Gloire du Rocher, Heston White, Phœbus, Queen of the Exe, Tuckswood White, Lady Canning, and W. H. Lincoln. Some of these I cut back about the end of May. The others I stop about twice."

"Do you grow many of the early-flowering Chrysanthemums?"

"Crimson Marie Masse, Crimson Pride, Fire Dragon, Harvest Home, Horace Martin, Kathleen Thompson, Lady Selborne, White Quintus, Soleil d'Octobre, Source d'Or, William Holmes, and Pride of the Market, all of which do well outside on the border. Of Incurved, I only grow Baron Hirsch, Bonnie Dundee, C. H. Curtis, Globe d'Or, and Mrs. R. C. Kingston; and, of singles, Pink Pet, Fairy Queen, Earlswood Terra-cotta, Mrs. Chissy, Mary Anderson, and Ladysmith."

"You might mention the flowers which are at present in bloom in your show house."

"In addition to Chrysanthemums, there are Arum Lilies, Begonias Gloire de Lorraine, Salvia splendens, Freesias, Geraniums, Cyclamen, Primula obconica and P. sinensis, Cytisus, Camellias, and Statice profusa, which has been in flower nearly all the year round, and is raised from cuttings."

Then, when I had looked into the fruit room, and seen some beautiful specimens of King of Tomkins County, Warner's King, Adams' Pearmain, Blenheim Orange, and Lane's Prince Albert, as well as some fine specimens of Bergamotte Pears, we discussed the vegetables.

System with Peas.

"My earliest Peas," said Mr. Langridge, "are Early Giant, Gradus, and Thomas Laxton; the second-early, Prizewinner, and Centenary; the third, for medium crop, Laxton's Alderman, Autocrat, and Late Queen. I never grow any Peas but the wrinkled varieties. Autocrat does the best of my maincrop Peas. I always take out trenches two feet wide and two deep, and work a liberal quantity of manure in the bottom of the trench, as early as I can in the spring. Then it settles down nicely and firmly. By saving time, I am able in most seasons to gather Peas late in November. Of Potatoes, Sharpe's Victor is my favourite for frame work, and, for main crops, Factor and Up-to-date."

"Do you grow Broccoli largely?"

"About two thousand head, the varieties including Self-protecting Autumn, Winter Mammoth, Penzance, and Late Queen; but our three best are undoubtedly Superb Early, Snow White, and Satisfaction. The soil here is subject to clubbing, which I obviate as far as I can by trenching from two to two and a half feet deep every three or four years. The two best sorts of Brussels Sprouts are Dwarf Gem and Exhibition, and the three best of Cauliflowers, Early Giant, Autumn Mammoth, and Autumn Giant. You might add that I find the best varieties of Celery (of which I grow one thousand head) are Solid White, Sulham Prize, and Major Clarke; and that I have about thirty-five bushels of Onions—Ailsa Craig, Sutton's A1, Cannon Ball, Improved Reading, and James's Long Keeping. The extent of the kitchen garden and orchard is about three and a half acres, one acre being walled in with a 14-ft. wall, and wired inside and out."

"Have you done much showing?"

"A fair quantity with fruit and vegetables. When I was in Sussex, I used to exhibit at the Brighton Horticultural Society's Show; when I was in Hampshire, at the Havant local show; and since I have been in Berkshire, I have shown at Wokingham. I have taken a great many prizes in all three counties."

"Then, you have had a very varied experience?"

"I have been engaged in gardening since a child. My father was a gardener, and I can remember fifty-eight years ago, when I was only seven years old, that I began to work in the garden. I was a good many years in Sussex, and foreman at Woodhurst, Crawley. My first situation as head gardener was at Dencombe, also in Sussex. When I went, the owner and his wife were both over seventy, and the former lived till he was eighty-nine. I had then been eighteen years with him. When he died, General Sir John Watson leased the place, and I remained with him until he left five years later. My next appointment was at West Leigh, near Havant, adjoining Lea Park estate. When I had been there between two and three years, Sir John Watson took North Court on a lease, and offered me the post of head gardener. I have been here twelve and a half years."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 290.—CLIMBERS UNDER GLASS.

DEAR KATE,—Last week I wrote about climbers in the open air; to-day we will consider the climbers which need some sort of glasshouse, for this is a good time to put them in. Even under a glass verandah you may grow creepers well; in fact, it is a very good place for such plants as are nearly hardy, but not quite enough so to stand the frost unprotected. Camellias, for instance, will clothe a wall under a verandah which is not even of glass, for they like to be shaded, and very handsome they look when in full bloom in such a place. But they should have a border eighteen inches wide and two feet deep, full of loam, leaf-mould, and peat, in equal quantities, and they must be kept thoroughly watered all through their time of growth, with enough water in winter to keep their roots moist. Any failure in their water supply will make them drop their buds, which is very disappointing, but with ample moisture they will produce hundreds of fine blooms when fully grown.

CLIMBERS IN THE WATER-LILY HOUSE AT PENCARROW, CORNWALL.

The Glory Pea.

Another fine climbing shrub for a verandah or a glass porch is the Kowi (Parrot-beak-flower) of New Zealand. This naturally blooms in the early spring (which is, of course, the summer in New Zealand), and needs overhead protection at that time, snow especially being very injurious to it, although it will bear a good deal of dry frost when not in bud. It is covered with splendid carmine blooms in May; bunches of a dozen buds are produced all along the sprays of foliage, and few climbers are more effective than the Glory Pea of New Zealand, as it is also called. But, like the Camellias, it must never want for water; red-spider is its special enemy, and dryness at the root will be sure to bring on an attack of this blight. It does well in rather rich loam, with a top-dressing of old hot-bed stuff in March, and should have more sunshine than Camellias like, to ripen its growths in the summer.

Berberidopsis corallina (the beautiful Chilian climber which I mentioned last week as only suitable for a southern climate out of doors) will grow well under glass without fire heat, and so will the Lapagerias, in pink and in white; neither of these plants likes the full sunshine, so that a verandah suits them well. Fuchsias, too, make a very handsome show in a cold porch, growing high, and the effect of their hundreds of bells hanging from the roof is far better than when they are grown in any other way.

With the help of a small hot-water stove on frosty nights, the Maurandyas, in mauve and in white, the beautiful pink trumpets of Lophospermum scandens, and the pale blue flowers of Plumbago capensis may be added to the list of climbers for a cold greenhouse; but we must not forget that the lovely climbing Roses need

New Roses.

November 28th.—Among the new Roses of the year, seven have been awarded the National Rose Society's gold medal. Their names are Dorothy Page Roberts, Harry Kirk, Lady Helen

MR. W. LANGRIDGE.

Vincent, Mrs. Harold Brocklebank, Souvenir of Stella Gray, Mrs. Stewart Clark, and Queen of Spain. The first five were raised by a single firm—Alex Dickson and Sons, Ltd.—the sixth by Hugh Dickson, and the seventh by S. Bide and Son. Seven gold medals in a season seem such a number that a doubt arises as to whether such awards are not made too freely, but there can be no question that hybridists are making wonderful progress, and all these new Roses are very beautiful. It is significant that there is not a Hybrid Perpetual among them; they are all Teas or Hybrid Teas—chiefly the latter. Harry Kirk will probably prove to be one of the finest outdoor yellow Roses in existence. Dorothy Page Roberts is described as "coppery-pink, suffused with apricot-yellow," but this does not give much idea of the real colour. Souvenir of Stella Gray has rather smaller flowers than the others, but they are very charming, orange and yellow mixed. I am glad to see so many of the newer Roses described not only as "continuous bloomers," but also as "deliciously fragrant." At one time it seemed as if hybridists attached no importance to scent—probably because no points are assigned to it at exhibitions. This is a mistake which should be rectified.

Early Chrysanthemums.

November 29th.—Among the most useful plants in the garden are the early-flowering Chrysanthemums. Apart from their beauty, they provide colour at a time when it is most wanted. Not many years ago the race was practically non-existent; now, there are a vast number of beautiful varieties to select from. The principal requirement is that they should really be early—the earlier the better. If they begin to flower in September, they continue to do so until they are stopped by frost. If they are later, so much time is wasted. For this reason, most of the varieties which do not come into flower in October are being gradually discarded, charming though many of them are. They are not without value in the conservatory, where they come in after the summer plants are over, and before the late Chrysanthemums begin, but in the garden they must yield place to other varieties with a longer flowering season. Every day gained in this way is a distinct advantage, and it is towards this end that the efforts of growers are largely directed. It seems curious that these early Chrysanthemums are not generally propagated until long after those varieties which flower very much later. In nurseries, the ordinary time for inserting the cuttings is February, or even March.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Ote Hall, Burgess Hill.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. W. LANGRIDGE.

WHEN I visited, early in October, the gardens at Ote Hall, by permission of Mr. Herbert Woods, the tenant for many years of one of the most pleasantly-situated old country houses in Sussex, Mr. Langridge, the head gardener, told me that there was nothing very special to be seen, but that I might find a few things interesting. As will be seen, however, many items of unusual interest came under my notice during the course of my inspection.

Starting with the picturesque Hall itself, I observed that the climbers on the building included Roses in profusion, including Homére and yellow and white Banksian, Ampelopsis Veitchii, Clematis montana, Jasminum, and Lonicera. Outside, in tubs, were five plants of Agapanthus umbellata. The house is approached by a short carriage drive, on the left of which I noticed a pretty combination of Michaelmas Daisies, with Pampas Grass in the centre, and Tritomas dotted here and there. A more striking feature, however, is the herbaceous border, which runs right along the sides of the lawn, and constitutes, with the shrubs intermixed, a sort of flower wall.

"We have something in bloom here," said Mr. Langridge, "from February until practically the end of the year. We start with Aconites, Scillas, Snowdrops, Narcissi, Tulips, Saxifrages, following on with Iris, Oriental Poppies, Woodruff (a little white, scented flower, which does well under a tree), Lilium candidum, Phlox in variety, Pansies, Sweet Peas, and Roses, which latter, as you see, are used as climbers up old Apple trees."

"You might mention the plants in flower at the present time."

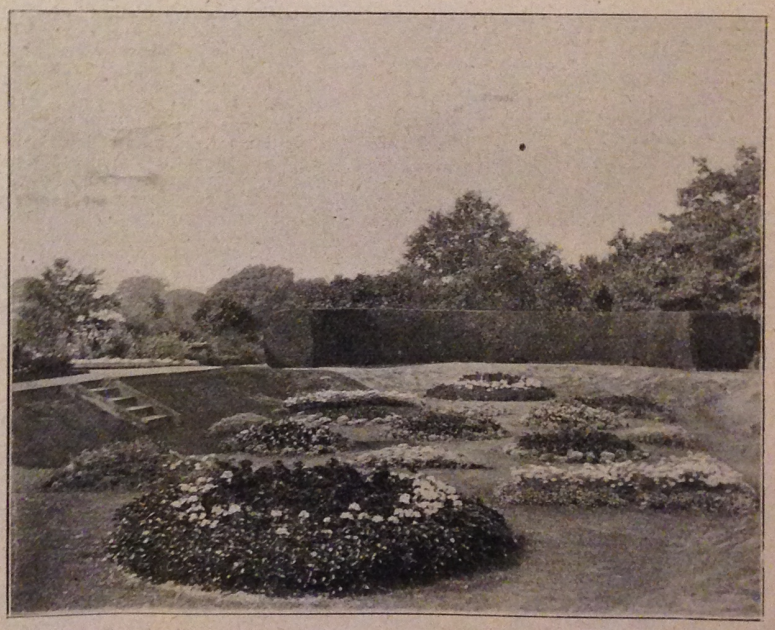
"Chrysanthemums, Michaelmas Daisies, Montbretias, Helianthus (single and double), Lupinus, China Asters, Anemones, Hemerocallis, Galatellas (a very pretty flower, known also as the Hyssop-leaved Starwort), Salvias, Antirrhinums, and Intermediate Stocks, which flower nearly all the year round."

"Have you any special system of cultivation with the Stocks?"

"We grow them in pots, they flower indoors at Christmas, and as soon as the weather allows we transfer them to this border."

"What varieties of Roses do you use for the poles and ropes which add to the attractiveness of the border, and some of which are still in flower?"

"Dorothy Perkins, Crimson Rambler, Paul's Carmine Pillar, Niphetos, Celine Forestier, Blush Rambler, and others. With the Roses are interspersed Clematis and Dutch Honeysuckles. In flower yet in the border are also Godetias, Campanulas, Lilium tigrinum, and Alyssums. The border, however, looks its best in July, when there is such a mass of blooms that you cannot see through them."



THE SUNK FLOWER GARDEN AT OTE HALL.

Bedding Combinations.

Then, passing a duck pond, with a quantity of St. John's Wort in flower, and surroundings harmonising with the old-fashioned part of the garden, we paused for some time at the taste-

fully-arranged garden just under the drawing-room window.

"How many beds are there?" I asked.

"Fifteen. The two end beds consist of Henry Jacoby Geraniums, and Roses (Niphetos), edged with Coleus; the four corner ones of scarlet and white Phlox; the four round, of white Fairy Queen Begonias. There are two beds of Lady Plymouth Geraniums, and two of Little Dot Geraniums, the centre bed being composed of Henry Jacoby Geraniums."

"And the spring bedding?"

"The corner beds will be filled with Tulips and Arabis (double, white); the two end beds with Darwin Tulips (Fire King), and Myosotis; there will be four beds of Polyanthus (mixed), and five with Wallflowers in variety."

"You change the border under the Hall, also?"

"Yes, now filled with Nicotiana affinis, it will consist, in spring, of single Arabis and Myosotis, with Narcissus Emperor standing up through."

"How large is the flower garden?" I asked, when Mr. Langridge had told me that the croquet lawn is mown twice a week in summer.

"Three and a half acres. The border on the terrace wall is made up exclusively of annuals, and there are now in flower, Dianthus, Stocks, Larkspurs, Clarkias, Gaillardias, Scabious, Helianthus, and Malopes, the edging being Alyssum and Lobelia compacta. In the spring this will be all Wallflowers. On the other side, under the wall, tall-growing herbaceous plants are selected, and close to the tennis court are the new Rose beds."

"When were they planted?"

"Last November. There was a shrub bed on the site, and I drained it, took the soil out, and planted it three feet deep. The beds are nearly fan-shaped, and are carpeted with snow-white Alyssums. The Roses themselves are chiefly Hybrid Perpetuals and Teas, and include Frau Karl Druschki, Madame Isaac Periere, La France, Margaret Dickson, Her Majesty, Gloire Lyonnaise, Madame Gabriel Luizet, Perle d'Or, Dupuy Jamain, Hon. Edith Gifford, A. K. Williams, Caroline Testout, and Magna Charta. In the other beds are Sunset, Killarney, Gruss an Teplitz, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, John Stuart Mill, Prince Arthur, and Prince Camille de Rohan."

"You have worked up a representative collection in a short time. But you have also a number of Wichuriana Roses?"

A Rootery.

"They form a part of the rootery. It was finished in the spring, and Roses were then planted on the raised mound of soil, covered with roots. They have made growths from twelve to fifteen feet long. The varieties are Alberic Barbier, August Barbier, Débutante, Dorothy Perkins, Evergreen Gem, Pink Roamer, Jersey Beauty, Gardenia, René André, The Farquhar, and Wichuriana alba and rubra. These were dotted with Giant Spotted Foxgloves, with spikes eight feet high, some of which are still in flower. We are also raising a stock of Roses on their own roots. The cuttings were inserted in a partially-shaded border last October, and we have cut several nice blooms from some of them."

"In connection with Roses," continued Mr. Langridge, "you noticed a tree of Madame Plantier, staked. We find staking much better than tying with string; straw cases saved from wine bottles are used for this purpose. One end of the straw is tied before being placed against the stake, then another tie is made round the straw, as close to the stake as possible. The Rose tree is then placed in position, with half the straw each side of the stem, and tied firmly. The straw will last two or three years; it in no way injures the stem of the tree, and looks very neat into the bargain."

"How long has your kitchen garden been established?" I asked, as we made our way to the wall-enclosed acre.

"About twenty years. Apples, Pears, and Plums are the principal features in fruit. The trees were mostly planted by my predecessor. We have since made additions and such improvements as suggested themselves. Apples are grown on the bush and espalier systems."

"Do you go in for root-pruning?"

"I root-prune one side of the trees one season, and finish the operation in the following year. There is no doubt it is an advantage, and I think in two or three years it will tell upon the trees. They seem to like this soil, which is very stiff."

"Does it suit Cox's Orange Pippin?"

"Fairly well, but this variety requires a lot of looking after in planting. Dutch Mignonne is an Apple that does pretty well, and the same remark applies to Bramley's Seedling, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Winter Pearmain, Lady Sudeley, Sandringham, Warner's King (of which we had a splendid crop this year), Ecklinville Seedling (a good cooker, but should be used in October), The Queen (a nice flavour, but not a heavy cropper, and better on the espalier), Lord Derby, Scarlet Pearmain (very good on the bush system), and Blenheim Orange (also good on the bush system, but needs root-pruning). Some of these trees were transplanted last season, and are doing better for it."

"When did you finish your last year's supply of Apples?"

"On the 15th August, the last used being Winter Greening and Bess Pool."

Pears and Cherries.

"You seem to have a great many varieties of Pears."

"We have, and the best is Doyenné du Comice. Although I do not consider this is a favourable season, in regard to size, because we wanted a good soaking rain at the beginning of August, Pears on the bush, and especially on cordons on the walls, have done exceedingly well. The best varieties include Pitmaston Duchess (which does as well on the bush as on the wall), Emile d'Heyst, Beurré Alexander Lucas (ripe about Christmas), Beurré Hardy (of which we took four bushels off one tree), Marguerite Marillat, Beurré Bosc, Marie Louise (we have one tree of this which failed to give a crop in 1905, but almost invariably has fruit from the bottom to the top), Uvedale's St. Germain (a very good stewing Pear), Josephine de Malines (for all-round merits almost next to Doyenné du Comice), Williams's Bon Chrétien, and Bergamotte d'Esperen (this should be planted on the bush in the open). I am taking a number of Pear trees out, and substituting some of the better sorts of Apples for them."

"Did you have a good crop of Cherries?"

"They promised well, but the frost did much to spoil them. I think Cherries, like some other fruit, do better planted on the wall. Of course, we grow Morellas on the wall. I am not in favour of bush trees, because, among other reasons, they require netting. Peaches and Apricots are grown largely on the walls facing west; I am just picking La Admirable. Other varieties of Peaches are Amsden June (early, but not of good flavour), Royal George, Goshawk, and Hale's Early. The Apricots are all Large Early. They have cropped well, but the variety is not so good as Moor Park."

"Then there are Plums?"

"We grow Plums both on the walls and on bushes. Pond's Seedling is a grand variety. Golden Esperen is a very nice variety, of sweet flavour; Monarch should be picked early in October, otherwise it splits. The varieties include Blue Imperatrice, Waterloo, Oullin's Golden, Grand Duke, Victoria, and Diamond. We also grow Damsons, Quinces and Medlars."

"Have you any features in bush fruit?"

"Raspberries (Superlative), and Red and Black Currants, are grown. We have lately started a Gooseberry cage, with Tomatoes round the wire, five trees of a sort being planted together. The varieties include Plunder, Orator, Warrington, Bobby, Whitesmith, Berry's Early, Kent, Early Sulphur, Echo, Fearless, Early Slap-Bang, Competition, and Husband's. We have layered for next year about twenty thousand Strawberries. Royal Sovereign is the best, Sensation is a very good cropper, and useful for cooking purposes, and we have also Monarch, President, and Waterloo. We are going to force Royal Sovereigns. Cobnuts and Walnuts are grown on a piece of land outside the walls, where, as you see, we also grow some of the fruit and vegetables."

"Is the soil suitable for Peas?"

"Yes, they have done wonderfully well, especially Early Giant, Duke of Albany, Plus Ultra, Autocrat, and Sutton's Masterpiece. We also grow Continuity, Sutton's Perpetual, and Sutton's Centenary, but these like a lighter soil than ours."

"You might mention anything special in vegetables."

"Sulham Prize Celery, a pink variety, keeps well, is crisp, sweet, and solid, and Sutton's Solid White is excellent; but to grow Celery we have to mulch a good deal, as it is a subject requiring a lot of moisture. We follow early Peas with early Broccoli, the latter being largely grown, in eight varieties. With regard to other vegetables, I do not think I need name the other varieties, except to mention that Best of All is decidedly the best of Runner Beans, that I am growing Dwarf Gem Sprouts this season for the first time, and that I am just raising a fresh batch of Globe Artichokes. It might be mentioned that Onions are transplanted into the garden from seed boxes. The spring-sown varieties are Ailsa Craig and James's Long Keeping, and the autumn-sown, Giant Rocca. Some of the Onions weigh two pounds each."

Annuals and Chrysanthemums.

"I see you have borders of annuals in the kitchen garden."

"They have recently been planted, Sweet Peas being sown at the back for cutting. The annuals are Miniature Sunflowers, Centaureas, Gaillardias, Sweet Sultans, Coreopsis, Scabious, Linums, Mignonette, and Gypsophila elegans, the last being most useful for mixing with cut flowers in bowls and vases; it flowers very early, and is easily grown. We grow a good many varieties of Sweet Peas, but the best six, many of them having four flowers on one stem, and stems fifteen to eighteen inches long, are Queen Alexandra, Gladys Unwin, Helen Pierce, Agnes Johnson, Countess Spencer, and Paradise. The standard Roses round the garden are Sunset, Sylphe, Madame Falcot, Madame Lambard, Mrs. John Laing, La France, and Margaret Dickson."

"What about Chrysanthemums?"

"We only grow bush plants. Last year we had about a hundred in pots, but next year we shall double the number. The varieties are which are all practically free from rust, include Ryecroft Glory, Edwin Beckett, Nellie Pockett, Viviand Morel, Fairy Queen, Mrs. Langtry, Mrs. Filkins, Lizzie Mainwaring, Mrs. J. Thompson, Yellow Thompson, Mary Anderson, Ladysmith, W. H. Lincoln, Lady Canning, and Minerva, which latter is a splendid late yellow of dwarf habit and good foliage."

The Frames and Houses.

The glass at Ote Hall is not a great feature, but there are numerous frames, containing Primulas (Sutton's Pink Beauty), Mignonette, Freesias, Lachenalias, Myosotis (Sutton's Perfection), Polyanthus, Geraniums in variety, a large number of spring bulbs, and Violets (Princess of Wales and Marie Louise).

"Here, too," said Mr. Langridge, "are grown Melons (Hero of Lockinge), Tomatoes (Best of

All Carter's Sunrise, Sutton's Cascade, Sutton's Open Air, and Golden Queen), Cucumbers (Telegraph and Every Day), and Radishes, Lettuces, and Carrots for early work."

"Do you grow any Orchids in the stove?"

"Only Cattleyas and Vandas. Stephanotis on the roof is still in flower, and the Calanthes (Veitchii) are just showing spikes. Pancratium fragrans is grown in pots, with eight or nine spikes of flower in each pot; if given plenty of water during the growing season, they are quite easy to grow."

"What is the name of the scented white flower like Stephanotis?"

"Posoqueria longiflora; it lasts several weeks in flower, belongs to the same species as the Gardenia, and requires to be grown in peat. In the next house, Pelargoniums are rather a feature, the varieties including Owen Thomas, Pink Domino, Raspail Improved, Soldier's Tunic, and Lady Beuly. Gloxinias (Sutton's Prize strain), tuberous Begonias, and Statice sinuata hybrida, raised from seed this spring, are also in this house."

"How many varieties of Grapes do you grow?" I said, as we entered the Vinery.

"Three—Black Alicante, Black Hamburgh, and Muscat of Alexandria. The bunches of Alicante average three pounds each."

Carnation Cultivation.

"You appear to go in largely for Carnations?"

"The Carnations were all raised in pots, from seeds, this spring. The varieties are Sutton's Marguerite and Vanguard, and over ninety per cent. are doubles. As to treatment, seed should be sown early in March in gentle heat, pricking off the plants as soon as large enough, and keeping them near the glass. About the end of April they should be got into frames, and grown cool. In potting on, the soil used should be two parts loam, one leaf-soil, one sand or road grit, and a half part well-rotted manure. This answers well until the final potting into 'thirty-two's' is made. Then a 5-in. pot of artificial manure and soot to two bushels of soil should be added. The plants should never be allowed to get dry. They should be pinched as soon as the shoots are large enough to handle, and again when they have made about three inches of growth. The lights should be taken off by midsummer, and the plants staked before the shoots get too long, or the wind may break them out. In disbudding, one bud should be left to each shoot; and after this is done, about the first week in October the plants should be placed in a cool house, and given as much air as possible. With attention, cut blooms can be obtained during the whole of the winter. The treatment is the same for both varieties."

"How many do you grow?"

"About a hundred, and I think that an amateur cannot do better than grow these two varieties. They are as easy to cultivate as they are inexpensive. I also grow border Carnations, which these follow. The varieties are Helmsman, Almoner, Christine Nielson, Park Ranger, Heroine, Archie Cameron, Fiery Cross, Hayes' Scarlet, Doncaster Clove, Eastern Bride, Clara Butt, and a good many unnamed seedlings. It is intended to convert the stove into a Carnation house, and then I shall be able to have some of the Tree varieties. I have just layered the ground, close to my house, for the border Carnations. I use burnt earth, and as much grit as I can get from road-scrapings."

"How long have you been at Ote Hall, Mr. Langridge?"

"I came here two years ago. This is my first place as head gardener, and I gained all my previous experience in Sussex, at High Beeches, ten miles from Ote Hall, working my way up from boyhood to the position of general foreman. My hobby is photography, and I shall be glad to illustrate this article for GARDEN LIFE."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 278.—THE CONSERVATORY IN WINTER, TAME BIRDS, AND LILIES OF THE VALLEY.

DEAR KATE,—December is perhaps the worst month in the year for flowers; the want of light keeps them back, and they open but slowly, even under glass. This is to be remedied, I believe, before long, by the application of electricity, which is said to be very effective in giving extra vitality to plants; but, in the meantime, we should give our plants less water in the dark weather (for evaporation is then very slow), with all the air possible on mild days, and be very careful that there are no dead leaves about, or other *débris* on which mildew, their special winter enemy, can seize, and from which it will propagate millions of spores, and run through the whole house in no time. No syringing is needed (except in the case of Azaleas and hothouse plants, in bright weather), and in the ordinary greenhouse the atmosphere should be kept as dry as possible, although more water may be necessary for Arum Lilies expanding their blooms, and all plants which are near to the hot-water pipes, than to the rest.

A WELCOME VISITOR.

Conservatory Temperature.

The temperature in such a place should not be high, from forty-five to seventy-five degrees with sunshine being quite warm enough for most greenhouse plants in winter; but if more delicate things are brought in from a hothouse (such as Poinsettias, Bouvardias, Gesneras, etc.), the temperature may be ten degrees higher with advantage, for a chill will cause these plants to drop their leaves and go to rest for the winter. In a warm conservatory, with a minimum temperature of fifty-five degrees, you may have a large variety of blooms throughout the winter; we generally make a list of flowers open at Christmas (as that is the time of year when they are most valuable), and there are at least thirty different kinds of plants which can be then counted up as in blossom. Early bulbs, late-flowering Chrysanthemums, Australian plants (which naturally flower in December), and forced things, Arum Lilies, Azaleas, Sericographis, Libonias, Poinsettias, Bouvardias, etc., etc., are amongst them; Cyclamen, Primula sinensis, and Zonal Pelargoniums, too, and the winter-flowering Cactus, Epiphyllum truncatum.

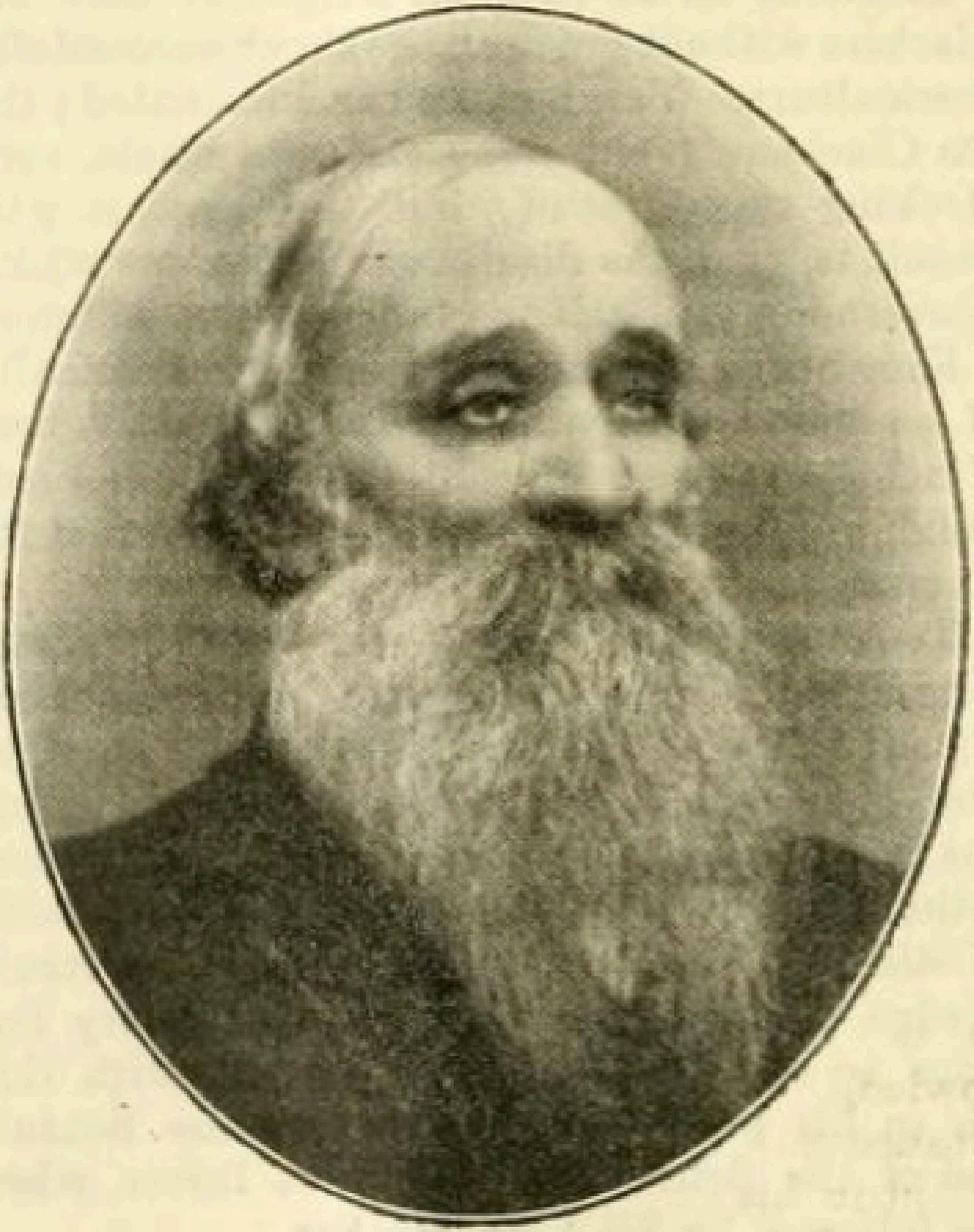
On the walls are a few late Roses (Niphetos, etc.), which are nearly always to be found there; lovely bunches of coral hanging from Begonia corallina; sprays of Jasminum grandiflorum in profusion, with large and richly-scented blossom; and the Heliotrope, on the sunny south wall, which was cut back severely in August, has been in bloom since October, and is most fragrant when the sun shines. The Poinsettias are both large and small plants. Two, which have grown about five feet high, have three splendid bracts of carmine on the tip of each branch; these form the apex of the central group, with others of lower growth in front, and the great white spathes of the Arum Lilies contrast most beautifully with them. We have also a number of smaller Poinsettias dotted about amongst the Ferns and other flowers on the shelves; these were cuttings taken in spring, but the others are old plants. Some of the latter spent most of the summer on the terrace in the open air, and these are not nearly so tall as those kept under glass; they come in well to stand in front of them, being about three feet high, with fine single bracts on every shoot. They have been kept warm and in a moist atmosphere since the weather turned cold, in September, and are all the better for it, although now that their bracts are expanded, they will stand in a cooler and drier air with impunity. We always group the large plants on the floor, hiding their pots with Ferns and trailing plants; it is a mistake to place their flowers above the eye-line—as a general rule, for they cannot then be seen so well as below it.

Birds in the Garden.

In the kitchen garden the soil is being rough-dug, leaving it, as far as possible, in great clumps, so that the beneficent action of the coming frost and snow may enter it as deeply as possible, fertilising and cleansing it, as Nature intends it to do; no heavy mulches of manure are there to interfere with this, or to shelter the slugs and other noxious insects which otherwise would be picked up by the birds. We have plenty of birds, and very few insects, and we much prefer the feathered tribe. Every morning, as soon as it is light, I have visits in my bed-room from my bird friends, two of whom have not ceased to come in through the open window for many months. The little blue bird (tomtit), who is very bold, flies about the room, and climbs on the bed, where his breakfast is spread, and the robins will eat theirs from the hand without any fear, flying to us in the garden, from the trees, as soon as they see the desired handful of biscuit crumbs.

I think the pleasure of a garden is greatly increased by these tame birds, which fly around one without fear. It is easy to tame many wild birds, if the work is begun as soon as they leave the nest, for they then find a difficulty in obtaining their food, not being used to the work, and are delighted to find crumbs provided to help them. A little quiet patience will then induce them to come to the hand of their friend, and they quickly become fearless and bold.

We have been renewing a portion of the



MR. WILLIAM BRADBURY LATHAM.

and of the collection of Cacti and succulents, work enough for two men as the departments were then arranged, but after a time he was relieved of the charge of the herbaceous department. During the eight years he had charge of these departments, he had much to do with the propagation and dispatch of important economic plants to British settlements in distant parts of the world.

In 1879 he was appointed Curator of the Botanic Garden at Cambridge, of which he has had the sole charge ever since. From the very first he was indefatigable in increasing the collections cultivated in the garden to such an extent, that after twelve years (1891) a fourth of all the genera in Bentham and Hooker's *Generæ Plantarum* was represented there. He was one of the first to form a collection of hardy Bamboos, which soon became a feature of the garden. He designed the new plant-houses in which a very wide range of subjects is cultivated, many of them of especial interest, from which materials for figuring and description in the *Botanical Magazine* have been from time to time supplied, and in which Sir Joseph Hooker has on more than one occasion expressed his high appreciation of the work carried on by Mr. Lynch at Cambridge. He has also enriched our gardens with some beautiful plants, which he has obtained by selection or by hybridisation. One of the earliest was Campanula isophylla alba, which was raised by him at Kew; and latterly, the fine strain of hybrid Cinerarias raised at Cambridge, of which he himself has given a full account in the Hybrid Conference Report of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Mr. Lynch has been a liberal contributor to the horticultural press for upwards of thirty years; he commenced early at Kew with a weekly, sometimes fortnightly, article in the *Journal of Horticulture*, and about the same time he began to send communications to the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. He has occasionally contributed articles to *The Garden*. In 1886 he translated Correvon's *Les Plantes des Alpes* for the *Gardeners' Magazine*; and subsequently wrote on tropical aquatics, and the Bog Garden for *Popular Gardening*. He has contributed a new classification of the genus Pæonia to the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, and also several papers to the *Journal of the Linnean Society*, of which he became an Associate in 1881. He is a member of the Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, a corresponding member of the Imperial Horticultural Society of Russia, and an Associate of the Botanical Society of St. Petersburg.

W. B. LATHAM.

Among the gardeners who have been the recipients of the Veitchian Medal, there is none who has more deservedly won the esteem of his fellows than the Curator of the Botanic Gardens, Birmingham. A few weeks since he contributed to the *Garden* an interesting account of his career, which we here reproduce, as it formed the basis for the remarks made by Sir Trevor Lawrence in presenting Mr. Latham with one of the medals.

"At an early period of my life I commenced work in the garden of Mr. William McNiel, Wandsworth Common. Mrs. McNiel was a great lover of gardening, with a good knowledge of hardy herbaceous plants, and cultivated a choice collection of them. I left here after 3½ years' service, and was then apprenticed to the late Mr. Robert Neal, of the old Wandsworth Common nurseries, which at that time contained a large collection of hardy trees, shrubs, Roses, herbaceous, and alpine plants. I remained here a little over three years, during which time I took up the study of British plants. With an old schoolfellow, the late Mr. C. Wilford, I often took long rambles, and together we collected a large number of plants found in that part of Surrey. With a desire for change, and a wider field for improvement, I went to Kew, and saw Mr. J. Smith, the then curator of the Royal Gardens, and some two or three months after I succeeded in obtaining employment there. I left Kew, then under the direction of the late Sir W. Hooker, in 1857. I had a great desire to study under the late Sir Joseph Paxton, then at Chatsworth, and soon succeeded in obtaining a situation in the gardens there. At Chatsworth I found a large collection of Orchids, embracing noble specimens of Phalænopsis, Dendrobiums, grand masses of Cœlogyne cristata on blocks of wood, Cattleyas, Saccolabiums, Aërides, Pleiones, and many others. There was a fine plant of Amherstia nobilis, and the Victoria Regia was in the highest state of perfection. The noble conservatory, with its wonderful collection of rare, tropical, and sub-tropical plants, excited my admiration. Outside the gardens and grounds of Chatsworth, I found on the hills and in the dales of Derbyshire ample occupation for the study of British plants, and added to my collection many not previously met with.

"Having a wish for experience in continental horticulture, I mentioned the subject to Sir Joseph Paxton, who readily consented to write to Professor Decaisne, then Director of the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, and some few months after, Sir Joseph received an intimation from the Professor that there was an opening, and that I could go at once to Paris. A few days after I was at the Jardin des Plantes with a letter of introduction from Sir Joseph to M. Neumann, the then Curator, who at once placed me under the direction of the late M. Houllett, whose courtesy and kindness is to this day gratefully remembered. At this establishment a large collection of plants was cultivated, both out-of-doors and under glass. I saw here for the first time Lapageria alba (then the only plant in Europe); I also saw Paulownia imperialis in flower for the first time. I was also very interested in the large collection of grasses grown here. Many facilities were given to young gardeners to attend lectures and to visit the large Peach and Nectarine growing establishments outside Paris, where, by the payment of one franc each, the *chef des cultures* gave them instructions in pruning, training, &c. I remained some months at the Jardin des Plantes, during which time I visited some of the best gardens and nurseries for miles round Paris. On returning to London I obtained employment in Messrs. Parker & Williams' nurseries at Holloway, and after six months in the plant department went as head gardener to Lieutenant-Colonel Perkins, Birtley Hall, Chester-le-Street, Durham, where I remained eight years, having charge of one of the finest collections of Orchids in the North of England, and a large collection of exotic Ferns, greenhouse and stove plants.

"On the retirement in December, 1867, of Mr. Catlin, curator of the Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society's garden, I was selected from about 200 candidates to succeed him. At this time the collection of plants was somewhat limited for a good botanical garden which had existed for thirty-seven years, and of trees and shrubs there were the remains of a fine collection, planted when the gardens were first made. For the formation of a large archery ground I received instructions from the committee of the garden to destroy one of the best, if not the best, collections of Crataegus and other Rosaceous trees and shrubs in the United Kingdom. The collection of plants was quickly increased. The glass accommodation was added to by the erection of two houses for the culture of plants, and subsequently the large, handsome conservatory was built. The absolute necessity for still further glass structures led to a special appeal for additional funds, and in a short time nearly £4000 were received. In July, 1885 a large portion of the old structure was pulled down, and an extensive block of new glass-houses built.

"We have now in the Botanic Gardens, Birmingham, a large collection of Orchids, a good collection of stove and greenhouse plants, including some fine specimens of Camellias, a large collection of Ferns, some good samples of Tree Ferns, and a good collection of herbaceous and alpine plants. A large rock garden was made and planted about six years ago, and is now a most interesting feature in the gardens throughout the year.

"In 1862 I raised Dicksonia Lathamiana, Moore, a hybrid between the St Helena D. arborescens and the Australian D. antarctica; the original plant is now a grand specimen. The late Mr. T. Moore, on examining specimens of this hybrid, told me he had not up to that time thought much of hybrid Ferns, but he now must change his opinion. I have since raised seedlings from this Fern. Another hybrid Tree Fern raised by me about 1870 is between the Mexican Cyathea insignis and the Norfolk Island Alsophila excelsa. I have not been able to raise this hybrid from spores. The original is now a splendid plant. Gymnogramma Lathamiæ, Moore, is another hybrid raised by me some twenty years ago, and is between Gymnogramma decomposita and G. schizophylla. Cypripedium Lathamianum, a hybrid between C. Spicerianum and C. villosum; and Cypripedium Deedmanianum, a hybrid between C. Spicerianum and C. Chamberlainianum, were also raised by me."

THOMAS MEEHAN.

The career of Thomas Meehan is one to put before the young gardener as an incitement to work and study. By birth an Englishman, by profession a gardener, he has raised himself from a journeyman to be a leading municipal dignitary of a great city, the head of one of the most important nurseries in the United States, well known also in Europe for its collections of hardy trees; and what is of higher moment than mere business success is the fact that so important and so numerous have been his contributions to science that for thirty years he has held the position of Vice-President of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. His botanical work is marked by much originality and power of observation, but it is to be regretted that he has never been able to find time to crystallise and co-ordinate his numerous contributions into a consistent whole. He edited the *Gardeners' Monthly* for thirty years, was a leading contributor to at least six other journals, and still edits *Meehans' Monthly*, an illustrated journal of gardening and botany. As a practical man he is remembered as being one of the earliest to hybridise the Fuchsia, he having raised a cross between F. fulgens and F. longiflora, which received the name of St. Clair. He was the first to flower the Victoria regia in the United States.

Mr. Meehan, as we have said, takes a leading part in municipal matters in Philadelphia, of whose common council he is the father. It is to his exertions chiefly that the city has been provided with museums and public parks, the first of which was the garden of the American botanist, Bartram.

The following particulars have been gleaned from a communication to the Editor, with a few additions from Dr. Harshberger's book, mentioned later on; but we feel rather uncertain whether we may not be offending Mr. Meehan's retiring modesty by giving them publicity. The presentation of his portrait to the Academy of Natural Sciences has, however, served as the occasion for our American colleagues to bear testimony to the worth of Thomas Meehan, and we should not like to be left out of the general tribute, particularly as it enables us to make a few corrections in the record. A handsome silver loving-cup was also presented by a number of teachers to Mr. Thomas Meehan on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday.

"My main object in life," says Mr. Meehan, "has been to build up my great nursery. Science and literature have been side issues — almost wholly labours of love, with no thought of material compensation. Perhaps this is one great reason for my love of the editorial 'we,' with its inferred impersonality. At any rate, I have been adverse to public portraits and biographies. Until now, no picture has been taken, in spite of many importunities, since 1876, when one was taken as one of 'one hundred representative Philadelphians,' to place in a safe to be opened in 1976. As you have been one of my most valued friends, whom I have had to disappoint, this prelude seems proper, while sending you the enclosed from one of our city daily newspapers. As the agricultural papers are asking the *Record* for the use of their cut, I suppose it will now become public property, and perhaps be widely copied.

"While the portrait was being painted, friends in the Academy and others would engage me in conversation, and I find also members of my family. In this way I suppose the 'memoir' has been constructed. It is, on the whole, better than my good friend Dr. Harshberger got together in his *Lives of Philadelphia Botanists*, which is incorrect in some particulars. At the end of my father's apprenticeship in the garden of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, he came at once to Watson's nursery at St. Albans. He was as early in life fond of botany and gardening as I was subsequently. I was head gardener, with one man under me, for Mr. Vaux, Paymaster to her Majesty's Forces, and secretary to the Ryde Horticultural Society, when I was but seventeen; and at eighteen I was gardener to Sir Augustus Clifford, Usher of the Black Rod, going to Kew in my nineteenth year." [Where his political opinions are said to have given offence to Sir William Hooker.]

In 1848, Mr. Meehan left Kew, and landed in the United States, and entered the establishment of Robert Buist. In 1852 he started the famous nursery at Germantown, but lost nearly everything during the War of the Secession.

"My mother was of the Denham family. When they married, both my father and my mother had considerable means, which they invested in the purchase of a fruiterer and provision business in Regent's Park — 'good-will' being a great consideration, when there was none to speak of. The business being unsuccessful, my father at once found a refuge in Oxley and Bunney's nursery, at Ball's Pond, Islington, from whence he was engaged as gardener to John Young, Esq., on his large estate at Westridge, in the Isle of Wight. He was never a week without an income, and the 'abject poverty' story probably arose from my having told my children in years gone by that my mother was my chief school teacher, and that the Book of Common Prayer, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Green's *Herbal*, and the Bible, were my only school-books, as being about the only books in the house—this not because of poverty, but in those days it was expensive to take much furniture from London to the Isle of Wight.

"In like manner my being 'deaf from infancy requires qualification. That I have been slightly hard of hearing is true, but one who has hundreds of times presided at political, scientific, and other meetings, engaged in discussions, and acted as reporter for newspapers and magazines, can hardly be classed with the unqualified 'deaf.' I am close to my seventy fifth birthday, but can still

2 feet or 3 feet deep and filling these up during the summer with manure, refuse, and good soil. In one rather shady place there is a little mound; what could I plant to trail over it and hang down?"

[For the chief planting we advise Leucojum æstivum, Daffodils, and Solomon's Seal; also hardy Ferns, including Hart's-tongue. Other plants likely to do well would be Iris fœtidissima, the common Columbines, and Woodruff. Of Lilies the most suitable would be the Martagon and its white variety. For trailing over the mound, Ivy, Periwinkles, or Moneywort. Ivy is charming with Snowdrops coming through it. Snowdrops would also probably do well planted in quantity. If a large effect is desired, Polygonum Sieboldi should be used, or if a group of flowering shrubs, Guelder Rose, or, still better, its original native form, the Water Elder (Viburnum Opulus). In planting such a place we think it well to maintain a different character to that of the garden, by the use of plants that are either handsome natives or might be wild. Nearly all those named are of this nature. Two feet would be deep enough for the prepared holes, and we should not advise making the soil too rich.—Eds.]

CULTURE OF AUBERGINES.

I shall be much obliged if you will kindly give directions in The Garden for the culture of Egg Plants (Aubergine). Also say how they are used at table, and if all, scarlet, white, and purple, are eatable. I and three or four friends in this neighbourhood are intending to grow them for the first time this year.

Southminster. Aubergine.

[We are pleased to give you some information about these interesting plants, especially their culture, and a few ways of cooking them; but as regards the latter our knowledge is somewhat restricted, as the Egg Plant is not a favourite in this country, and its cooking is not so well understood as on the continent, where it is a favourite and much grown for food. In France the Aubergine is grown in the open, also in Italy, and in the United States it is becoming a great favourite. With regard to their edible qualities, it is merely a question of outside or skin covering that makes the distinction. They also vary greatly in shape—there are round fruits, egg-shaped, and long Cucumber-like ones, the Long White, the Long Purple, and others in variety; but from close observation I think the New York Purple the largest and best of the dark-coloured fruits. The Black Pekin, a Chinese variety, is also a very distinct fruit, and one well worth growing; indeed, we think anyone who grows these plants will find more interest in growing the various sorts, such as the Scarlet, the Black, and other kinds. Some of the smaller fruiters are very ornamental, and specially suitable for pot culture. Culture is simple, but of course not being hardy the plants are best raised in heat. As regards the date of sowing, so much depends upon the grower's convenience to raise the plants. Seed sown in a frame or gentle heat in March or April will make good fruiting plants by the late summer months. Seed may be sown in pans or pots in a temperature of 60°, and when the seedlings are large enough to handle prick them off singly into small pots, or three in a pot, at the sides, replacing in a warm frame or house when new roots are made. If intended to plant out, transfer to cold frames in May and gradually harden off. If for fruiting in pots, move into 8-inch pots, or larger if three plants are together, or, say, 6-inch for single plants; grow them near the glass, and give food freely in the way of liquid manure as the plants increase in size. During growth their worst enemy is red spider, and this shows that ample moisture or syringing of plants is needful. Thoroughly wet the under sides of the leaves, as that is the portion most quickly affected. Dryness at the root is also fatal, as this checks growth. When the plants are in bloom it may be necessary to cease syringing overhead for a time until the fruits are set, also to mulch the plants or top-dress with manure to retain moisture and promote surface rooting. We now come to open-air culture, and planting out should be done early in June, a slight covering being afforded on cold nights at first. Grow in richly-manured land 2 feet apart, and place supports to the plants as needed. For planting out, sow the seed in April under glass, and pot on as advised. Sown too early, or given a check, the plants do not grow away freely. In dry weather the plants will need plenty of water, also food, and it is advantageous to water overhead in the evening after hot sunshine. The plants do well against a wall or trellis, and if large fruits be desired thin to two or three of the strongest, allow free growth, and support the fruits when formed. The best way of cooking is as follows (pot culture is usually followed for ornamental purposes only): The fruits may be cut in halves, the soft or seedy part scooped out, then the space filled in with chopped meat, and the whole stewed in gravy or done in a slow oven, the fruits being tied together before cooking, and when cooked served very hot. The fruit may also be cut in quarters and fried in boiling fat until brown and served with rich gravy. Another way is to stuff with veal stuffing and bake in the oven in plenty of hot fat. They may also be sliced and used in soups or stews, or cooked whole in a young state and then served with mincemeat, or boiled like Marrows and served with white sauce.—Eds.]

Mr. W. B. Latham.
(Curator of the Birmingham Botanic Gardens.)

WORKERS AMONGST THE FLOWERS.

MR. W. B. LATHAM.

It is a great pleasure to include in our series of "Workers Amongst the Flowers" Mr. W. B. Latham, curator of the Botanic Gardens, Birmingham. Mr. Latham has laboured long and earnestly in horticulture; his influence for good in this direction in the neighbourhood of Birmingham has been, and still is, very considerable. Many are the choice hybrids of Ferns, Orchids, and other plants which Mr. Latham has raised in the Edgbaston Botanic Gardens. With reference to the latter, over whose welfare Mr. Latham has presided for the past thirty-five years, only those who have periodically visited them can form an idea of the many ways in which they have been improved. At our request Mr. Latham has kindly supplied details of his noteworthy career, and has done this in so interesting a way that we cannot do better than let these notes take the form of a personal narrative.

"At an early period of my life I commenced work in the garden of Mr. William McNiel, Wandsworth Common. Mrs. McNiel was a great lover of gardening, with a good knowledge of hardy herbaceous plants, and cultivated a choice collection of them. I left here after three and a-half years' service, and was then apprenticed to the late Mr. Robert Neal, of the old Wandsworth Common nurseries, which at that time contained a large collection of hardy trees, shrubs, Roses, herbaceous, and alpine plants. I remained here a little over three years, during which time I took up the study of British plants. With an old schoolfellow, the late Mr. C. Wilford, I often took long rambles, and together we collected a large number of plants found in that part of Surrey. With a desire for change and a wider field for improvement I went to Kew and saw Mr. J. Smith, the then curator of the Royal Gardens, and some two or three months after I succeeded in obtaining employment there. I left Kew, then under the direction of the late Sir W. Hooker, in 1857. I had a great desire to study under the late Sir Joseph Paxton, then at Chatsworth, and soon succeeded in obtaining a situation in the gardens there. At Chatsworth I found a large collection of Orchids, embracing noble specimens of Phalænopsis, Dendrobiums, grand masses of Cœlogyne cristata on blocks of wood, Cattleyas, Saccolabiums, Ærides, Pleiones, and many others. There was a fine plant of Amherstia nobilis, and the Victoria Regia was in the highest state of perfection. The noble conservatory, with its wonderful collection of rare, tropical, and subtropical plants, excited my admiration. Outside the gardens and grounds of Chatsworth I found on the hills and in the dales of Derbyshire ample occupation for the study of British plants, and added to my collection many not previously met with.

"Having a wish for experience in continental horticulture, I mentioned the subject to Sir Joseph Paxton, who readily consented to write to Professor Decaisne, then director of the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, and some few months after Sir Joseph received an intimation from the professor that there was an opening, and that I could go at once to Paris. A few days after I was at the Jardin des Plantes with a letter of introduction from Sir Joseph to M. Neumann, the then curator, who at once placed me under the direction of the late M. Houllett, whose courtesy and kindness is to this day gratefully remembered. At this establishment a large collection of plants was cultivated, both out of doors and under glass. I saw here for the first time Lapageria alba (then the only plant in Europe); I also saw Paulownia imperialis in flower for the first time. I was also very interested in the large

collection of grasses grown here. Many facilities were given to young gardeners to attend lectures, and to visit the large Peach and Nectarine growing establishments outside Paris, where, by the payment of one franc each, the *chef des cultures* gave them instructions in pruning, training, &c. I remained some months at the Jardin des Plantes, during which time I visited some of the best gardens and nurseries for miles round Paris. On returning to London I obtained employment in Messrs. Parker and Williams' nurseries at Holloway, and after six months in the plant department went as head gardener to Lieutenant-Colonel Perkins, Birtley Hall, Chester-le-Street, Durham, where I remained eight years, having charge of one of the finest collections of Orchids in the North of England, and a large collection of exotic Ferns, greenhouse and stove plants.

"On the retirement in December, 1867, of Mr. Catlin, curator of the Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society's garden, I was selected from about 200 candidates to succeed him. At this time the collection of plants was somewhat limited for a good botanical garden which had existed for thirty-seven years, and of trees and shrubs there were the remains of a fine collection, planted when the gardens were first made, for the formation of a large archery ground I received instructions from the committee of the garden to destroy one of the best, if not the best, collection of Cratægus and other rosaceous trees and shrubs in the United Kingdom. The collection of plants was quickly increased. The glass accommodation was added to by the erection of two houses for the culture of plants, and subsequently the large handsome conservatory was built. The absolute necessity for still further glass structures led to a special appeal for additional funds, and in a short time nearly £4,000 were received. In July, 1885, a large portion of the old structure was pulled down and an extensive block of new glass houses built.

"We have now in the Botanic Gardens, Birmingham, a large collection of Orchids, a good collection of stove and greenhouse plants, including some fine specimens of Camellias, a large collection of Ferns, some good samples of tree Ferns, and a good collection of herbaceous and alpine plants. A large rock garden was made and planted about six years ago, and is now a most interesting feature in the gardens throughout the year.

"In 1862 I raised Dicksonia lathamiana, Moore, a hybrid between the St. Helena D. arborescens and the Australian D. antarctica; the original plant is now a grand specimen. The late Mr. T. Moore, on examining specimens of this hybrid, told me he had not up to that time thought much of hybrid Ferns, but he now must change his opinion. I have since raised seedlings of this Fern. Another hybrid tree Fern raised by me about 1870 is between the Mexican Cyathea insignis and the Norfolk Island Alsophila excelsa. I have not been able to raise this hybrid from spores. The original is now a splendid plant. Gymnogramma Lathamiæ, Moore, is another hybrid raised by me some twenty years ago, and is between Gymnogramma decomposita and G. schizophylla. Cypripedium lathamianum, a hybrid between C. spicerianum and C. villosum, and Cypripedium deedmanianum, a hybrid between C. spicerianum and C. chamberlainianum, were also raised by me."

We may also add that Mr. W. B. Latham was recently awarded a large Veitchian medal for eminent services rendered to horticulture. He is a member of the Orchid committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, has been chairman of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Fruit and Horticultural Society for the last twenty-six years, and also of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Gardeners' Association since its formation fifteen years ago.

THE ROCK GARDEN IN THE BIRMINGHAM BOTANIC GARDENS.

GARDENING OF THE WEEK.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

FROM the middle until the end of the present month the whole of the earliest struck cuttings should be fit for repotting into 5-inch or 6-inch pots. The compost should, if possible, be prepared a week or ten days before using, four parts good fibrous loam, which has been cut from an old pasture the previous autumn, and a sixth part of crushed charcoal or wood ashes. To every 2 bushels add 1 gallon of bone-meal, half a gallon of Clay's Fertilizer, and sufficient road sand and old mortar rubble — which should be passed through a quarter of an inch mesh sieve—to enable the water to percolate and pass away freely. Much will depend on the nature of the loam as to the amount required. The whole should be well mixed, so that each ingredient is thoroughly incorporated, and if turned at intervals, say about every other day, all the better. In no case should the soil be used in a wet condition, or, owing to the plants requiring to be firmly potted, it will unquestionably (especially when the loam has a tendency to be heavy) go together in a pasty condition, thus hindering free root-action, and many of the plants will in all probability become over watered. This will cause a severe check, from which they never properly recover.

Some of the varieties which naturally have a weak constitution should have a specially prepared mixture and more careful treatment than the general collection. Add a little thoroughly decayed leaf-soil and old Mushroom bed manure, passing through a quarter of an inch sieve; also some crocks, finely broken up, and some coarse silver sand. The weaker growing kinds should be kept together while under glass, and at all times be kept in pots, one if not two sizes smaller than the more robust ones, over-potting and watering being fatal to them at all stages of their growth. Clean pots and crocks should be in readiness, and in every case careful drainage is of the utmost importance. It is not so much the quantity used, but the way it is placed and built up in the pots, and yet how seldom do we see this rule properly observed. There is no reason whatever why the drainage should not be as perfect when the Chrysanthemum has finished flowering as it was the day it was potted, providing it was well done and worms are excluded. One large crock should be placed over the hole of the pot in an inverted position, gradually building up with smaller sizes, the top layer being quite fine. On this place a thin coating of fibre taken from the loam heap, from which should be taken every particle of soil, so as to ensure the soil not interfering with a free water-course. Pot firmly, place a small stake to each plant before leaving the potting-shed, and return to the cold frames. The plants should enjoy plenty of room, and be sprinkled two or three times during the day to prevent flagging, but not watered through for three or four days. This should be thoroughly done by filling up the pots at least three times to ensure every part of the soil becoming moistened when the plants are ready. Very much will depend on the nature of the weather. In hot, drying weather they will probably require it about the third day, but if dull and rainy possibly not for a week. After this every plant must be thoroughly tested before watering; examine them twice daily, and never give any until the plant is quite ready to receive it. Syringe twice daily, morning and early afternoon; air freely, and in genial weather remove the lights entirely; avoid coddling the plants in every way, but always make provision against sudden attacks of frost, from which we are not safe for some time to come, as well-grown plants are easily damaged.

Stopping.

Nip out the points of the shoots of many varieties to ensure flowers at their best from the beginning to the middle of November. Especially does this apply to the later flowering Japanese, and this is best performed from the middle of the present month to the middle of April. No hard and fast rule can possibly be laid down as to the exact date to perform this, as we are much at the mercy of the season, and that a very variable one; con-

majestica, large whitish-downy foliage; Berberis Knightii, very handsome, with stiff dark green leaves and rich yellow flowers with red stalks; and Photinia dentata, with dark red shining leaves and wood.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

June 9.—Meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society; Horticultural Club, 6 p.m., Mr. C. T. Druery, F.L.S., V.M.H., on "Hybridisation *versus* Selection."

June 10.—Meeting of the East Anglian Horticultural Club.

June 10.—Exhibition of Rhododendrons throughout June in the Royal Botanic Society's Gardens, Regent's Park, by Messrs. John Waterer, Limited, Bagshot.

June 23.—Oxford Horticultural Show.

June 24.—York Gala (three days); Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Dinner, 7 p.m.

Royal Horticultural Society.—The next fruit and flower show of this society will be held on Tuesday next, in the Drill Hall, Buckingham Gate, Westminster, 1-5 p.m. A lecture on "Fruit Bottling," with a practical demonstration, will be given by Miss Edith Bradley at three o'clock. At a general meeting of the society held on Tuesday, the 19th ult., eighty-nine new Fellows were elected, among them being Lady Hunter, Lady Hyde Parker, Lady Julia Wombwell, and Colonel H. R. Young, making a total of 768 elected since the beginning of the present year.

Exhibition of Roses at Holland House, June 25.—The attention of all exhibitors is called to an accidental omission from the schedule of the Royal Horticultural Society of the following class for garden Roses, which will be called Class 9 B: Thirty-six bunches (consisting of not less than five trusses of each) of garden Roses, distinct, including China, Moss, Polyantha, Provence, and other summer-flowering Roses and their hybrids, and all those mentioned in the National Rose Society's catalogue of garden Roses, and also all Teas and Noisettes not included in the National Rose Society's list of exhibition Roses, all singles, however, excluded. To be staged in thirty-six glasses or jars not exceeding 3 inches diameter at the top; all stems to reach the water; each variety in a separate glass or jar (open). First prize, silver cup; second, silver-gilt Flora medal.

National Rose Society. — A meeting of the committee will be held at the rooms of the Horticultural Club, Hotel Windsor, Victoria Street, Westminster, on Tuesday next, at 3.30 p.m. The agenda is as follows: Report of General Purposes Committee, list of judges for the Temple Show, method of judging seedling Roses, arrangements for Temple show, judges for Glasgow exhibition, and other business.

Mr. W. B. Latham. — After acting as Curator of the Birmingham Botanic Gardens for almost thirty-six years, Mr. W. B. Latham has just resigned his post, and will terminate his connexion with the gardens he has done so much to improve at the end of September. There must be many of our readers who have recollections of pleasant hours spent in the Botanic Gardens at Edgbaston with Mr. Latham for a guide, if only when the various floricultural societies have held their exhibitions in the gardens there. Mr. Latham has been successful in raising several hybrid Ferns, among which we may mention Dicksonia lathamiana, one between Cyathea insignis and Alsophila excelsa, and Gymnogramma Lathamiæ. Cypripedium lathamianum and C. deedmanianum, both well-known hybrids, were also raised by him about two years ago. Mr. Latham was awarded a large Veitchian medal for eminent services rendered to horticulture. He is a member of the Orchid committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, has been chairman of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Fruit and Horticultural Society for twenty-eight years, and of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Gardeners' Association since its formation seventeen years ago. We trust that Mr. Latham may long enjoy the rest he has so well earned.

MR. W. B. LATHAM.

Messrs. T. Rivers and Son's exhibit at the Temple show. — All mention of the grand display of pot fruit trees by Messrs. Rivers, of Sawbridgeworth, was unfortunately inadvertently omitted from our report of the exhibition in the Temple Gardens. Visitors always look out for Rivers' pot fruit trees among the most interesting exhibits, and this year they were quite as good as usual. All the trees were bearing excellent crops of fruit, and there were many enquiries from passers by as to the secret of success in this difficult branch of fruit culture that Messrs. Rivers undoubtedly possess. A new Peach named Peregrine was included in the display, and the well laden trees gave promise of its being very free bearing. Several other Peaches, Cardinal and Early Rivers' Nectarines, as well as various Plums and Cherries, were represented by excellent examples of cultural skill. A silver-gilt Hogg Medal was awarded to the exhibit.

Messrs. Benjamin R. Cant and Sons' exhibit at the Temple show. Rose Blush Rambler, which was illustrated in THE GARDEN last week (page 364), was exhibited at the Temple show by Messrs. Benjamin R. Cant and Sons, the Old Rose Gardens, Colchester. We are extremely sorry that Messrs. Benjamin Cant's address was wrongly given as Braiswick Nurseries. Their sole address is the *Old Rose Gardens, Colchester.* Rose Blush Rambler is similar to the well-known Crimson Rambler in growth, and equally vigorous. The flowers, produced in very large clusters, are round and almost single. When first opening the colour is a rich blush, lighter in the centre, but when each truss of blossom is fully developed it is a beautiful soft blush, resembling Apple blossom. This Rose is perfectly hardy, and will form plants of extraordinary size in a very short time. In addition to Blush Rambler, Messrs. B. R. Cant and Sons' exhibit at the Temple show comprised many other good Roses, as, for instance, Antoine Rivoire, Mrs. E. Mawley, Ulrich Brunner, Dundee Rambler, Moschata alba, Caroline Testout, the old York and Lancaster, Felicité Perpétue, and others.

Refreshments at the Temple show, &c.—I am glad that "A Fellow" has taken this matter up in THE GARDEN (May 30). Why the authorities have allowed this mismanagement to go on so long I cannot imagine. Another refreshment department which wants attention very much is the one at Kew Gardens. Why cannot the Kew authorities keep the providing of refreshments in their own hands, do away with the meat luncheons, and give teas only? A cup of really good tea is what one longs for when strolling through the gardens. Also the refreshment house might well be in a more convenient place.—ANOTHER FELLOW, *Ipswich.*

It is, I fear, of little use to complain of the monstrous charges made for teas at the Temple show now, but all the same I sympathise heartily with "The Fellow" who felt it needful to complain so strongly of those charges there last week. I had to suffer from precisely similar extortion at Holland House show last year, three of us being charged 1s. 6d. per head for what could not possibly have cost 6d. each, or 1s. 6d. in all. Plenty of first-class caterers would do these teas, gladly taking all risks, at much less cost and do them far better. But to what extent does the Royal Horticultural Society's council contribute to these extortionate charges? Do they demand from the caterers an extortionate sum for the privilege of catering? Do they demand the full publication of scales of charges, and a severe limitation to those charges? In fact do they do anything to protect visitors from such overcharges?—F. R. H. S.

Fruit prospects in the Midlands.—Whatever may have been the effects of the spring frosts and rough weather experienced this year in other parts of the country, it is evident that the Midlands have been hard hit. I have been recently spending some time in Staffordshire and Derbyshire, and on all sides the weather was the chief topic of conversation. Grey-headed old men informed me that they never remember such a backward season, and though, of course, they may have forgotten a few bad ones, the spring of 1903 has been a very trying one for gardeners. Farmers have less cause for complaint, because most of the land is under grass, and through the recent rains the prospects of a heavy Hay crop are fair. Stone fruits, chiefly Damsons and Plums, are largely grown in the districts referred to, and though there was a fine display of bloom the chances of a crop were dashed by the severe frosts experienced in April. Pears suffered in the same way, and the early flowers on Strawberries were spoiled before they had time to open. Fortunately, bush fruits, such as Gooseberries and Currants, were well clothed with leaves when the weather was so trying, and they are carrying good crops. Apples do not promise well, as many trees showed no signs of flower at all. In short, the outlook for fruit in the Midlands is anything but encouraging.—H.

The Fawn Tulip.—I see by the exhibits of the Fawn Tulip at the various meetings that it has been classed as a Darwin variety. If this be so we have in the well-known Bouton d'Or a yellow Darwin. Mr. R. Dean will perhaps kindly give your readers his opinion. I am the introducer of this variety to commerce, and am glad it got the award of merit at the Drill Hall recently, which it well deserved at other hands. It is catalogued in my list for 1902 (page 45, No. 301) with this description: Height 16 inches, Bouton d'Or in shape, but in colour that of a Fawn or Dove.—WM. BAYLOR HARTLAND, *Ard Cain, Cork.*

Early Peaches. — After a severe trial I have discarded the Alexander on account of its bud-dropping, and now rely upon Waterloo, which is little later. There are also

active part in the somewhat limited recreations of the Staff, being a member of the Tennis Club Committee, and a very keen player of the game, as well as of hockey. To quote the obituary notice in the *Kew Bulletin,* "to those who knew her best, her patience and courage under the trials of failing health will always be a reverent memory."—J. H.

William Bradbury Latham.

As we go to press we learn with deep regret of the death of William Bradbury Latham, which occurred on the 17th December at 1, Green Hill, Leighton Buzzard. Mr. Latham was one of the oldest—if not the oldest—of Kew's most distinguished sons, having left Kew so long ago as 1857.

His portrait, with the chief events in his horticultural life, are recorded in the Guild *Journal* for 1903, and it is thus unnecessary to recapitulate the whole of his career.

Latham was a good example of what may be attained by intelligent and painstaking industry, as is well shown by the zeal with which he set himself in his youth to acquire a thorough knowledge of his profession; scorning the mere pleasures of life, for those of the student.

How strenuously he worked in this direction during his stay at Kew, was often described to the present writer; and how necessary it was for him to practise economy in the way of living, since the wages of that period were much smaller than they are at the present day, and the educational advantages much more limited. Moreover, the Kew men who in those days wished to visit London had no railway to travel by, but had perforce to pay toll over Kew Bridge before they could get an omnibus to carry them thither.

Upon leaving Kew we find the desire for knowledge further shown by his making his way to the famous Chatsworth gardens; and then after a time moving on to the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, where the pay was of the most meagre kind; and only one who had a genuine thirst for self-improvement would have voluntarily foregone the greater comforts which might have been his.

It is worthy of note that during the time he was at Paris, the only plant in Europe of the white *Lapageria* was under his charge; and Latham was fond of recording how he believed he saved its life. The plant had been sent to Paris with instructions that the soil in which it grew was of a marly nature, and in such a soil the plant had been planted, only to eke out a sickly and dwindling existence. Mr. Latham had, however, early learnt the valuable lesson that plants which in nature might grow in a particular kind of soil did not always succeed in the same kind of soil when placed under cultivation; and he persuaded his chief to let him wash it out of the marly soil and pot it into rough peaty soil with plenty of sand and crocks, following which the plant grew luxuriantly.

After a profitable time in Paris, we find him returning to London

and spending a short time in the classical Holloway nurseries, at that time in the zenith of their fame, whence he obtained a headship in a famous Durham garden noted for its fine collections of indoor plants of all kinds. Here he acquitted himself so ably, that when he applied for the Curatorship of the Birmingham Botanical Garden upon the retirement of Mr. Catlin, he was selected for the post.

And now came Mr. Latham's great opportunity. Under the earlier Curatorship of Dr. Cameron and Mr. Catlin, the Birmingham garden had acquired a very high place in the horticultural world, as is evidenced by the many figures of interesting plants described from the garden in some of the older works, such as "Maund's Botanic Garden" and "Edwards's Botanical Register." Mr. Latham's training and cultural ability were such as enabled him to maintain and even surpass the best traditions of the garden, and the collections of plants continued to increase in variety and interest, until in 1885 no less a sum than £4000 was collected by voluntary subscription to increase the glasshouse accommodation for the plants of all kinds which had been got together. The Ferns, upon which Mr. Latham was quite an authority, were very rich in rare species and well-grown specimens, as also were the Orchids. But Mr. Latham, although he had his favourites, was no specialist in the strict sense o the term; his interests were rather of that more general character which make a successful Curator of a botanic garden, and ensures that each and every department shall be thoroughly representative in interest and variety.

Naturally a collection of plants of this character lent itself to the work of the hybridist, and in this department of science he rendered signal service to horticulturists among Ferns and Orchids.

As a man, Latham was of a rather retiring and nervous disposition, and could rarely be persuaded to talk much. When, however, he could be prevailed upon to discourse, he was always very instructive and enlightening, and one always felt at such times that one was dealing with a sympathetic master of the profession.

To those of his young men who evinced any desire to help themselves he was always encouraging, as it was his dictum that unless a man strove to help himself, it was useless for others to try to help him. The true endeavour must always come from the individual.

Mr. Latham sat for many years on the Orchid Committee of the R. H. S., and was also untiring in the interests of the horticultural life of many Midland societies, either as Chairman or Treasurer. The Gardeners' Association of Birmingham owes him a debt of gratitude, as he always took a deep interest in this society from its inception, and was always keen upon developing it as a real educational centre. To this end he started a series of competitions for essays by the young men, which bore good fruit.

Retiring some years ago upon a small pension, and full of honours, he spent several years with his niece at an old farmhouse at Rowington in Warwickshire; but owing to increased infirmities, about two years ago he removed to Leighton Buzzard so as to be near other relatives.—W. H.

Mordecai Cubitt Cooke.

Dr. M. C. Cooke, the celebrated veteran mycologist, who died on November 12, 1914, in his 90th year, was for many years intimately connected with Kew, being at one time in charge of the Cryptogamic collections in the Herbarium.

Born at Horning, in Norfolk, on July 12, 1825, Cooke was an example of a man who, through hard work and perseverance, reached a position of considerable distinction. His early education was very meagre, but under his uncle's tuition he applied himself to languages and mathematics, taking at the same time an interest in natural history, especially botany. After serving as an assistant in a draper's business, and as a clerk in other spheres, he obtained a post as teacher in a school at Lambeth, and, later, a position in the India Museum. It was here that Cooke concentrated his energies on the Lower Cryptogams (Fungi, Lichens, and Algæ) and thus obtained the special knowledge which ultimately gained for him his appointment at Kew.

During his tenure of office at the Herbarium (1880–1892) Cooke accomplished an enormous amount of work. Sorting out, naming, and arranging collections during his official hours, he devoted his spare time to writing scientific papers and books, and to editing a Cryptogamic Journal. It was during this period also that he brought out his famous "Illustrations of British Fungi," a work of 8 volumes containing 1200 coloured plates. Gifted with an easy flow of language and a ready pen, he wrote, in addition to his purely scientific books, a number of others of a more popular character.

Cooke was also in close touch with the horticultural side of mycology. Succeeding Berkeley as the authority on fungi in this country, he received a large amount of diseased material for examination, and from this he detected and described many new fungi attacking cultivated crops He was a frequent contributor to the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, and he did much work for the Scientific Committee of the R. H. S. His last published work, "Fungoid Pests of the Garden," appeared in the *R. H. S. Journal* (1902–1904). Dr. Cooke received many honours. In addition to honorary degrees, he was a V. M. H. (1902), and had the distinction of being awarded the Gold Medal of the Linnean Society for the year 1903.—A. D. C.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.)

The Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society.—Though agreeing in the main with Mr. Engleheart's criticisms of this publication in last week's issue, page 14, and sharing in his objection to the amount of American material that the Editor has recently seen fit to incorporate in it, my complaint is more directed against the amount of purely scientific writing and its disproportionate relation to the treatment of everyday practical subjects. To one of the savants who desires to add to his store of knowledge by acquiring a better acquaintance with "The Plant in Relation to its Biological Environment," there must be at least a hundred Fellows who will eagerly devour, and gain profitable instruction from, the most practical and readable little article by Mr. H. G. Mount on the treatment of early Roses in pots. In my opinion Mr. Mount's four pages are worth more to the ordinary Fellow than the whole of the rest of the contents of this number of the Journal put together. The more of this sort of thing that Mr. Chittenden can give his readers the better, and the less likely will they be to throw the Journal aside almost as soon as it is opened, as is now very frequently the case.—F. HERBERT CHAPMAN.

Shows, Schedules and Judges.—After each show season one looks back with an increasing conviction that some reform is needed in the matter of shows, schedules and judging. We have a very large number of shows crowded into two or three months of the summer, the dates of some of which are fixed without regard to clashing, which in many cases might well be avoided. Of recent years it is becoming very apparent that show committees look upon trade exhibitors as their legitimate prey, and appear to have got the idea that the trade cannot exist without their show. They do not consider that without the trade their show would be very tame indeed; neither is the amount of stuff, the time, the work and the expense taken into account. True, there are a few which offer fair inducements in the way of prize money; there are more which offer a small amount for a big display, which does not even cover the cost of transit; while many, again, offer medals (which sometimes consist of the cards only). They give little or no assistance to enable the exhibitor from a distance to get "fixed up," give no help in finding suitable accommodation for a stranger, or to get away comfortably after the close. How often does the trade exhibitor lose his connection for home by having to wait for a conveyance! In fact, by many societies the trade exhibitor is treated unfairly and unjustly, and if at some time he consults his own pocket and becomes an absentee, then perhaps a lesson will be taught. It must be borne in mind that in these days of keen competition and an increasing number of shows, the show tent is by no means a happy hunting ground for orders. As to schedules, these are sometimes so vague that even committees themselves are unable to interpret them. In Sweet Pea classes a great laxity as to number is often allowed, while in hardy flowers not one schedule in fifty stipulates that they shall be outdoor grown, and frequently an exhibit—poor in other respects—with one or two bunches of indoor-grown flowers (and here Liliums, such as longiflorum, seldom grown outside, generally play a part), takes the honours, while an exhibit staged according to the spirit of the schedule is passed over; and we have seen some glaring examples of this. As to judges, how often it is apparent that these are selected from the *position* they hold without regard to their *capability* to fairly judge the classes assigned to them. It does not follow that an expert fruit-grower is an expert florist, or *vice versa*. Nor does it follow that a man holds his position always because of his expert knowledge and experience of either; and it is essential, nay, it is but justice, that a judge should be selected who knows, and has practical experience of, the classes he has to judge. Much dissatisfaction would then be saved. Schedules are now being prepared for another "round." Is it too much to ask that these points may receive consideration?—EXHIBITOR. [As this subject is of special interest just now, we shall be glad to have the opinions of others.—ED.]

A FLOWERING SPRAY OF THE SOUTHERN HEATH (ERICA AUSTRALIS).

The Southern Heath (Erica australis).—The accompanying photograph, which was taken on April 1 of last year, depicts a spray of the beautiful Southern Heath. With us in a rather sheltered Surrey garden the plants are in full beauty during April and early May. I remember early last year that Mr. T. Wilson, writing from Glamis, described E. australis as "generally in flower in the month of June." This is probably accounted for by a cooler soil and late locality. The Southern Heath has purplish red flowers, richer and rather brighter in colour than those of the Mediterranean Heath. From this species the subject of the illustration is also readily distinguished by its open, looser habit of growth. Growing from 3 feet to 5 feet or more in height, E. australis is a native of Portugal. It may be described as just on the border and of hardiness, for while the plants have come through the last two or three winters unharmed, we always insert a pot of cuttings of this species in company with E. lusitanica (codonodes) and E. Veitchii, which with us are the tenderest Tree Heaths. Another species which differs here from Glamis in the season of flowering is the South European E. multiflora. My notes say August 12 to October 24; at Glamis it flowers in the New Year.—A SURREY GARDEN.

The Late W. B. Latham: An Appreciation.—It was with feelings of deep regret that the writer, reading THE GARDEN of January 2, became acquainted of the death of Mr. W. B. Latham. I feel also that many gardeners and amateurs, throughout the Midland Counties especially, would receive the news with an equally genuine sorrow. To the many horticulturists who at one time or another had the privilege of knowing Mr. Latham must come the feeling of a real personal loss. During the period of his curatorship of Edgbaston Botanic Gardens, hundreds of gardeners must have had the benefit of his wise counsel. He was in his happiest vein when among his beloved plants or at any meeting where plant-life was the premier subject. At such meetings he was always chairman, and all present would feel that a master of craft was taking the lead. His wide knowledge of plants and their culture he was ever ready and willing to impart to anyone. He always appealed to the young men to seize every opportunity of acquiring knowledge, and several, mainly through his help, have become famous. He was indeed a lover of Nature, of things beautiful, which, I think, played a prominent part in his successful life, and yet he was the most simple-hearted of men. If I remember rightly, on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday and as chairman of a gardeners' meeting he remarked that he had lived for sixty years, only to feel how little he knew, for gardening was never learnt. His passing away leaves one with the thought that gardening is the poorer for his loss; but his charm and geniality of manner, his kindly advice and greatness of heart, will, I am sure, be cherished by many of your readers to the memory of Mr. W. B. Latham.—W. HOLTOM, *Bearwood, Staffs.*

John William Laurence, head gardener at Newstead Abbey

Gardener's house at Newstead Abbey

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1877 n.s. 7

Mr. Laurence, the subject of our present portrait and memoir, has been pretty widely known as a successful Orchid cultivator, having had charge of the fine collection made by Bishop Sumner, at Farnham Castle. He was born in the year 1828, at St. John's, near Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, where his father was gardener to the late Sir Richard and Sir John Simeon for forty-four years. His father was a native of Aberdeenshire, and served his apprenticeship with the late Mr. Thompson, of Chiswick, at Haddo House. He was a thorough practical gardener and an accomplished botanist, so that the gardening education of the younger Laurence began very early. In 1842 he commenced work under his father at St. John's as kitchen-boy, &c., and he remarks thereupon; "The time thus spent is invaluable to the young gardener. Every one intending to follow the profession should so begin, and not, as is too often the case, where he ought to end, in the houses."

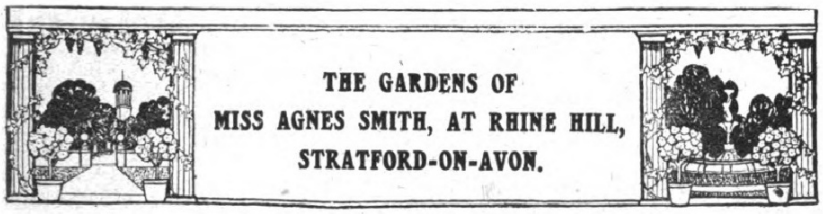
From St. John's he went, in 1844, to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew—a course followed to advantage by many young men who have attained eminence in the profession. Kew was at that time, under the able management of Sir William J. Hooker, just emerging from its chrysalis state. Here, amongst his fellow workmen, were the late Dr. Seemann; McIvor, of Ootacamund; Hill, of Brisbane; Meehan, of Philadelphia; and Whitaker, of Crewe. "Here," observes Mr. Laurence, "let me add a tribute of respect to the ex-curator, Mr. J. Smith, to whom the young men of Kew owe many of their present privileges."

His next move was, in 1846, to the Royal Gardens, at Frogmore, which were then coming into notice from the grand collections of fruit shown at Chiswick by Mr. T. Ingram. Mr. Ingram was ably seconded by foremen who were themselves first-rate men, three of whom still hold the same position, namely Mr. Murray, forcing; Mr. Powell, hardy fruit; and Mr. Marr, kitchen garden—each willing and anxious to impart his experience to any young man who wished to improve himself. There being so much to learn at Windsor, Laurence was induced to remain more than six years, at the end of which time, in 1852, he was engaged as gardener to that grand old patriarch, and the last of the prince bishops. Dr. Sumner, Bishop of Winchester, at Farnham Castle, Surrey, who was then forming a collection of Orchids, which to the day of his death was to him a source of intense enjoyment. "As he never exhibited in collections," Mr. Laurence observes, "my aim was to produce a constant succession of bloom at all seasons of the year— a result which probably no other class of plant will yield, but which may be attained by a proper selection of Orchids, growing them as luxuriantly as possible in their growing season, and giving judicious rest when the growth is fully matured. *The Gardeners' Chronicle* of past years, and a pile of certificates of the Royal Horticultural Society (all honour to its past and hope as to its future), attest to my success. Amongst others I was fortunate in first flowering the grand Saccolabium giganteum. The gold and bronze section of Pelargoniums also originated at Farnham Castle, in Mrs. Milford."

After the death of the Bishop, in 1874, Mr. Laurence remained for a short time in the service of the present prelate; and in 1875 was engaged to W. F. Webb, Esq., of Newstead Abbey, the home of Lord Byron. Mr. Webb has been constantly improving the place since it came into his hands, but all relics of the great poet are most religiously preserved.

"In reading through the autobiographical notices of gardeners in past numbers of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*," writes Mr. Laurence, "I have been struck with the general testimony to the good feeling of employers. I must add to these my own instance, for I have received nothing but kindness and encouragement from both past and present employers; and I am old-fashioned enough to think, in these days of strikes and lock-outs, that this mutual confidence between masters and their dependents, is the only good point about the old feudal system which was worth preserving."

Mr Law



THE GARDENS OF MISS AGNES SMITH, AT RHINE HILL, STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

NEARLY five years ago the property known by the attractive name of Rhine Hill, two and a half miles from Stratford-on-Avon, was sold, the purchaser being Miss Agnes Smith, daughter of the late tenant of the residence. Soon after Miss Smith entered into possession, she decided to make important additions to the gardens. Her interest in public affairs is very keen, and she is an active member of the Board of Guardians and other bodies. But along with her deep concern for the improvement of the hard lot of the poorer members of the community, she has a great appreciation for the attractive in art and nature. Under the auspices of her father, the gardens at Rhine Hill were pretty; she determined to make them beautiful. Thanks to her courtesy, I am able to tell the story of the result of her efforts. It was in brilliant July sunshine that I made acquaintance with Miss Smith's domains. The distance from Stratford Station was covered in a few minutes by her motor car, and I arrived at my destination considerably before noon. A first glance as the car entered the gates at the double lodge satisfied me that the reports of the charms of Rhine Hill had not been exaggerated. The situation is one of its advantages. The neighbourhood of Shakespeare's birthplace is remarkably flat, and the view from the plateau high above the river Avon, on which the house and grounds stand, is delightful. The drive skirts a lovely lake, with vistas of the fine kitchen garden on the opposite banks, and abundant shrubbery and woodland walks reveal themselves before the house is reached. Substantially built, the exterior of the latter is chiefly notable for the picturesque dome of the original conservatory, now used for other purposes, but its complete seclusion from the high road, and its glorious surroundings, invest it with distinction. Looking across the wide expanse of lawn, free from the suspicion of weeds, and smooth as velvet, is one of the new features of the pleasure grounds—one of the most effective rock gardens I have seen.

When, in company with Miss Smith, I subsequently began a tour of the gardens, I asked the history of this achievement.

The Rockery of Two Acres.

"At the time I made up my mind to extend the gardens, I called in the help of an expert from the north, Mr. Hayes, of Keswick, and he easily persuaded me to approve of his scheme for the creation of a rockery. This was three years ago, and to-day you can judge by the result. But when the rock garden was undertaken, the site was a grass bank with a slope, and a mass of Laurels at the back. The design was that of Mr. Hayes, and though he carried it out under my instructions, I practically gave him a free hand."

"Where did the rocks come from?"

"Derbyshire. The ground which they now occupy was previously level, and the hill had to be created. Decorative features of the rock garden are the pergola, and the rustic seat under the archway of Roses. The Roses are Hiawatha and Dorothy Perkins. The latter covers the archway."

"What is the extent of the rock garden?"

THE ROCK GARDEN AT RHINE HILL.

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE ROCK GARDEN.

"Two acres. I believe it is the largest within a radius of a hundred and fifty miles. The number of plants in it is between four and five thousand. As to the principal varieties, my head gardener will tell you the names."

The head gardener at Rhine Hill is a young man, also from the North of England, Mr. Law, who took up the work after the gardens were enlarged. He has had experience under Mr. Hayes, and also in the gardens of Lord Lonsdale at Lowther Castle. As we proceeded I asked him for a good deal of information, and first as to the number of Alpines in propagation.

Sempervivums and Dianthus.

"Two thousand," he replied, "but I am going to have five thousand, all for the rock garden. As to the varieties, you will like me to mention the more conspicuous. There is the family of Sempervivums, so very much in evidence; it includes virescens, Webbianum, triste, sanguineum, and Dæillinum. The Dianthus tribe embraces the old double; D. deltoides and pulchellus, a variety of the Maiden Pink; and Napoleon III., brilliant scarlet, very showy. Campanulas contribute a large proportion."

"Do you give the preference to any special colour?"

"Yes; to blue. The principal Campanulas are turbinata (large blue flowers), pusilla, pulla, Portenschlagiana, Stansfieldii, garganica (brilliant bluish-purple), G. F. Wilson (dark purple-blue), and muralis. Amongst the very numerous Saxifrages are Clibranii, crassifolia, Admiral, Burseriana, Rhei (a beautiful red flower), Macnabiana, longifolia (the queen of Saxifrages), pyramidalis, muscoides, and atropurpurea. Sedums are abundant, especially spectabile, Turkestanicum, and pulchellum. The best Primulas are rosea, japonica, Cockburniana, Cashmeriana, capatita, and frondosa."

"Phlox, I notice, also abounds."

"One of the best is Vivid. Others are canadensis, Lilac Queen, and Pisistratus, raised by Mr. Hayes. The Helianthemums include Bronze Queen, tinctoria plena, Rose Beauty, and Mrs. Sidney Smith; the Arenarias, maritima and Laucheana; Cyanthus lobatus from the Himalayas; Echeverias in variety; Lithospermum prostratum in masses; Ericas in quantity, especially carnea and Menziesii; Ramondia pyrenaica and Nathaliæ alba; Cistus florentinus lusitanicus, with the dark crimson blotch; Œnotheras missouriensis and Falconeri; Gentianas asclepiadea alba, Andrewsii, and præcox; Mimulus coccinea; Alyssums saxatile and Lemon Eye, brought out by Mr. Hayes; Aubrietias Dr. Mules, Prichard's A1, Moerheimi, violescens, Purple Robe, and Fire King; Arabis lucida variegata; Iberis correæfolia (large white flowers); single and double Gorse; Achillea The Pearl; Artemisia tomentosa; Arnebia echioides, and Thymus in variety."

The Background.

"I should like you to indicate some of the shrubs which either form the background, or are dotted about the rock garden."

"Among the latter is a fine specimen of Wellingtonia gigantea, several Japanese Maples, and half a dozen good specimens of Cupressus macrocarpa. The background comprises the Cut-leaf Golden Elder; many varieties of the Cerasus; Rhododendrons in variety, including

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Pink Pearl and alba; Ghent Azaleas; Olearias Haastii and stellata; Berberis Darwinii and Thunbergii; Kalmias, Choisya ternata, Garrya elliptica, Cotoneaster horizontalis, and Gypsophila repens."

"I suppose there is something in flower during most seasons of the year?"

"We try to have something always in flower, and if there are no flowers, there are generally ornamental berries."

"What treatment does the rock garden require?"

"In the spring we top-dress it throughout, with a compost to suit each plant. We also look carefully over each plant for slugs. Then we transplant any which seem to need another situation, and we also make alterations for effect in the coming summer. During summer we keep the place free from weeds, stake anything that needs stakes, but carefully conceal the stakes so as to preserve the natural appearance. The plants are cut back, and kept in their places. In autumn, we cut down all flower stalks, and do our utmost to bring out the full beauty of the foliage; and care is taken to save all the seeds of the choice and rare plants. When winter comes, slugs have to be watched for, and protection afforded from serious frosts. For purposes of protection, I use a triangular piece of woodwork, with glass in the top; or a little dry bracken Fern. I may add that in the early spring, many thousands of Crocuses, planted in waves, are in bloom. On the Alpine wall, at the bottom of the rock garden, are Zauschnerias (bright scarlet), the Grecian Poppy, the Oriental Poppy, Anthemis tinctoria (bright yellow), and Pentstemon Newbury Gem. For autumn effect we find Chrysanthemums and single-flowering Dahlias more useful than Cactus Dahlias."

RHINE HILL ORNAMENTAL WATER, AND RESIDENCE IN THE DISTANCE.

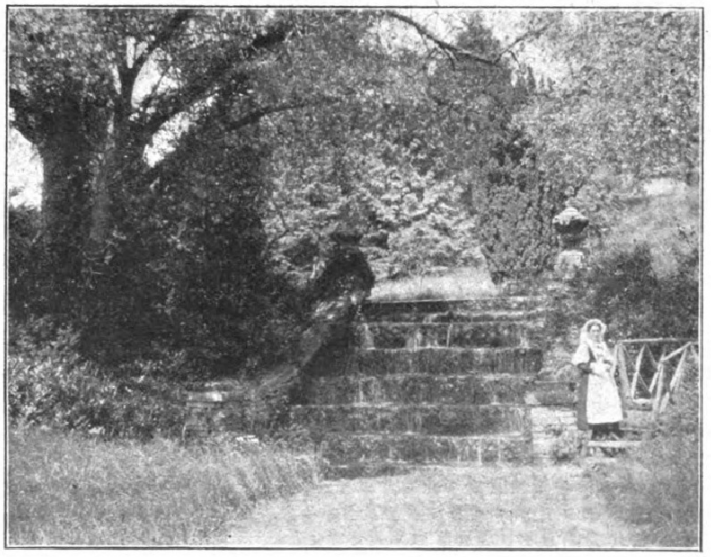
A Substitute for a Hurdle Hedge.

"The herbaceous border forming practically a wall of the pleasure grounds, is a very fine sight. Can you tell me the length?"

"It is one hundred yards long, and took the place of a hurdle hedge, which was here when Miss Smith bought the property. This year, in March, the whole of the border was taken up, and a number of new plants introduced. The Anchusas, which are a great feature of the border, were grown in 3-in. pots. Their conspicuous success is probably due to the fact that we give them a quantity of manure. Phloxes, Erigerons, Border Carnations, Sweet Williams Pink Beauty, Delphiniums Belladonna and Persimmon, with Roses in variety, are now in flower, but, of course, the flowers vary. The border consists entirely of the Maiden Pink, and Golden Privet makes a good background."

We next inspected the Rosery, which is the most recent addition.

"The climbers in the Rose garden," said Mr. Law, "are Lady Gay, Crimson Rambler, Excelsior, Lady Goodwin (soft pink), W. A. Richardson, Shower of Gold, and Hiawatha. Mixed, a dozen to each bed, chiefly in half-moon shape for effect, are The Lyons, General McArthur, Cynthia Ward, Reine d'Or, Madame Ravary, Gustave Regis, Kœnigin Carola, Hugh Dickson, Caroline Testout, Countess of Derby, Countess Gosforth, Richmond, Liberty, Gloire de Dijon, and Frau Karl Druschki (white and yellow). There are a few standards in each bed, namely, Beauty of Germany, Hiawatha, and Alberic Barbier. Then there are half-standards dotted in the beds, Crimson Rambler and Fairfield, a very pretty Rose. The varieties of Violas used for edging are Countess of Hopetoun, Ajax, Immortality, Devonshire Cream, Mrs. Kenneth, Klondyke, Moseley, J. B. Riding, and Archie Grant. The Rose garden was only finished this spring, and planted at a time when the snow was on the ground."



THE DELL AT RHINE HILL.

"Yes," said Miss Smith, resuming the conversation. "I planted some of the Roses, and my friend, Miss Freeman, who lives with me, and myself, weed and water the rock garden. The Dell, which we are now approaching, with its rustic bridge, its sundial, and its fine collection of hardy Ferns, including Osmundas, Scolopendrums, Lastræas, Athyriums, and Polypodums, is one of our favourite resorts. Here Bamboos flourish, also Iris Kæmpferi, various species of Spiræa, Rhododendrons in variety, Azaleas, Brooms, and Pampas Grass. Beyond the Dell is the ornamental water, which you probably noticed when you entered the drive. Here, there are Lilies in variety planted, and the Rushes form a picture of their own at the far end. The Arums in the water were suggested to me when I was in Amsterdam, where I observed that they did well in the water at the hotel garden. The kitchen gardens on one side of the banks, are conveniently arranged, and the glass includes a Vinery and Peach house."

Miss Smith's Recreation.

"I admire the approach from the lodge."

"It has been greatly improved by the border of shrubs made with curves instead of straight. A vast number of families are represented in the border, prominently Hydrangeas, Wistarias, Maples, and Japanese Cherries. Close to the entrance are standard fruit trees, and a patch of colour is afforded by a group of Scarlet Poppies."

"Are you contemplating any further extensions?" I enquired, as we strolled back to the house, which is embellished by a handsome Magnolia of considerable age.

"Not immediately, but possibly I may add a bog garden to The Dell. I immensely enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the gardens, and am never tired of watching the growth of shrubs and plants. But public work is my life; the gardens are my recreation."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week's interview will contain a description of the gardens at Englefield Lodge, Englefield Green, Surrey.

To get four Sweet Pea blooms on one stem is usually as much as the ordinary grower can manage, but Mr. T. W. Corless, junr., of Lancaster, writes that he has one with seven blooms, and another with eight. This is outdone, however, by Mr. Oswald Leefe, of Malton, who sends us a photograph of a Sweet Pea (grown from one of GARDEN LIFE seeds), with no fewer than nine blooms on the stem.

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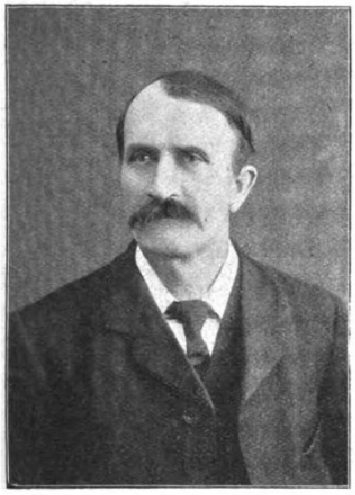
of the plants, and thus completely destroy them instead of spoiling merely a few of the outer leaves. All such plants should be burned. But even then some of the caterpillars may have escaped, for at the approach of cold weather they sling themselves to the ground and there change into chrysalids. For this reason, if poultry can be turned in autumn or winter on to the land on which Cabbages have been grown, it is an excellent plan to do so, after having first loosened the surface with the fork. If this is impossible, the chrysalids should be looked for during digging—they are ruddy-brown in colour—and any that are found should be destroyed. There is no way of driving the caterpillars out of the Cabbages—obviously, spraying with poisonous liquids is out of the question—and it is not easy to prevent the moths from laying their eggs on the plants, though lime, soap-suds, and paraffin, and various other things have been recommended for the purpose. Hand-picking will do some good, but, of course, insects that have made their way into the hearts cannot be reached.



MR. H. LAWRENCE.

Good Advice for Rose Planters.

October 29th.—In an excellent little book entitled "The Best Roses for Amateurs," Mr. John Fraser says, "Never plant Roses when the soil is so wet that it gets muddy and plastic when trodden or firmed down about the roots. In that case, planting should be deferred, and the Roses carefully heeled in temporarily amongst some fairly dry soil in a sheltered position. Do not pile the plants above one another, but lay them out singly, so that the roots of each may come in direct contact with the soil, and thereby be kept moist. They may have to remain in this position for weeks, on account of wet or stormy weather (or frost), but will take no harm, provided they are so dealt with. Whether planted at once or heeled in, they will make fresh roots before winter." The importance of this advice is often overlooked. I have seen Roses heeled in almost exactly as they came from the nursery—in the same bundles, with merely the wrapping removed, sometimes not even untied. When this is done, the outer roots support the soil thrown over them, and prevent its reaching those inside, which are therefore in the air. Of course, some soil may eventually be washed around them by rain, but it cannot come in contact with them as it should do, especially if the bundles are large. Is it surprising that many of such Roses should die? If they must be heeled in, each should be treated separately.

October 30th.—Shelter has its advantages, but is often associated with damp and rheumatism. For health and beauty of scenery, the best position for a house is a hill, with the lawn and grounds sloping away from it. If there is a screen of trees on the north and east, not too near, so much the better, but that is of less importance than plenty of fresh air, which cannot be got in a hollow or in a dense enclosure of trees.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of Mrs. Vaughan Arbuckle.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. H. LAWRENCE, AT STAWELL HOUSE, RICHMOND.

A VISIT to the gardens at Stawell House, which, by the courtesy of Mrs. Vaughan Arbuckle, I enjoyed at the end of August, proved to be quite a revelation. Almost in the heart of the most popular of Surrey river resorts are pleasure grounds reminiscent of days when Richmond was unspoiled by the modern builder. Moreover, these gardens have retained all their original charms, and might still, according to inside appearances, be absolutely in the country. Perhaps the impression created on my mind will best be conveyed by keeping my notes in the order in which they were made as I went round with Mr. Lawrence, the head gardener. And at the outset, proceeding along the drive past the house, and through a garden largely but not entirely devoted to flowers, I observed a Pear tree of remarkable height loaded with fruit.

"Was that tree planted when the gardens were made?" I asked.

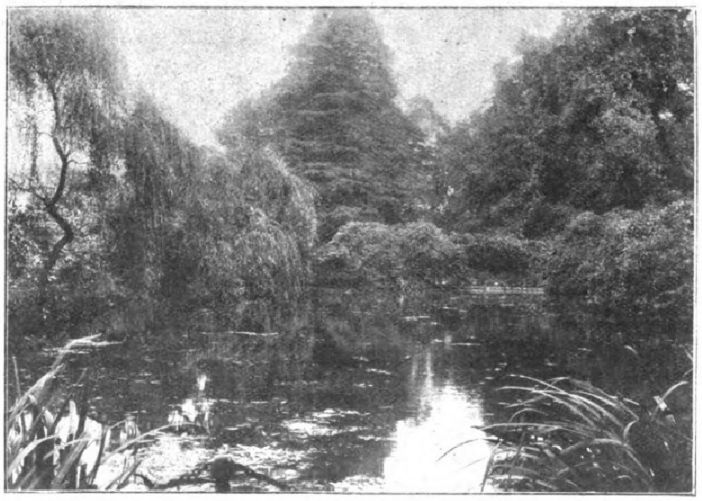
"No," said Mr. Lawrence, "the gardens were made, or remodelled, forty years ago, and the age of that Pear tree is quite seventy years. As you see, it resembles an Elm tree, and when in flower it is like a mass of snow. It is about eighty feet high, and the fruit is therefore inaccessible. One year I got a ladder long enough to secure half a bushel, but the game was not worth the candle, and now we only spread a net to catch a few of the Pears as they fall. I do not know the name, but it is a stewing Pear. Near it is a Bergamotte forty years old, from which we are able to secure fruit."

"I notice that you have plenty of fish in the water just beyond."

"There are lots of carp in the pond, which, by the way, we have to syringe with sulphate of copper to keep down the Blanket-weed."

"You have also some Lilies in it?"

"Yes, a few old varieties. We get too much of the Aponogeton distachyon, which flowers here six months out of twelve. In February we had a nice lot of bloom. The Bamboos do well in wet weather, but badly when it is dry in the winter. We do not, however, suffer much from drought, partly because the soil near the pond is largely the old London blue clay. The Rhododendrons round the pond flourish to such an extent that when they are in flower you can scarcely tell where they end and the



THE LAKE AT STAWELL HOUSE.

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water begins. As we commenced with the Pear tree, we may as well go on now to the kitchen garden, which was added forty years ago. It was a part of the adjoining field."

"Is the soil the same as in the pleasure grounds?"

"No, it is light, sandy soil, and we manure heavily. Also, the river water is laid on. We do not suffer from club, a fact which I attribute to the lime we use."

The Best Apples.

"Tell me, please, which of the Apples do best on this soil, and in this position."

"We generally get a good crop of Cellini Pippin. Golden Noble is a safe cropper as a pyramid, and so is Mere de Menage; Ribston Pippin is fair; Norfolk Beefing, New Hawthornden, and Keswick Codlin do well as standards. As we have quite forty-five varieties of Apples, I am only mentioning the most useful."

"What about Worcester Pearmain, of which I observe you have good crops of finely-coloured fruit on pyramids?"

"It has never failed to yield a good crop since I have been here. If I planted a quantity of Apples for profit, I should always grow Worcester Pearmain. It is not only so early, but it is so absolutely reliable, as well as grand in colour and excellent in flavour. Gravenstein is an Apple that can be relied upon, grown as a standard, and Lane's Prince Albert always does well as a pyramid."

Peasgood's Nonsuch.

"You have some large fruits of Peasgood's Nonsuch."

"They get a great size, and a lovely colour. But I have to root-prune the pyramids, to keep down the wood. Lord Suffield is not a heavy cropper, but the fruit on the pyramids is very large. Warner's King has cropped well on the pyramids this season, and The Queen is colouring beautifully. It is a fine fruit in the autumn."

"When do you begin to use Apples?"

"In the middle of September; they follow the Currants. Here are some standard Apples which were planted when the garden was made —Quarrenden, Kerry Pippin, and Rosemary Russet."

"Have you had a good Plum crop?"

"Victorias and Gisbornes have done well, but it has been the worst year for blight which we have ever experienced. I prefer a dry season."

The Value of a Cage.

"You have still some Red Currants on the bushes in the cage?"

"We pick them well into October, and Gooseberries until September. The value of the netting is that we get fifty per cent. more fruit than in the open. The varieties of Gooseberries are Crown Bob, Whitesmith, Sulphur, Lancashire Lass, and Champagne; of Red Currants, Red Dutch and Victoria; and of Black Currants, Black Dutch. I found one or two bushes in the spring affected by mite, and burnt them. Destruction is the only remedy."

"The Potatoes look healthy."

"The crop this year is really splendid. But the Potato of this district is emphatically Sutton's Epicure. If I could only grow one variety, I should choose it in preference to all others. People who do not like big Potatoes from it should dig early; but it is just the right size for cooking. Sutton's May Queen is equally good. I have grown both for eight years. Sir John Llewelyn is a rather better shape, and rather later. We also grow Up-to-Date for later use, and it is always reliable. Peas are picked up to September, and Marrowfat is one of the favourites."

"I observe that you do not plant anything between your Celery rows?"

"I think it better not to do so. Neither, unless I want it to blanch, do I bank it up. It does all right just planted in a trench, and we get between seven and eight hundred heads. The varieties are Solid White and Superb Pink."

Brussels Sprouts and White Swedes.

"Do you do anything special to your Brussels Sprouts to make them thrive?"

"I get them in early, give them plenty of room, planting a yard apart, and put on a thick coat of manure. These—Sutton's Matchless—are nearly four feet high. Cauliflowers also cannot be treated too liberally. We start cutting them early in May, and continue until the end of November. We find that when Turnips are over, Sutton's White Swedes are very nice; we get them in February. Earliest of All Savoy is better than any Cabbage. We can depend upon Leeks, which we start on in November, when almost every other vegetable is not available. Artichokes (Giant White) and Spinach Beet are grown in considerable quantities."

The kitchen garden is divided from the pleasure grounds by a grass path with a border usually filled with Iris.

A Camellia Garden.

"Last year," said Mr. Lawrence, "I lost between two and three hundred Irises of all sections. They were killed below the water-line by some kind of fungus, which had the same effect in Kew Gardens. I was advised to try lime, but it had no effect. I have suffered from the fungus this year, but not so badly; it ceases to give trouble after the second year. This border, which is ninety yards long, is confined to the germanica section. They flower during May and June, and make a bright show. Now we enter an old Rose garden, which, four years ago, we converted into a Camellia garden."

"The new occupants appear as if they had come to stay."

"They are going to grow just as freely as Laurels, and, I think, will prove quite as hardy. They like plenty of manure—top-feeding. On one tree alone there were quite a thousand flowers last year. Round one side of the garden is a border of Acers, with Azalea mollis planted out."

"What do you consider the most graceful of the Acers?"

"These are chiefly the palmatum section, of which dissectum is the most graceful. Other varieties are p. aureum, septemlobum, vitifolia, roseo-marginatum, ribesifolium, flavescens, and septemlobum laciniatum."

"The alcoves at each end of the terrace are, of course, quite a feature of the gardens."

"Yes, but perhaps you do not know that the stonework of the terrace and of the alcoves formed part of old London Bridge, which was pulled down in 1836. As you see, it is in a fine state of preservation, very massive, and quite unlike modern work. There is purposely nothing in the walk to hide the masonry, but in front of the mansion is a bed of Rhododendrons and Azalea mollis, while shrubs extend all the way along to the lodge gate."

"You have some magnificent Chestnuts."

"They are as fine as any in Bushey Park. The worst of Chestnuts is that it is difficult to get anything to grow under them. Now, Oaks, of which we have one four feet through, are the best trees for underneath cultivation. Other specimen trees include a Yew, about a hundred and twenty years old—fifty feet high; a Judas-tree chained up of the same age, several Hollies, a fine Lime, and some old Acacias. There are only two beds at this side of the house—one with Heliotrope Lord Roberts and Geranium Madame Crousse, and the other with the same Heliotropes and Geraniums Galilee."

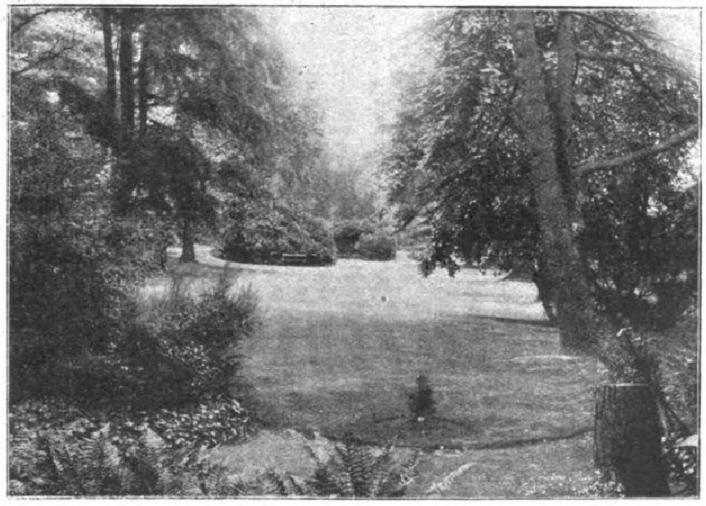
Climbers in the Conservatory.

"The pretty conservatory seems to be largely clothed outside with Heliotropes."

"And panels of Geraniums Galilee, McConnell, Souvenir de Charles Turner, and Baden-Powell, which grow up the sides of the conservatory three or four feet high. We try to keep the conservatory bright in winter. Azaleas are brought in, and Camellias and Palms are planted out."

"The climbers on the walls and roofs are very ornamental."

"One of the most notable is Abutilon Golden Fleece, which was only planted out in a border four years ago. It has been in flower since February. The Lapagerias include Nash Court, as well as alba and rosea. One of the most valued climbers is Passiflora cœrulea racemosa, a hybrid which we flower in the spring, and it keeps in bloom until the end of October. We just let it ramble as wide as it likes, and it trails down to the ground. Another beautiful variety of Passiflora is alato-cœrulea, and the Camellias planted out are japonica elegans and



THE LAWN AT STAWELL HOUSE, RICHMOND.

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C. H. Hovey. The Fuchsia planted out is General Roberts. Then, we have Habrothamnus elegans and H. aurantiacus; also the Brazilian Spider-flower, whose deep purple flowers, about the size of half a crown, from November to February, are much appreciated; in fact so much so that I planted another of the same variety in 1905, and hope to flower it this year."

Spring and Summer Bedding.

"Now as to the bedding outside."

"Very little bedding is purposely done so far as the lawn is concerned. There are just a few variegated Geraniums and Iresines planted under an old Sequoia tree, which, together with Cupressus and Cedars of Lebanon, are the principal trees in this part of the grounds. But the bedding, as far as it goes, is, I think, quite original. There are five beds, two round and three oval, and every year the contents differ. In one round bed are now Begonia semperflorens and Alyssum saxatile compactum, with Lord Roberts Fuchsias in the centre, a pink and white bed. In the spring this will be yellow Tulips and Forget-me-nots. The other round bed is scarlet and white, with Lobelias, and Geraniums Caroline Schmidt, edged with double Lobelia, Catharine Mallard. In the spring we shall have scarlet Tulips and double white Arabis."

"And the oval beds?"

"The centre of one consists entirely of Fuchsias, chosen to mass well, the varieties being Dr. Sanky, Wave of Life, Senator, Display, Gem of Lavington, Henry Henckle, Marinka, Amy Lye, and Rose Phenomenal. This is bedded in the spring with white Tulips and Myosotis. Another bed contains Geraniums Chelsea Gem and double blue Lobelias; in spring it will be filled with apricot Tulips and double white Arabis. The fifth bed consists of Fuchsias Mrs. Robbins and Begonias, edged by Géraniums. This, in spring, will contain purple Tulips and variegated Arabis."

"Under the windows you appear to use Geranium Paul Crampel only."

"Yes, it is the finest scarlet. We spring-bed under the windows with Narcissus Barrii conspicuus, and variegated Arabis. Thousands of Narcissi are naturalised in the grass for spring. On the house itself, the climbers are Wistarias (sinensis), Clematis montana, Magnolia grandiflora, and Buddleia Veitchiana. In the neighbourhood of the mansion is a remarkable Tulip-tree, with thousands of flowers, the blooming season lasting a couple of months. By way of contrast, in a tank, which used to be an old bed, is a little collection of choice Water Lilies. Then there is another stretch of trees, including Taxodium distichum, a couple of Magnolias, a fine specimen of Quercus angustifolia, and a bed of Rhododendrons ten feet high and twenty-five feet through. The walks are quite a feature here, and we are careful to keep the grass in good condition."

How to Grow Fuchsias.

"You have so many aspects of the gardens," I said, as we made our way into the space devoted to flowers and the houses.

"That no doubt adds to their beauty. Now I shall show you one of my specialities—I mean the Fuchsias, of which I grow about sixty-five varieties as standards. The best are Mrs. Rundle, Rose Phenomenal, Swanley Yellow, Mauve Queen, Abd-el-Kader, White Phenomenal, Beauty of Exeter, Amy Lye, Gertrude Pearson, Improved Rose of Castille, fulvens, and Lustre Improved."

"How do you treat them?"

"I take them up before the frost comes, store them in a dry shed safe from frost, start in small pots in February, and plant out about the end of May. I put a good strong stake to them, and then let them take their course. They are in flower from June until the end of September. I attach importance to a sheltered position, where they are not exposed to much sunshine."

Choice Dahlias.

"About on a par with your splendid show of Fuchsias are your Cactus Dahlias."

"I have tried to get the best, and I think I have done so. Here are the names: W. H. Sillens (scarlet), Dainty (rose-apricot), J. H. Jackson (scarlet), Columbia (tricolor), Mrs. Carter Page (scarlet), Flag of Truce (white), Primrose (very pale amber), Diabolo (Fancy Cactus), Mrs. J. W. Wilkinson (purple), Mrs. Crowe (yellow), Premier (orange-scarlet, different tints), Sunshine (pink), and Britannia (terra-cotta)."

Noticing a pretty combination of mauve and white Iris, with pillar Roses as a background, we came to a bed of Azalea indica in pots.

"Here," continued Mr. Lawrence, "is a mainstay of the conservatory. The varieties include Dutch Pearl, Niobe, Empress of India, Frank Walters, Louise van Hoste, Fielder's White and double scarlet, Talisman, Chicago, Madame van den Cruyssen, and President Oswald de Kerchove. Several colours are represented here, but we like the white the best. Another feature is the Pansies, the border of which is eighty feet long. These give a mass of flowers for six or eight weeks, and last for between five or six years. The less you interfere with them the better. I keep them clean by mulching, but never dig too near round them."

Clematis and Roses.

"Clematis growing on poles seems to be another of your features."

"We keep up as long a succession as possible, and cut the flowers for saucers for use in the house. The varieties include Marcelle Moser, Grand Duchess, Coccinea, Ville de Lyons, Jackmanni, Princess of Wales, and Countess of Onslow (a hybrid). Roses on single poles include Hiawatha, Field Marshal, Leuchstern, Euphrosyne, Dorothy Perkins, and Zepherine Drouhin (a very fine pillar Rose). The Roses on the pergola include Alister Stella Gray, Crimson Rambler, Tea Rambler, Carmine Pillar, Reine Olga de Wurtemburg, and Edmond Proust. The bushes are chiefly Teas and Hybrid Teas, of the best varieties."

"How many Chrysanthemums do you grow?"

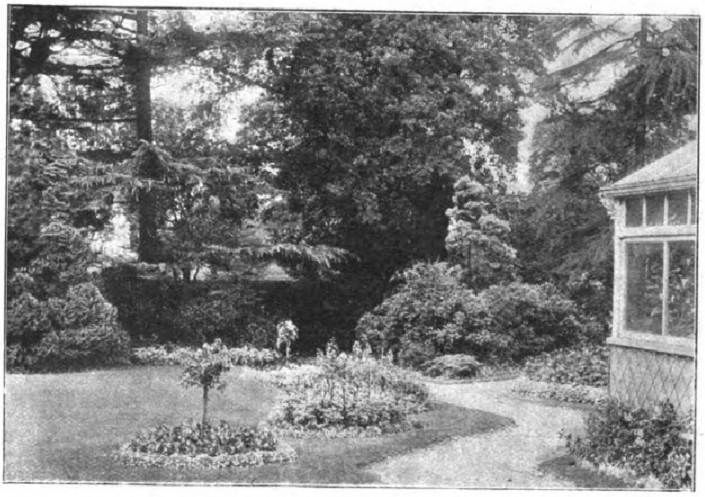
"About two hundred Japanese, and a hundred singles. The early Chrysanthemums now in flower include Bronze Masse, Goacher's Crimson, and Carrie. Some of the singles are Mary Richardson, Kitty Bourne, Mrs. Burt, Miss Annie Holder, Edgar Forbes, Eureka, Buttercup, Annie Forest, and Elsie Matthews. A few of the best Japanese are Madame P. Radaelli, Miss Elsie Fulton, Godfrey's O.K., Mrs. H. H. Hall, Mrs. B. Hankey, Algernon Davis, and F. S. Vallis."

"You have a quantity of hardy fruit in this garden?"

"Yes, Peaches, Nectarines, and Morello Cherries, all do remarkably well. For instance, we picked a hundred and fifty of Waterloo off one tree. Strawberries we only grow for two seasons, the varieties being Royal Sovereign, Bedfordshire Champion, Progress, Record, and Latest. Apricots and Plums do well on the east wall, and the dessert Pears are Pitmaston Duchess, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Winter Nelis, Beurre Superfin, Marie Louise, and Marguerite Marillat."

Caladiums and Crotons.

Entering one of the houses, I found it devoted entirely to Caladiums.



SOME OF THE FLOWER BEDS AT STAWELL HOUSE.

"I grow," said Mr. Lawrence, "about a hundred of these, and eighteen to twenty specimen plants. The best varieties include Flora Russell (a splendid new deep red), L'Automne, Rose Laing, R. Box, John Peed, Mrs. Elizabeth Hoffman, Rio de Janeiro, Her Majesty, and Cardinalis. I am very fond of foliage plants, and have shown Caladiums with considerable success. In the Rose house, where we grow flowers for use in the spring, are my seedling Fuchsias, sown in January. One is Duchess of York, a seedling from White and Scarlet Phenomenal, which, with five others, I hope to show at Richmond next year. In the stove is a collection of Crotons, some of which, shown at Richmond this year, won second prize."

"But you also got a first prize at Richmond."

"For six table plants—two Crotons (Lucy and Mrs. H. Green), two Aralias (elegantissima and Veitchii), and two Dracænas (Duchess of York and The Queen). There are a few Orchids—Dendrobiums, Calanthes, and Cypripediums chiefly, and in the Palm house are more Caladiums, Ferns in variety, and a particularly fine piece of Hedychium coronarium, which is sweet-scented. As to the other houses, in the early Vinery, where we begin to cut in June,

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are Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, and Muscats. Tomatoes are grown inside and out, the variety outside being Hillside Comet. Inside they are grown in pots and a box. They do better in the box, but I can take the pots out and put them elsewhere, whereas, if I take the boxes out, the plants die."

"How long have you been here, Mr. Lawrence?"

"Seven years." I was previously for ten years head gardener at Leckhampton House, Cambridge, where I had the pleasure of showing the gardens to many celebrities, including Mr. Balfour and the late Mr. H. M. Stanley. Before that I was about ten years at King's Farm Lodge. Both Mrs. Arbuckle and Major Arbuckle take a great interest in the gardens, and appreciate all the efforts that are made to improve or beautify them."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 379.—SOME GOOD ROSES, AND HOW TO MANAGE THEM.

DEAR KATE,—The planting season is now here, and this is the right time in which to put in a few good Roses, flowering shrubs, Pears, Apples, Plums, and other fruit trees. But there is such an *embarras de richesses* in the lists of the catalogues that it may be of use to you to have the names of a few of the most desirable varieties for the ordinary private garden, where the object is not so much to grow things for the show-board, as to obtain a plentiful supply of flowers and fruit for the home. Roses especially are apt to disappoint the amateur who relies only on the sight or descriptions of the magnificent blooms at the Rose shows, for many of those which can be coaxed to produce one or two enormous blossoms by special means, are dead failures under ordinary cultivation.

A BEAUTIFUL ROSE ARCH.

Twelve Dwarf Roses.

But I will now give you the names of a dozen of the strongest and most floriferous of the dwarf Roses, by which I mean the non-climbing sorts on their own roots or on a stock below the soil, which are better than on tall stocks. These are, I think, Anna Olivier (which is just now covered with its third mass of exquisite blooms in pale pink, with a crushed-strawberry centre, here); Betty, in lovely shades of shell-pink, also late-flowering; Frau Karl Druschki, the finest white Rose; Dean Hole, a grand Rose in silvery salmon-pink; Enchantress, creamy-white, and of perfect shape; Fisher Holmes, deep blood-red; Madame Abel Chatenay, with the most beautiful half-blown flowers, in rich shell-pink; Madame Cadeau Ramey, pale yellow, flushed with pink; Madame Ravary, large yellow flowers; Bouquet d'Or, the richest golden-yellow of all the dwarfs; Clio, with magnificent flowers in blush-pink; Caroline Testout, in rich deep pink, large and full; and Mildred Grant, with perfect flowers in ivory-white. I have omitted the well-known older Roses (such as La France, Gloire de Dijon, etc.), because you probably have them already, and, of course, there are others almost equally good; but the above list will not disappoint you.

Roses should be planted directly they arrive, soaking their roots first in tepid water. Each must have a space two feet each way in the border, with deeply-dug and good loam, enriched with old manure. But this impure material must not come in contact with their roots, as it is apt to canker them; and it is a good plan to lay three inches of fine soil from the kitchen garden, mixed with a little lime or charcoal, just below the roots, which should be spread out in their natural form horizontally, and then covered with the same compost, and trodden in very firmly. In planting grafted Roses, it is of importance that the graft should be buried about three inches below the soil, so as to give the Rose a chance of making its own roots above those of the stock. If the graft is uncovered, the stock is sure to throw up its own shoots, which eventually starve the Rose, unless constantly removed.

Roses on their Own Roots.

I much prefer Roses on their own roots, but they are not easy to get, unless you put in cuttings, and for this work there is no better time than the beginning of November. Slips of Roses are better than cuttings; they should be of this year's growth, about nine inches long, with a "heel" of the older wood. Trim off all the leaves except the two at the top, and put them at least six inches deep in the soil; the easiest way to do this is to open a slanting trench with a spade, lay some sharp sand or charcoal dust at the bottom of it, and arrange your slips, six inches apart, so that their heels rest firmly on this light material. Then cover in the trench, making the slips quite firm in the soil, and add a slight mulch of dry leaves. They will need no attention until the early spring, when most of them will have formed a callus, but not roots. This is a critical time for them, as an early drought or biting east winds may be fatal to them in this state; they should be thoroughly watered (giving enough to soak the subsoil), and then nearly covered with half-decayed leaves, to prevent evaporation; and, if carefully looked after for the first weeks of summer, they will quickly form roots, and make good plants by the autumn; but do not transplant them until October or November.

ROSE—ALISTER STELLA GRAY.

Rose slips can be induced to strike at almost any time of the year, but need much care to prevent drooping, if put in early. Summer cuttings or slips can be greatly aided by means of turning a good-sized jam-glass over each, burying the rim of this with soil, after watering the whole thoroughly. This prevents the leaves from drooping, and supports them through a warm, dry time; but if you want to have plenty of Rose trees on their own roots, with the least possible trouble and the greatest likelihood of rooting, put them in at the end of October, or early in November. In cold districts, they may need the shelter of a frame, but here this is quite unnecessary.

Twelve Climbing Roses for Walls.

If you want to know the best climbing Roses for a house or a wall, I should advise you to

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THE GARDENS AT BEECH HURST HAYWARDS HEATH.

IN a county celebrated for lovely gardens, Beech Hurst, the residence of Mr. H. Mansfield Knight, holds its own. Situated within a short distance of Haywards Heath, about five hundred feet above sea level, surrounded by the finest of Sussex scenery, it is very attractive from the outside. But entering the grounds from the drive, through an ornamental gateway, under the guidance of Mr. Lazell, the gardener, I was surprised by their beauty, and by the glorious perspective. Standing in the pretty summer house, which has been placed in such a position that the eye cannot fail to be gratified whichever way it looks, the effects of a departing thunderstorm increased rather than diminished the impression created by a first glance round. And it was accentuated when we made our way to the south front of the house. Here is a delightful terrace, and before inspecting the conservatory, or asking about the climbers, I enquired the contents of the borders at the foot of two flights of stone steps.

DESIGNS FOR TERRACE BORDERS.

"The background," said Mr. Lazell, "is made up of Wallflowers Improved Blood-red, Belvoir Castle Yellow, and Fairie Queen, pale terra-cotta. These are set off by a serpentine line of double white Arabis, and the bays, thus formed, are filled in front with large-flowered, crimson and white Daisies; at the back with Polyanthus in variety; the edging being one row of Aubrietias.

"The combination is so successful that I should like to know what the summer occupants will be."

"The background will be tall Heliotropes and Abutilon Thompsonii; the serpentine line will be traced with Pelargonium Mrs. Pollock; the back bay will be filled with pink varieties of Pelargoniums Mrs. Lawrence, Lord Derby, and Millfield Gem; the front bay with Begonia Fairy Queen, double white Petunias, and Lantanas. The edging will be made up with dark blue Lobelia and Alyssum Little Dorrit; while at intervals of about ten feet will be placed standard plants of Streptosolen Jamesonii. The vases—now filled alternately with Wallflowers, Myosotis Royal Blue and Ruth Fischer, a large-flowering variety—will in summer contain Ivy-leaved Geraniums Madame Crousse, Charles Turner, and Benedictus, alternating with Marguerite Queen Alexandra, Petunias, Cordyline indivisa, and Lobelia gracilis."

"The only creeper on the house seems to be Ampelopsis Veitchii?"

"Yes, and it covers both the south and west sides, giving a pleasing effect in the summer. In the autumn the colouring of deep red is magnificent. The conservatory is always kept gay with Ferns and Palms, and flowers according to the season. Just now the principal are Schizanthus and Cineraria stellata, which will be followed by Calceolarias and Pelargoniums. The roof is adorned with baskets of flowers and Ferns; also with creepers Plumbago capensis and Cobæa scandens."

BEDDING COMBINATIONS.

"I notice that Rhododendrons and Azaleas are a feature of the informal bedding on the lawn."

"There are about seventy plants of the best varieties of Rhododendrons, including Pink Pearl, Doncaster, Gomer Waterer, Sappho, and Lady Hillingdon, planted in threes. In the three Azalea beds are such varieties as Davesii, Ellen Cuthbert, Anthony Koster, Apple Blossom, Beauté Celeste, and Fanny. These are intercepted, at intervals, with Acer palmata in variety. For a burst of colour to succeed the Azaleas, there will be Liliums and Gladioli, with an edging of Viola Countess of Kintore. These beds have been dug out two feet deep and filled with new loam and peat."

"When were they made and planted?"

"During the past winter. As to other beds, two are filled with Aubrietias and giant-flowered white Daisies as dot plants; and two with Violas Maggie Mott and Bridal Morn. These were preceded by Hyacinths Blue King and Queen of Belgium. They will be followed in summer with Antirrhinums. Several beds now occupied with Wallflowers, Polyanthus, and Myosotis, will be succeeded with tuberous-rooted Begonias. One bed will be planted with standard

MR. H. LAZELL.

Streptosolen Jamesonii, and a grand walk of Calceolaria Golden Gem; another with Pelargonium Paul Crampel, edged with Cineraria maritima. A large bed will be devoted to standard Geranium Madame Crousse, carpeted with Heliotrope Lord Roberts, edged by Verbenas and Lobelias."

"Please tell me the names of the varieties of Pillar Roses on the rustic screen at the end of the tennis courts."

"They include Frau Karl Druschki, Captain Christy, Gruss an Teplitz, Juliet, Caroline Testout, Paul Transon, Climbing Devoniensis, and Bouquet d'Or. The screen was built in the shape of one side of a pergola, with the idea that it could take the place of boundary nets while playing tennis."

SHRUBS FOR EFFECT.

"Then, there are trees and shrubs?"

"The most notable trees are the specimen Oaks and a very fine Copper Beech. The shrubberies were planted for colour and decorative effect in each season of the year with deciduous and evergreen shrubs, Laurels being gradually discarded and replaced with choice varieties. Rhododendrons are prominent, and as they do not take kindly to the clay soil, they have had their roots exposed and been given a liberal dressing of peat. The flowering shrubs include Prunus Pissardi, Ribes, Cerasus flore plena alba, C. Veitchii, Laburnums, Lilacs Charles X., Marie Legraye, Souvenir de Louis Spath; Hawthorn, crimson, pink, and white; Weigela Van Houttei, a variety with variegated foliage, also florida and rosea; Philadelphus; Guelder Rose, and Spiræas cantonensis, Anthony Waterer, and Douglasi. The principal evergreen flowering shrubs are Laurustinus, Berberis buxifolia, Darwinii, and aquifolium; Olearia Haastii, Escallonias macrantha and rubra; Erica lusitanica; Veronica buxiflora, Traversii, Blue Gem, Andersonii, and japonica. For autumn and winter, the Japanese and American Oaks, Acer negundo variegata, Golden Privet, Euonymus, golden and silver Hollies, and Cupressus lutea, give good effects."

THE ROCKERY AND THE ROSERY.

"I conclude that the rockery was rather recently established?"

"It is the latest of the numerous additions made by Mr. Knight since he purchased the property three years ago. There is a representative collection of Alpines and rock plants, the most conspicuous being Saxifrages, Sedums in variety, Campanula fragilis, and Myosotis alpestris."

"The Rosery, of course, is not new?"

"No; it was made some years ago. Laid out in geometrical design, with ornamental arches, the centre is a hexagon-shape dome, about twenty-five feet in height, covered with Dorothy Perkins, which in summer is a mass of pink blossom. The arches are planted with such varieties as Cheshunt Hybrid, Captain Christy, Wallflower, Longworth Rambler, Madame Berard, Reine Olga de Wurtemberg, Tea Rambler, and Veilchenbleue. The beds are filled with one variety in each, the favourites being Lady Ashdown, La France, Black Prince, Madame Abel Chatenay, Harold Brocklebank, Hugh Dickson, Caroline Testout, Konegin, Corola, and Marie van Houtte. The two wide borders on either side are filled with all the most popular varieties, about two thousand plants being employed. The weeping standards include Alberic Barbier, Gardiniere, Hiawatha, Wedding Bells, Rene Andre, Lady Gay, and Tausendschon; and the poles are clothed with Ramblers of the varieties already named. The borders and beds are edged with dwarf Polyantha Roses Perle d'Or, Mignonette, La Bongiugnon, and Aschenbrodel.

"Next," continued Mr. Lazell, "we come to the new lawn and shrubbery with a pergola, from which Roses have been carefully excluded, except at the end, the arbour being covered by a beautiful Tea Rambler."

"Altogether, the effect of this addition is most impressive. What are the varieties on the pergola?"

"Vitis Henryi, Polygonum Baldschuanicum, Forsythia, Vitis coigneteæ, Vitis purpurea, Clematis Jackmanni, Stella, Belle of Woking, montana rosea, and flammea; Actenidia chinensis, Wistaria sinensis and multijuga alba; Akebia, Japanese Honeysuckles, Passiflora, Euonymus radicans, Ceanothus, and Azureus Gloire de Versailles. The borders are planted with Antirrhinums, Pæony Countess of Clancarty, Anchusa italica Dropmore, and filled in with annuals."

BEECH HEDGES.

At this point the significance of the name of the place was vividly brought before me by the wonderful Beech hedges, with the rain glistening in the sunlight, surrounding the kitchen garden, while on the left of the kitchen garden is an orchard planted with up-to-date varieties, chiefly Apples.

"First of all," I said, "I should like to know about the flowers in the kitchen garden?"

"There are two borders filled with annuals, in quite fifty varieties. The tallest row embraces Larkspurs, Godetias, Chrysanthemums, and Helichrysums, which make a fine show. Of

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Sweet Peas we make a special border. They are grown chiefly to make a bold effect, and to have plenty to cut. The six best varieties are Thomas Stevenson, Andrew Aitken (pink), Scarlet Emperor, White Spencer, Othello Spencer, and Maud Holmes. We edge both the Sweet Pea and annual borders with Violas Maggie Mott, Kitty Bell, Archie Grant, Mrs. Black (yellow), White Beauty, and Bridal Morn, about fifteen hundred being grown for edging purposes."

FEATURES OF THE HERBACEOUS BORDERS.

"What is the principle of the two herbaceous borders?"

"There is no special principle, either of colour or arrangement, but the tall-growing varieties are planted at the back in rows, and the dwarfs in front. Amongst the earliest to flower are the Pæonies, Countess of Clancarty and John Kelway. These are followed by herbaceous Phlox in many varieties; Delphiniums, Heleniums, Pyrethrums, Michaelmas Daisies (old-fashioned varieties), Solidagos, Helianthemums, Heuchera sanguinea and hybrids, Oriental Poppies, and Rudbeckia Newmanii. The bare space in the borders is filled in with annuals, especially Salpiglossis, which finds the soil here congenial; Stocks, Asters, Scabious, and Dianthus."

"With regard to fruit, you combine the ornamental and the useful, the gravel paths being embellished by espalier and cordon Apples and Pears?"

"Yes, we grow a tremendous number of these, but the Apples do best on the bush trees, and the Pears on the walls. To select a few of the best Apples is not very easy, but I think I should give the first place to Cox's Orange Pippin, King of the Pippins, Blenheim Orange, Ribston Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, and Benoni, a very early dessert Apple, of nice flavour, when the Apples are picked straight from the trees. The six best cooking varieties are Bramley's Seedling, Lane's Prince Albert, Pott's Seedling, Hawthornden, Beauty of Stoke, and Dumelow's Seedling. The best dessert Pears are Doyenne du Comice, Marie Louise, Conference, Williams's Bon Chretien, Beurre Diel, and Thompson; and the only two stewing varieties, Catillac and Verulam. Plums, like Pears, do best on the walls, but we get good crops in the orchard, and grow all the leading varieties. As a rule, Peaches out of doors are very successful, but this year a frost of seven and a half degrees has played havoc with them."

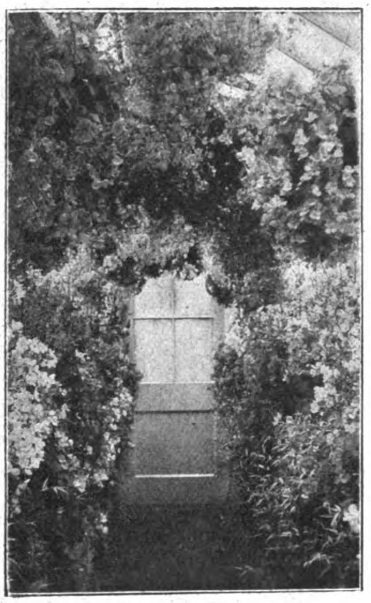
FAVOURITE VEGETABLES.

"Are there any favourite vegetables?"

"Peas have decidedly a front place, and the season lasts from June to October, They begin with Early Giant, Daisy, and Duke of Albany, and end with Selected Gladstone, which is always reliable. The Runner Beans are Sutton's Prizewinner and Ai. Asparagus being preferred bleached, we cover the beds with litter. Celery is much sought after, and salads are wanted all the year round. We grow Onions Ailsa Craig two pounds in weight; Seakale is forced; and amongst others Kohl Rabi is also in request."

NEW PELARGONIUMS.

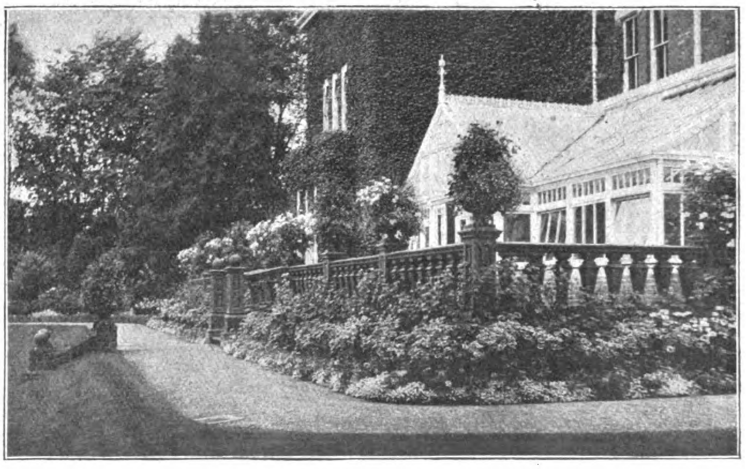
Proceeding to the plant houses, my attention was at once attracted by a great show of Schizanthus in the cool greenhouse, which had been in flower since the first of April. They were similar to the flowers in the conservatory, but in the mass looked more imposing. Adjoining these were several pots of Mignonette, Sutton's Pet, which perfumed the air, and in another direction Auriculas, including a seedling from Gipsy Girl and Lady Dudley, with other named varieties, still maintained a brave appearance.



THE BEGONIA HOUSE AT BEECH HURST.

On the opposite stage were many Pelargoniums, and I enquired the names of the varieties.

"They are nearly all new varieties, and include Lord Bute, Lady Bute, Butterfly, Queen Mary, Czar of Russia, and Lydia."



THE SOUTH TERRACE, BEECH HURST.

"How long have you grown Aquilegias indoors?"

"For several seasons. They are raised from seed, planted out, and kept out for twelve months; then we dig them up and put in pots during September and October, bringing them inside at the end of October, and keeping them as cool as possible. They will not stand much forcing, but the experiment has certainly proved a distinct success. The plants have been in bloom since April 1st, the flowers have been largely used for decorating the tables, and we consider that they are not less beautiful than Orchids. The strain is Sutton's Longspur."

TREATMENT OF CALCEOLARIAS.

"The show Calceolaria is quite a great feature of your plant houses?"

"One of their great recommendations is that they last three months in flower, and that the foliage is as decorative as the blooms. We only grow Veitch's Giant Mixed, but almost every shade of colour is represented except blue, and that cannot be got."

"Is the treatment difficult?"

"Calceolarias are peculiar. They either do exceedingly well, or are complete failures. In addition to the seventy plants in large pots, we grow the miniature varieties, which are useful for edging the larger in the conservatory, where we shall make a great show early in May."

"When do you sow the seed?"

"In August, and prick off into leaf-soil and sand. For the 3-in. pots I use loam, leaf-soil, and sand, and a similar mixture for the 6-in. pots. In the final pots the compost consists of three parts loam, one part leaf-soil, half part Mushroom manure, with mortar rubble and a fair sprinkling of bonemeal. The greatest enemy of the Calceolaria is green-fly; in fact, it is the only one we are troubled with, and I am glad to say that by fumigating the plants once a week, I am able to keep them exceedingly healthy. Care should be taken to put the plants on an ash bottom, well syringe between them twice a day, and shade them from the sun. I find that they always respond to careful treatment."

"Your Carnations look flourishing?"

"We are gradually discarding Malmaisons and substituting Trees, of which we have between three hundred to three hundred and fifty. The two best crimsons are Triumph and Carola; the best salmons Lady Northcliffe and Empire Day; the best pinks, R. F. Felton, Enchantress, May Day, Lady Allington, and Baroness de Brienen; in white, White Wonder stands first, nad then Niagara and White Perfection; the best scarlets, Britannia and Beacon; the best heliotropes, Countess of Onslow, Geisha, and Fairmount; the best Fancies, Fireglow and Aurora; and mention must also be made of Rose Dore, pink and red. The cream of the Malmaisons are Princess of Wales, Horace Hutchinson, Maggie Hodgson, Princess Mary, and Nell Gwynne. We depend a good deal upon tuberous-rooted Begonias, Ware's strain, with colours varying from white to pink, and on to crimson. They start flowering in June, and go on until October. I always keep them in the greenhouse; they do not like conservatory treatment."

"Do you go in largely for Streptocarpus?"

"We have about fifty plants, and they give us flowers from May until November. Like Begonias, they grow well in a cool greenhouse, with plenty of moisture between the pots."

"What about Chrysanthemums?"

CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND CYLAMEN.

"We flower one hundred and fifty of the Japanese, and the same number of the single and bush. But the singles are driving the bush varieties out of the field altogether. The Chrysanthemums are, of course, now in the frames, but we put them in their final pots this month, stand them on ashes, and bring them in during September."

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"We are working on our own strain of Cyclamen, and stick to half a dozen colours, white, crimson, salmon, pink, rose, and white with a purple base. We grow about two hundred, and find it better not to exceed that number. Foliage plants are not largely grown, but in the winter a feature is made of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine. Last year we had plants three feet six inches through. They are very useful for baskets and for the decoration of the conservatory."

"I see you force Strawberries."

"We started fruiting early in March, and the supply is kept up from the outside until the middle of July. A new bed is planted every year, a condition which should always be observed in the cultivation of Strawberries. The varieties are Royal Sovereign, Fillbasket, Gunton Park, Laxton's Select, and Lady Suffield. Mr. Knight is very fond of Melons, and we grow King George, Hero of Lockinge, and Superlative. The best Cucumber for early use is Everyday. We also use Matchless and Improved Telegraph. All the Grapes are grown in one Vinery with inside borders."

"How long does the season last with one house only?"

"From July to January—just six months. The varieties are Muscat of Alexandra, Alicante, Black Hamburgh, and Madresfield Court. In the Peach house the varieties are Dymond, Belgarde, Royal George, and Nectarine Pineapple."

THE TREE TOMATO.

"There is one kind of fruit which I believe is rarely grown. It is Cyphomandra betacea, or the Tree Tomato. We have it to supply fruit for stewing in winter. The fruit was introduced from India by my employer, and bears a close resemblance to Plums. It is held in high esteem, both because it grows very rapidly and because it is very pleasant in flavour, when ready for table."

"How soon does it fruit?"

"In eighteen months after it has been planted. The fruit forms in summer, ripens in autumn, and will hang throughout the winter."

MR. LAZELL'S CAREER.

"Many of your plants and blooms are up to the highest showing points. Do you exhibit?"

"Yes, we do show, and have been very successful in various directions. I began my career with five years' experience at Harwood Hall, Upminster; was then journeyman at Hayes Place, in Kent, where some showing was done. I was next foreman at Marshalswick, St. Albans, and eight years ago I came here as foreman. Three years since Mr. Knight entrusted me with the charge of the gardens. He is very keenly interested in their development and adornment, and we do our best to make the most of the eight acres under cultivation."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week: The gardens at Sezincot, the seat of Mr. J. S. Dugdale, in the Cotswold Hills, will be described.

PERPETUAL-FLOWERING CARNATIONS.

THE BEST VARIETIES FOR AMATEURS.

WITH so many fine varieties of tried merit, to which must be added the numerous new kinds recently introduced by English and American growers, it is a rather difficult and invidious task to select the best set of Carnations; but in the list given below I have included only those varieties which I have personally tried, and found to be in every way satisfactory. It must not, however, be assumed that all the varieties omitted are not worth growing, for if room can be spared for them, many are eminently worth a trial.

WHITES.

White Enchantress.—A sport from the famous pink variety, with the same habit of growth. A fine white.

White Perfection.—In my opinion the purest and best white in cultivation when well grown; a perfect model. The blooms are of good build and depth, with a non-splitting calyx; strongly scented.

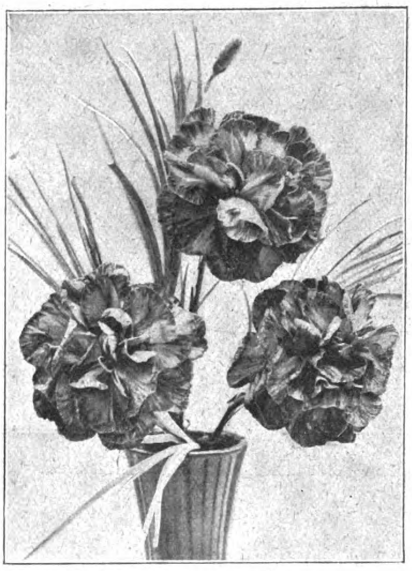
White Wonder.—A 1906 seedling from White Perfection, but larger flowers and stronger stems and calyx; much more vigorous than its parent, but not a freer bloomer; a good disease resister; flowers handsome and well proportioned. Its chief fault lies in a long period of waiting between first and second flowering.

White House.—Resembling white Enchantress; strongest Clove-scented Carnation yet raised; rather liable to stem rot.

Sarah Hill.—Of good habit, but does not last long in a cut state; highly perfumed.

PINK.

Baroness de Brienen.—A new and superb variety. One of the largest, if not the largest, of all the Perpetuals. Flowers a delightful shade of salmon-pink, upwards of four inches in diameter; stems short and thick; a strong grower, with good foliage; serrated petals. A fine show variety.



BORDER CARNATION MISS ETHEL ELLSON.

This handsome Border Carnation is sent out by one of the most celebrated Carnation specialists in the country—Messrs. Arthur R. Brown, Ltd., Wychall Nurseries, Kings Norton, Birmingham.

Enchantress.—An old but still popular variety; delicate shade of flesh pink; an easy grower, of good habit, and finest quality; a great favourite.

Gloriosa.—A beautiful soft pink; flowers of good form, with full high centre; a quick, healthy grower.

Colossus.—Deep rosy-cerise; one of the largest-flowering plants in cultivation. Similar in type to Enchantress, to which it is related. Slightly scented.

Pink Delight.—Shell-pink; an excellent keeper. February-struck cuttings are the best for this variety.

Admiration.—A beautiful shade of rosy-flesh-pink, with a fine satin finish. The same size and type as Enchantress, but of far superior form and colour.

May Day.—An exquisitely formed Carnation, with shell-shaped petals. A fine satin-pink shade, of perfect habit; a free grower; never splits its calyx. One of the very best for amateurs.

R. F. Felton.—A lovely shade of soft rose-pink; a strong, free grower, with large flowers and good calyx, but somewhat subject to rust.

Winsor.—A really meritorious Carnation. Full flowering, and of easy culture. A delicate shade of silvery-pink; flowers of rather rough appearance, but of good substance; invaluable for cutting.

A RICH SALMON-PINK.

Lady Allington.—This is undoubtedly one of the finest Carnations ever raised; rich salmon-pink in colour; very large flower, with full centre and long stem; a quick grower, making many fresh shoots, richly scented, and a favourite variety. The flowers are seen to great advantage under artificial light.

Mrs. H. Burnett.—An exquisite shade of salmon-pink, of good form, medium size, strong Clove scent; very easy to grow, but rather liable to disease if grown outdoors.

Rose-pink Enchantress.—A sport from and identical in growth with Enchantress, of perfect rose-pink colour; a great favourite.

Winona.—Rose-pink, a very free variety, but blooms of small size.

Mrs. T. W. Lawson.—A deep pink; a good type, but now almost entirely superseded by Winsor.

J. SMITH.

(To be continued.)

LOVELY LAPAGERIAS.

IT seems a pity that so many people who own greenhouses, and who are interested in climbing plants, should fight shy of the Lapagerias. I regard them for the roof of a house as amongst the loveliest subjects one can have. It would be foolish to say that they can be grown with as little ease as any other creeper. They need some slight extra attention, but for this they repay twentyfold. Think of greenhouse rafters partly covered with a creeper, the blooms of which hang like so many bells of rose and white, and you have some idea of the effect—but only partially, for to appreciate the beauty of a roof with these chalice-like blooms depending, they must be seen.

PREPARING THE BORDER.

Now and again they are grown in large pots, but to my mind they are never at their best when the roots are thus confined. The better plan is to plant them out in a border within the house. This border should be dug out to a depth of three feet, layering the bottom with pieces of brick or mortar rubble. Soil ought to be good turf, with peat or leaf-mould and sharp sand. Keep the space about the roots clear, so that light may reach the bed. Once established and reaching the rafters, they soon make headway, and are not long before they bloom.

A word of caution is needed, in avoiding a mass of shoots that are not wanted. It is more profitable in every way to grow three or four shoots that will not impede light too much, than to fill the roof with a lot of shoots, weak and worthless.

In hot weather the roof should be shaded, as if this is not done the plants become debilitated, and prematurely worn out.

One may grow Lapagerias satisfactorily in an ordinary greenhouse, but in a house heated only slightly beyond the normal, greater success will usually follow. They like ample moisture, and the bed should receive a soaking of tepid water when necessary.

One point sometimes overlooked is that in affording the house ventilation, especially from the roof, the weather must be taken into account, as these plants dislike cold currents of air. As a general rule, a somewhat humid atmosphere suits them best.

GERSHOM.

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Lee, James (1715–1795), *nurseryman*
by B. D. Jackson, *rev.* Anne Pimlott Baker
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Lee, James (1715–1795), nurseryman, was born in Selkirk, Scotland. He may have been a pupil at the grammar school in Selkirk, as he knew Latin. About 1732 he set out to walk to London, but when he reached Lichfield he caught smallpox. After he had recovered he completed his journey, and may have worked under Philip Miller at the Chelsea Physic Garden before he became gardener at Syon House, near Brentford, Middlesex. He later worked for the duke of Argyll at Whitton, Middlesex, an estate famous for its exotic plants.

About 1745 Lee and Lewis Kennedy (*d*. 1782) started the Vineyard nursery in Hammersmith, on the site of a former vineyard. Lee was a correspondent of Linnaeus, who named a genus, *Leea*, after him (a genus of tropical plants of the Vitaceae family); Lee's translation of Linnaeus's *Philosophia Botanica*, under the title of *Introduction to Botany* (1760, 10th edition 1810), was the first description of the sexual system of plants to appear in English. This work made Lee famous, bringing visitors from all over the world to the Vineyard nursery, including Pierre-Joseph Redoute, painter of the flowers at Malmaison. The nursery specialized in exotic plants, employing plant and seed collectors at the Cape of Good Hope and in the Americas. In 1771 Lee was one of a group of people who exchanged exotic plants with the Chelsea Physic Garden. In 1774 Kennedy and Lee issued a plant catalogue, and customers included Thomas Jefferson. The Vineyard nursery was the first supplier to sell the fuchsia commercially, in 1789, and it also introduced the *Buddleia globosa* from Peru. Lee published *Rules for Collecting and Preserving Seeds from Botany Bay* (*c*.1787), and in 1788 he raised the first seeds to be brought back from Botany Bay—the ‘saw-leaved Banksia’ was the first plant—and went on to specialize in plants from New Holland (Australia). The Vineyard was also said to have raised the first China rose, in 1787. Lee contributed to W. Aiton's *Hortus Kewensis* (1789), and the second edition (1810–1813) lists 135 plants first introduced into England, or first cultivated by the Vineyard nursery, during Lee's lifetime. The nursery survived until the 1890s. The exhibition hall at Olympia was built on the site.

Lee's wife, Martha, died in 1779. They had one son, Charles, who took over the nursery after Lee's death in partnership with Kennedy's son, and three daughters, including Ann Lee, a botanical artist. Lee died in Hammersmith, Middlesex, on 25 July 1795.

B. D. JACKSON, *rev*. ANNE PIMLOTT BAKER

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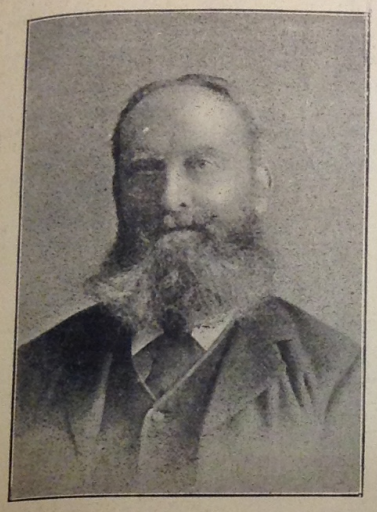
virtue, but it is clear from this passage that it existed in Shakespeare's time, and, probably, long before.

June 2nd.—Looking through an old gardening book, I find the whole duty of the window or room gardener towards his plants admirably summarised. "Keep them," says the author,



MR. R. LEES.

"as near the light as you can; give them all the air you can; water them the instant they want it, but not before; see that they are put into larger pots as soon as the present ones are full of roots; keep their leaves clean by washing now and then; stir the surface of the soil when it seems run together, or has become mossy—and your plants will be healthy. This is all the mystery about growing plants in dwelling-houses; and, even in smoky London, plants treated in this way would last three times as long as even careful people keep them, for there are as many killed with overkindness as with neglect." The concluding sentence is severe on nurserymen. "Cruelty to plants is not an offence at common law, and those who supply millions annually, to be starved or drowned, would be sorry to see a check on either cruelty or kindness." So if a Bill dealing with the matter were to be introduced into Parliament, I suppose we should have to count upon their opposition. One of the most frequent causes of mortality among plants—draughts—is omitted, but the author, elsewhere, utters a warning against saucers. At any rate, if they are used, all water which runs through the soil into them, should be emptied away.

June 3rd.—In many gardens there are unsightly buildings which have to be hidden. The photograph shows one which has been completely transformed. Climbers cover up the wall; a handsome Crab stands in front; then there is a mixed border containing Yuccas, Roses, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials. If a climbing Rose had been allowed to clamber up through the Crab, and tumble over the roof, the effect would have been perfect.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

HIGH PRICES FOR ORCHIDS.—At their Cheapside rooms, recently, Messrs. Protheroe and Morris sold a hundred lots of Orchids, and one of them was knocked down to a bid of 875 guineas. So far as the auction-room is concerned, this figure constitutes a record price. The flower in question, the Odontoglossum Crispum, Roger Sander, ranks among the finest existing varieties.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 192.—MR. R. LEES, AT THE GARDENS, KENRY HOUSE, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.

AMONG the few large gardens close to London which retain all their original charms, and afford retirement as complete as if they were a hundred miles away from the capital, are those of Kenry House, the seat of the Earl of Dunraven, near Kingston-on-Thames. An interesting fact is that they have been in charge of Mr. R. Lees, the present head gardener, ever since Lord Dunraven purchased the estate, a period of thirty-three years. Mr. Lees, as may be imagined, has seen many changes in the district, but, as I soon perceived, on the occasion of my visit in the middle of April, the natural beauty of the place itself, and the outlook from the terrace in front of the house, must be included in its numerous attractions. So, also, must the American Walk, full of American shrubs, close to the entrance, where I at once noticed the luxuriance of the Rhododendrons.

"Both Rhododendrons and Azaleas," said Mr. Lees, "do well on this gravelly soil, and for the former we cart a sufficient quantity of peat. The Rhododendrons had a good start. I suppose that the ponticums were planted close upon a century ago. Kenry gardens are the oldest of any on the Coombe Wood estate."

"How many acres are under your care?"

"Thirty-six, including a meadow."

Proceeding along a shady avenue, we came to what is called the Fountain Garden, which used to be sacred to the young ladies of the family. There is still a little bedding in it, and the situation, which is due north, suits the Irises in particular. The next feature was the Rose arbour, with its representation of a black boy in the centre, the principal Rose grown being the old Ayrshire. Near here are some fine Cedars of considerable antiquity, and a Rose border which was planted by Mr. Lees when he came to Kenry House.

"This year," he continued, "I have replanted the border with Roses of different varieties, Hybrid Perpetuals, Teas, and Noisettes. Lately, we have quite done away with formal bedding, and substituted tennis lawns."

"You have a very handsome conservatory?"

"Yes, and we grow, among other plants, a quantity of Azalea mollis for decorating it."

"How many Eupatoriums do you grow?"

"About two dozen of two varieties, E. Weismannii and E. riparium. The former is the better variety for cutting. The Eupatorium is a graceful plant, and keeps in bloom from January to April. I take the cuttings in April, plant them out, and pot them up in the autumn for winter flowering. There is no difficulty in cultivation; it is similar to that of a Fuchsia. On the roof is Eucalyptus globulus, which not only bears a mass of bloom, but is a nice, clean climber."

"When did you plant your Oranges and Lemons here?"

"About three years ago. I previously had them in pots. In fact, the Oranges are still in pots. The fruit is edible. They are good varieties. I prefer Bougainvillea Wassawissia to B. glabra; the flower is brighter."

"In addition to a nice lot of Palms, I see you have a collection of Amaryllis."

"They are seedlings, about fifty, and include one or two handsome flowers. Arums, by the way, I treat much the same as Eupatoriums. The other climbers are Rhyncospermum jasminioides (a pretty pillar plant), and Solanum jasminioides (a good climber for covering a large space in a short time)."

"Growing over the dining-room, I observe you have a fine specimen of Wistaria sinensis."

"Unfortunately, the sparrows often take the bloom-buds and spoil it."

Along the whole width of the terrace is a new herbaceous border, made this year, about nine feet wide, and I inquired the contents.

"Chiefly Galegas, Pæonies, Doronicums, Pyrethrums, Phloxes, Hollyhocks, Tritomas, Delphiniums, Michaelmas Daisies in variety, and Canterbury Bells. On the other side is a similar mixture; and on the walls are Figs and Roses, Choisya ternata, Berberis Darwinii, Ceanothus of sorts, Escallonias in variety, Bignonia grandiflora, Berberis stenophylla, and Magnolia grandiflora Exmouth. The system is to plant the climbers upon the supports, leaving spaces between the Roses. There are also a number of beds, not formal, with Cannas, Heliotropes, Marguerites, and variegated Maize."

"Roses are also grown in beds?"

"Yes, there are nine, the varieties being Ulrich Brunner, Charles Lefebvre, Viscountess Folkestone, Victor Hugo, Madame Victor Ver-

KENRY HOUSE AND CONSERVATORY FROM THE EAST.

dier, Madame Gabriel Luizet, and Prince Camille de Rohan. Roses do well, but the soil is all made for them. The old herbaceous border, facing these, is a hundred and forty-four yards long."

"We have not mentioned the Myrtle on the support."

"It has been standing out between four and five years, and, no doubt, does so well because it is sheltered from the north and east."

Then we strolled through an orchard containing Apple and Pear trees and Walnuts—including the Apple Schiabreadth, which can be used either for dessert or cooking purposes—into a sort of wild garden, which forms a part of The Wood. Here, on the site of a pond which was filled up about twelve years ago, have been planted Lilacs, Spiræas, Ripens, Guelder Roses, and Philadelphus, the last in several varieties, almost all white flowers, but of different size.

"They are slow-growing, but nice for cutting," remarked Mr. Lees, as I noticed another long border full of spring-flowering plants.

"These," he said, "will be followed by low-growing, herbaceous plants. A space close to this border is devoted to herbs, such as Horseradish, Tarragon, Sage, Mint, Thyme, and Sorrel."

"And another space to herbaceous Pæonies?"

"Yes, all the light-growing varieties, mainly white and sulphur-yellow, which are in flower about the middle of May."

Entering the exceedingly fine kitchen garden, about an acre and a-half in extent, which is arranged in a manner at once skilful and imposing, the first thing that I saw was a splendid specimen of Magnolia conspicua, with masses of bloom. I asked its age.

"We have had it between fifteen and sixteen years," replied Mr. Lees. "Close by are specimens of Magnolia purpurea Lernie, which some think is more beautiful than M. conspicua, because the flowers have more colour."

"What varieties of Peaches and Nectarines are grown on the walls?"

"We only grow them outside. The walls are well sheltered, but the trees have never been covered. The Peaches are Noblesse, Gladstone, Stirling Castle, Dymond, and Bellegarde; the Nectarines, Lord Napier, Rivers' Early, and Elruge. We always get a good crop, if anyone in the locality does. In the border below the Peaches, facing the meadow, we used to have vegetables. Now, in addition to Pæonies, we grow Stocks, Asters, and Marigolds. On the west wall are Cherries, mostly Morellas. Indeed, they are the only Cherries which thrive. I have tried others, but owing, I suppose, to the absence of chalk, they will not do."

"Pears seem to be rather a feature?"

"There are nice old trees of Beurré Rance and Glou Morceau behind the stable wall. On the south-east wall are more Glou Morceau and Beurré Rance. Beurré Superfin, Gansel's Bergamot, Marie Louise, Beurré Hardy, Pitmaston Duchess, Marie Benoist, Olivier de Serres, and Comte de Lamy, an excellent little Pear. On the south wall are more Peaches and Nectarines, with additional varieties, Alexander, Violette Hative, and Osprey, the latter as late a Peach as you can get to flourish outside."

"When did you plant your Damson trees?"

"Just three years since. Bradley's King is the largest of all Damsons. It has fruited and does well here."

"The Apples are chiefly on standards?"

"Yes. They include Red Oldenburg, Nelson Codlin, Scarlet Nonpareil, and Lancashire Fillbasket (a fine cropper and a good cooker). Other Pears not on the walls are Duchess d'Angouleme, Marie Louise, Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Superfin, Beurré Diel, Louise Bonne of Jersey, and Williams's Bon Chrétien."

"Which variety of Strawberry is your favourite?"

"Royal Sovereign. But Lucas J. Veitch, The Laxton, and Latest of All do well. Raspberries, which it should always be remembered want moving frequently, are Superlative, Victoria, and Falstaff. Directly the fruit begins to ripen, we throw a net across, over the iron framework."

"What about Plums and bush fruit?"

"The Plums, which were planted in 1894, are Victoria, Late Transparent, Kirke's, and Coe's Golden Drop. The trees not only look well, but crop well, too. Two good varieties of Black Currant are Lee's Prolific and Ogden's Black. We suffer a little from the mite. Red and White Currants, grown up the centre of the garden, generally do well."

"You grow vegetables on the slopes, I conclude, as I notice that Turnips are just coming through."

"We also sow pretty closely at this season, so that if the frost cuts off one crop, we may get another. The Potatoes just coming through are Sharpe's Victor and Ashleaf. The former is very good for forcing. We are only trying Northern Star this year for the first time. The Onions opposite are James's Keeping and Brown Globe, old-established varieties."

"Do you go in for many varieties of Peas?"

"The earliest are Chelsea Gem, American Wonder, and William Hurst. Exonian is a good early variety, and Acme a later one. I sow Spinach when I sow Peas, and it comes off before the Peas come on. Carrots (Early Nana) are grown on the slopes, and Lilies of the Valley close to them. There are three varieties of Beet—Dell's, Nutting's, and the Globe. Dell's is often grown for the sake of its dark foliage, and used for ornamental bedding."

A very old house, originally a Vinery, is used for bringing on plants for the conservatory, and on the shelves were a nice batch of Fuchsias (Mrs. Marshall and Covent Garden), also a quantity of Primula obconica.

"We fruit Tomatoes indoors," said Mr. Lees. "The varieties are Sutton's Earliest of All, Home Superior, Up-to-Date, Golden Jubilee, and Chemere, a French variety, which bears well, but is not so smooth as the English varieties. It is suitable for out of doors. The late Tomatoes are growing in pots for planting out. The scented Verbena and the scented Geranium may be mentioned among the contents of this house."

"Was the iron house also formerly a Vinery?"

"Yes, but the Vines were taken out sixteen or seventeen years ago, and Roses planted. The best is Madame Berard, but other good varieties here are Charles Lefebvre, Bouquet d'Or, Reine Marie Henriette, Selina Forrester, and Cheshunt Hybrid. At the end of the house are three fine old Camellias (red, white, and mixed colours), with an old Date Palm behind. The latter was put in about twenty years ago. We grow the Feltham Hybrid Cinerarias, and also the double varieties."

"What have you got in the frames outside?"

"A general lot of bedding plants, including from three to four hundred Chrysanthemums of the Japanese and Incurved sections. I also grow (out of doors) the varieties, such as Madame Masse, which flower in August and September, and are very useful. The only Cucumber I grow in frames is Telegraph. It is always good."

Then, we turned our attention to the garden again, and I commented on the rich colour of the Wallflowers.

"The two varieties are Belvoir Castle and Covent Garden," rejoined Mr. Lees.

"And your Sweet Peas, of which I see that there are several borders?"

"The best are Coccinea, Emily Eckford, Prima Donna, and Boreta, very dark. Here, you notice, are Lettuces. The varieties are Paris Market and White Dutch. They will be finished with before the Sweet Peas want sticking. The Beans grown in this south border are Mazagan and Beck's Dwarf. They are the early varieties, and are also hardy."

"Have you cut any Asparagus?"

Part of the Herbaceous Border at Kenry House.

"No, but I shall be able to cut a dish almost immediately. The plants are showing through. The beds were made thirty years ago, and planted, and they are now doing well. The variety is Connover's Colossal. I believe it is sound policy when you secure a good variety to keep to it."

Further on was a little house, with a west aspect, which Mr. Lees explained was originally put up for wintering Aralia Sieboldi, which did very well, and mixed with Coleus, was formerly used for bedding. The house is now chiefly used for Ferns. In the stove a few table plants are grown.

"They are mainly," he continued, "Clerodendron Balfourii, Castor-oil plants (grown for putting out in clumps in the herbaceous borders), seedling Dracænas, and Begonias Gloire de Lorraine and Gloire de Secaux."

Finally, having admired the Oaks, Spanish Chestnuts, Beeches and Taxodiums, of which there are some notable specimens at Kenry, I inquired where Mr. Lees started on his career.

"I was apprenticed in Scotland, and served in succession as improver, journeyman, and foreman. I began work in the kitchen garden, going in, subsequently, to the houses. I think that the training is still much better north of the

Tweed than it is south. After I had finished my apprenticeship, I was foreman in the gardens at Colmess, Lanarkshire, for some years, and then, for four and a-half years, I was foreman at Bolton Park, coming here in 1872. As to showing, I do not care about it, and have no time for it, and I am strongly opposed to growing a lot of varieties merely for the sake of doing so."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 148.—EARLY GLADIOLI AND FOLIAGE FOR BOUQUETS.

DEAR KATE,—We grow a great many early Gladioli in the garden, and also force some of them for early work, the first of which come in very nicely for church decoration at Easter. These are the Bride Gladioli, in purest white, which grow and multiply themselves in the borders here without giving us any trouble, except to take up the corms once in three years, and replant them four inches apart in fresh soil. This is done in September, and, at the same time, we select a few dozen of the finest corms for forcing, and plant them in a box about fifteen inches deep, which should be well drained, and filled with rich soil and leaf-mould to within three inches of the top, covering the corms with one inch of soil. The box stands in the open air until October, and is then placed in the cool Vinery, and moved on into the warmer Vinery in January, but not strongly forced (over the pipes) at any time, as these plants will not bear strong forcing. The Bride is the earliest Gladiolus to open its flowers, which are simply perfect for cutting, but very soon after it comes the Blushing Bride, with terribly hectic spots of bright pink on her cheeks (petals I mean), and then Salmon Queen appears, the most lovely flower, in pale clear pink, of which I send you a photograph. Queen Wilhelmina is a new early Gladiolus in deeper salmon-pink, which is

EPIMEDIUM PINNATUM.

also very beautiful, and Prince Albert is in brilliant scarlet, with white facings, just like a military uniform. There are many other early Gladioli, but some of them incline to the tint I so much object to, *i.e.*, magenta, and those I have mentioned above are the best of them. I think the reason that so many gardeners fail to grow them well is that they plant them too late, for these Gladioli start into life again early in September, if left in the borders, and, therefore, they should be put in as soon as they can be procured in that month, for all bulbs and corms deteriorate if kept dry and out of the soil after their natural time to start arrives. Another point in their cultivation is this—that although they should be kept fairly dry (though never dust-dry) until they begin to grow quickly in spring, they should then have an abundance of water, and liquid manure, too, with a rich top-dressing of old hotbed stuffs, when forced, twice a week. Any shortage of moisture then will cripple the blooms, but, on the other hand, if the corms are overwatered in winter they are likely to rot. When I first grew these Gladioli in the garden, we used to pile ashes over them every autumn, in November, to keep the frost and the worst of the rain from them. Now they are too numerous to trouble about, and they evidently do not need any protection in this sunny, sheltered garden, with light, gravel soil, well-drained in terraces; but in colder districts, with heavier soil, I think they should have good drainage put in below them (as in a box), and be covered from October till April, either with a conical pile of fine coal ashes, or a glass cover raised over them so as to admit air below.

The Bride is the most robust of all in the borders; the rest do not multiply so fast as the white one, but all are so beautiful that you should certainly try them, and they may prove as hardy as they have here. Some growers take up their corms for the winter, and keep them dry (in the same way as the summer Gladioli), but the result is not satisfactory, for, instead of the splendid spikes of seven or eight blooms which are common when the corms are left in the ground undisturbed, the dried corms give only two or three smaller flowers.

They do not like pots. I have tried them in pots as well as boxes, growing them, otherwise, exactly in the same way, but the blooms come much finer in the boxes; I suppose these give them more room, or a greater depth of soil. Just as the latest of the early Gladioli under glass are over (for most of them do not care to be much forced), the Brides in the garden make their appearance, so that from Easter onwards we have a feast of these exquisite flowers, and, later on, we shall have plenty of the stately spikes of the Gandavensis varieties, finishing up with the scarlet Brenchleyensis Gladioli in September.

What curious little flowers the Epimediums have, in pale yellow (pinnatum), red, lilac, etc.; they are sometimes called the "Bishop's Hat"-flower, though the more correct name is Barrenwort, I believe. Anyhow, the Epimediums are delightful little plants for carpeting a rather shady border, for their foliage is so useful for cutting, being very light and elegant; some of them have leaves veined with crimson-brown, and they turn into brilliant colours towards the autumn, when they are prettier than ever, both in the garden and for cutting. When once established, they spread themselves, fortunately, and give no trouble. I put in half a dozen varieties in the autumn, two years ago, and we now have plenty of them. They belong to the Barberry tribe, and are herbaceous, dying down in winter, and appearing again very early in the year; they seem to do best in the Rhododendron border, which has peat mixed with the soil, but are not too particular about soil. It is a great advantage in these days, when all the floral decorations must be so light in effect, to have plenty of suitable greenery to cut for the dinner-table and house. Epimediums and the two Thalictrums (adiantifolium and equilægifolium) are great stand-bys in this connection; the leaves of the Thalictrums are so very like those of Maidenhair Fern in effect, but they last for days in water, and do not curl up and look miserable as the Fern fronds do in a hot, dry atmosphere. You probably have these two useful plants? If not, I advise you to put them into your borders in the autumn, as well as Epimediums; they are quite hardy, and most decorative from the beauty of their foliage. The flowers of T. adiantifolium are dark red, and quite small; those of T. aquilægifolium are larger, fluffy,

EARLY GLADIOLUS—SALMON QUEEN.

and white, so that they are pretty, too, in the June garden.

Here, we have plenty of wild grasses, in the hedges, for cutting in the summer, and nothing is more lovely to finish a bouquet with; then we sow seeds of Gypsophila elegans, an annual with tiny white flowers, which are excellent for the same purpose, and the feathery sprays of Gypsophila paniculata come in rather later in the summer.

One of the benefits of the present love of gardening amongst amateurs is that we now get a much greater variety of flowers, and especially those which are really useful and decorative for the adornment of the house. The old gardener of the past generation seldom cared to grow more than the Asters, Stocks, etc., which he had grown every year of his life, with Chrysanthemums, and a few other things; "new-fangled" notions were abhorrent to him, for he knew nothing beyond his annual round of flowers, and never studied the subject. Now, fortunately, there are no great difficulties for those who wish to understand their flowers, and supply their families with plenty of good fruit and vegetables as well, and we are, I hope, coming to the time when every lady will be able to direct her gardener as well as her cook, even if she does not tend her own flowers, which, of course, is the best thing to do.

Your friend, I.L.R.

FICUS REPENS.—This is hardier than F. radicans, and one of the neatest plants we have for covering a wall in a cool greenhouse. It is also most useful for baskets, especially for covering the under portion, and it is also serviceable for cutting from; the long, drooping trails may often be used with good effect. There is a variegated variety, but this is rather inclined to run back to the green form, though by selecting the best marked shoots for cuttings there is not much difficulty in keeping up a stock of well variegated plants, which will be found very useful.

learned it is their duty to please man's æsthetic sense. That, no doubt, will come in time.

July 7th.—Our American cousins are very ingenious. Not content with the general statement that the use of the hoe, besides loosening and aerating the soil, checks evaporation, they have set to work to prove it by actual experiment.

MR. F. C. LEGGE.

They have gone farther, and have succeeded in getting some instructive figures. In these experiments the water was kept at the same level—twenty-three inches below the surface—and it was found that if, under these conditions, the ground was stirred once a week to a depth of two inches, evaporation was reduced by nineteen per cent.; that if it was stirred to a depth of four inches, evaporation was reduced by twenty-three per cent.; and that if it was stirred to a depth of six inches, the reduction was as much as forty-three per cent. Here, surely, is something to think about. It is clear that the gardener's motto in dry weather should be—"Use the hoe and save the water." The further question is raised whether deeper hoeing than is generally practised would not be an advantage? Obviously, it would be, if checking evaporation were the only consideration, but if it were the cause of root-disturbance it might do more harm than good. It is therefore impossible to recommend deep hoeing in all cases, especially as the roots of many plants travel surprising distances.

July 8th.—Everyone must have noticed instances of the remarkable resemblance which often exists between two persons, not blood relations, who have lived for a long time in close companionship. The cause of such resemblances is capable, no doubt, of scientific explanation. It must be due in some measure to long exposure to the same influences—sharing the same food, dwelling amid the same surroundings, breathing the same atmosphere, thinking the same thoughts—but there is probably more in it than this. I have my own theory, suggested by what is known as "the theory of exchanges" in connection with heat, but there is no need to go into it here. What is puzzling me is whether similar influences are not at work in the vegetable kingdom. I have already recorded the fact that, from a large parcel of thoroughly mixed Poppy seeds, sown broadcast in the borders, the majority of the plants in the same border had flowers which bore a marked resemblance to one another, yet differed from those in the other borders. It would be easy to multiply instances; they seem far too numerous to be mere coincidences. Here is another, still more curious. I raised fifty or sixty Antirrhinums from seed, and put them out in the borders. Nearly all are strongly coloured, but two, which are planted among some Pinks, have white flowers, with thin red streaks—in fact, just like the flowers of many Pinks. Is this another coincidence? Personally, I find it more difficult to believe such a strange thing than I do to believe that there must be a common cause underlying all these phenomena.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 93.—MR. FREDERICK C. LEGGE, AT THE GARDENS, PATTESON COURT, NUTFIELD.

BY the courtesy of Mrs. Nickalls, I inspected the charming gardens at Patteson Court the other day, and I am also indebted to her for the use of the photographs which Mr. Legge was able to lend for reproduction in GARDEN LIFE. Nutfield is, of course, well known as one of the most picturesque of Surrey villages, and Patteson Court is delightfully situated on the crown of Redstone Hill, commanding, from the gardens, lovely views of the surrounding country. One of the objects of this series of articles is to show the possibilities of a comparatively small acreage, and, at the same time, to demonstrate the value of the work done in such circumstances.

The gardens under Mr. Legge's control are about six acres in extent, and form part of a considerable estate.

In looking round, I was much impressed with the careful manner in which all the available space is turned to account. The Rhododendrons in part of the Court are one of the most interesting features, and are remarkably fine specimens. As Mr. Legge informed me, in reply to my inquiry, they have been planted for a great number of years, and are old-established varieties.

"Some," he said, "are named varieties, and others not. But they all flourish here, probably because the soil is particularly suited to them."

"Does the soil contain peat?"

"I should think it does, as I doubt whether Rhododendrons can be grown to perfection without it. That is why I have added a considerable amount. Peat is certainly the natural soil for them."

"What is your treatment of the plants?"

"We thin them, take away all seed-pods as soon as the flowering season is over, removing all dead wood, and, if necessary, top-dress them with peat. That exhausts the treatment, with the exception of a little pruning where necessary."

"Roses are also, I see, one of your features?"

"Yes; they have always been a favourite flower, and, in the season, we make a very good show of Teas, Hybrid Teas, Perpetuals, and Hybrid Perpetuals, climbing and other old varieties."

"You might mention the names of some of the principal?"

"One of the prettiest Roses for buttonhole use is Isabella Sprunt, a light canary colour. Anna Olivier (rosy-flesh and buff) is another very good Tea, and among others we grow of this class are Marie van Houtte, Grace Darling, Captain Christy, Francisca Kruger, Clara Watson, Rubens, Caroline Testout, and Maman Cochet. Of Perpetuals and Hybrid Perpetuals we have Alfred Colomb, Abel Carriere, Ulrich Brunner, Thomas Mills, Mrs. John Laing, Duke of Edinburgh, Duke of Wellington, Le Havre, Margaret Dickson, Jeannie Dickson, Captain Hayward, Mrs. R. G. Sharman Crawford, Mrs. Harkness, and Baroness Rothschild."

"What about climbing varieties?"

"William Allen Richardson, Claire Jaquier, Reine Olga de Wurtemburg, Bouquet d'Or, Niphetos, Cheshunt Hybrid, and Crimson Rambler are the chief. Some of these we grow on the five arches in the kitchen garden."

"The effect is very pretty. What is the age of that fine standard Bouquet d'Or in the kitchen garden?"

"Probably from forty to fifty years. It carries a great number of flowers. Two years ago, in the season, there were about three hundred Roses in bloom. The plant is ten feet high, and eight feet through. The stem measures eleven inches

PATTESON COURT, NUTFIELD, SURREY.

round. It is the largest of the variety I have ever seen."

"Have you any other fine specimens?"

"One plant of Marie van Houtte is eight feet high and over seven feet through. It is an exceedingly fine specimen."

"Do you experience much trouble in growing such specimens?"

"No; the soil suits them. It is a stiff, fibrous loam. I pursue the usual system of pruning, manuring, and thinning. This I pay especial attention to, as it is very necessary to obtain first-class Roses."

"You go in for both Malmaison and Border Carnations?"

"Yes; but not so much for the former. We have Mrs Martin Smith, Princess May, Prime Minister, Churchwarden, and Pink Malmaison. But we have about thirty varieties of Border Carnations, and between seven and eight hundred plants."

"What Border Carnations do you recommend?"

"All our varieties do well. They are Isinglass, Germania, Mrs. S. de Rothschild, Czarina, Volwood, Little Nell, Madame G. Debrie, Lady Ridgway, Mutual Friend, Etoile de Lyon, Modesto, R. H. Pearson, Mrs. Coombes, Madame T. Rey, Soleil d'Octobre, Mrs. J. W. Barks, J. R. Upton, Lord Roberts, Madame Gustave Henry, Mrs. H. Weeks, N.C.S. Jubilee, C. J. Slater, and Niveus."

"Then," continued Mr. Legge, "we use Begonias, both for bedding purposes and for pots. I introduced them, and they are all my own seedlings, not named varieties. They do very well here."

"What other plants do you use for bedding?"

"Geraniums, Violas, Stocks, Asters, Cannas, Wallflowers, Polyanthus, Pansies, Antirrhinums, Lobelias, Alyssum, Marguerites, Ivy-leaf Geraniums, and, of course, Tulips and Hyacinths. The bedding has no special characteristic."

"You have a small collection of Orchids. What do they include?"

"The principal are Dendrobiums thyrsiflorum, densiflorum, nobile, chrysanthum; Cymbidium Lowianum, Cattleyas in variety, Oncidiums, Cœlogynes, Cypripediums villosum, insigne, barbatum, and Lawrenceanum; Odontoglossums

Another View of Patteson Court.

taire, Duchess, May Yohe, Mrs. Grey Buchanan, Aureola, Perseus, Asphodèl, Sir H. Irving, Cinnamon, Uriah Pike, Queen of Buffs, Prince of Orange, Bella Donna, Lamplighter, Charles the First, Raby Castle, A. Bartlett, Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Frances Wellesley, Pelegia, Vane Duchess, Mrs. Reynolds Hole, Mrs. Hambro, and King of Yellows."

"Do you consider Border Carnations difficult to grow?"

"They are not easy under any circumstances. Our usual treatment is to use good, fibrous loam, leaf-mould, and a portion of mortar rubble. Sometimes we add a little peat. Then, of course, the plants have to be staked and tied. Some of the more tender varieties are potted up, and kept in the cold frame during winter, because this is a cold, northerly aspect."

"Are Chrysanthemums a feature?"

"Yes; including a number of early-flowering varieties, we have about two hundred plants. The varieties are Le Grand Dragon, Madame Carnot, International, G. J. Warren, Mrs. White Popham, Charles Davis, Henry Weeks, Alice Byron, Mrs. Barkley, Nellie Pocket, John Pocket, Golden Gate, Lord Ludlow, Viviand Morel, Mrs. W. Mease, Australie, C. B. Hay-

crispum, luteo-purpureum, Harryanum, Pescatorei, pulchellum, majus, Rossi, and grande. Other plants in the houses are batches of Gloxinias, Begonias, and Cannas. There are some Palms and Ferns. The specimens of Adiantums are considered very fine. Tomatoes, Cucumbers, and Melons are also grown in the houses."

"How long is your herbaceous border?"

"A hundred and eighty yards, and twelve feet wide. It runs from the gardens to the wood, and was made some years ago. I have added a number of plants, and improved the appearance."

"I notice some fine clumps of Delphiniums. What are the other principal plants?"

"German and Spanish Irises, Gaillardia grandiflora, perennial Poppies in variety, Michaelmas Daisies, Coreopsis grandiflora, Harpalium rigidum, Helianthus, Lychnis viscaria splendens, and chalcedonica. At the back of the herbaceous border is a very large plant of Catalpa syringæfolia and Catalpa aurea. The former carried hundreds of fine spikes of bloom last year, and was much admired by all the visitors to the Court. In this border, too, we have three hundred French bush Roses, which, when in flower, make a striking show."

"In addition to Catalpas, what does your collection of shrubs and Conifers include?"

"Abies in almost every variety, Chestnuts, Scarlet Thorns, Cedars, Walnuts, Ribes, the Flowering Crab (Malus floribunda), Pumax (a very ornamental shrub, with a cone similar to that of the Fir), Yews, Aucubas, Arbor vitæ, and others."

The kitchen garden at Patteson Court is admirably arranged, and, when I complimented Mr. Legge on its appearance, he rejoined,

"I endeavour as far as possible to devote attention to every subject under my charge, and the kitchen garden has as much care bestowed upon it as the flower garden. Peas are somewhat extensively grown, being a vegetable particularly appreciated by my employer. I also grow Beans of several kinds in quantity."

"Which do you consider the best?"

"White Mammoth, Ne Plus Ultra, Sutton's Perfection and Mammoth Long-pod. Strawberries are grown in fair quantity, the chief kinds being Royal Sovereign, President, Sir Joseph Paxton, Leader, and Latest of All. The crop of Gooseberries this year is fine, though not as large as usual, and the late spring frost was kind enough to spare the Red Currants. Other vegetables grown are Onions, Parsnips, Carrots, and Celery."

"Have you any favourite flower?"

"There is no flower which I am not fond of, and I think that all are beautiful in a more or less degree. But I am exceedingly fond of the herbaceous Calceolaria, of which we grow a good number every year. Nothing interests me so much as fertilising our own plants, and sowing from our own seed. A careful selection of plants, with full consideration of the habit and quality of the flower, as well as of its colour and marking, secures the best results, and more than compensates one for the trouble. Herbaceous Calceolarias are rather difficult to grow, but when they are well grown they give a more splendid width of bloom than any other."

"Where did you commence your gardening experiences?"

"In quite a small garden, and at a very early age. After I had interested myself in everything affecting horticulture for two years and a-half, I determined to make my way, and succeeded in getting into the gardens at Hillingdon Place, under Mr. Fred Hill, who was a very enthusiastic gardener, as well as Orchid grower. At Hillingdon Place I had opportunities of increasing my knowledge to a considerable extent, as all kinds of plants were grown indoors and out. Pelargoniums, Cyclamens, and Begonias were cultivated for exhibition, some of the Pelargoniums measuring five feet in diameter. There was also a fine collection of Zonal Pelargoniums."

"How long did you remain at Hillingdon Place?"

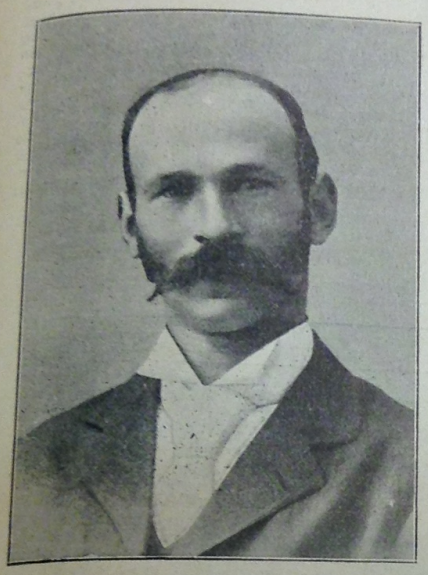
"Three years and a-half. Then I went to Highfield House, under Mr. W. Andrews, whom I succeeded as head gardener at the end of two years. My next experience was that of foreman in a good general nursery, but, though I have found my knowledge of nursery work useful, I prefer private gardening, and on the 28th of June, 1887, I came here to take charge."

"Have you carried out many alterations?"

"Yes; for the gardens had been neglected, and my first duty was to put them in better order. The kitchen garden has been extended, and many fruit trees planted; the herbaceous border on the west side of the kitchen garden has been made; many old fruit trees have been removed and replaced by up-to-date varieties; the lawns, which were in an impoverished state, and practically all moss, have been improved by a free use of the rake in February and March, followed by a liberal dressing of soot, mixed with fine earth and lime. It is a satisfaction to me to know that the efforts I have made to render the gardens more attractive and more useful have been appreciated."

Alfred Wilcox.

that in a very short time the new soil you put in becomes impregnated with lime, and thus forms a very unsuitable rooting medium for the plants. Where Rhododendrons and other ericaceous plants refuse to thrive, the best plan is to make a raised bed above the ground level, so that the water constantly filtering through the surrounding earth only rises very slightly, if at all, into the soil made up above the usual level. Even then the beds should, if possible, be watered only with rain-water, and, if there is any risk of



Mr. F. Lever.

drought, should have a mulch of thoroughly decayed manure, which will not only enrich the compost, but assist materially in keeping it cool and moist during hot weather. Leaf-mould, again, is a most excellent mulch for all ericaceous plants, and always looks neat and tidy, whereas birds are very fond of scratching even well-decayed manure off the beds, and making the margins untidy." This does not take us quite to the bottom of the matter. It suggests the question, In what way does the lime act to cause these injurious effects? If the answer is, It leaves a solid deposit in the tissues, and this clogs the circulation, just as it does in our kitchen boilers, and also in certain parts of the human body, there arises the further question, Why is this deposit formed in one particular class of plants, and not in others?

July 7th.—One of the terrace walls here was very beautiful about a month ago with the lilac blossoms of the Wistaria. It extends over a space about twenty yards long. I thought there were a number of plants, but, after a careful examination—rather a difficult matter, for the whole wall and many of the stems are completely covered with a small-leaved Ivy—I am surprised to find that there is only one. Perhaps it would be more correct to say that there was only one originally. But some of the lower stems, being at various places in contact with the soil, have thrown out roots, and thus have practically formed new plants. Whether this was intentional or not I don't know; but it has certainly enabled the Wistaria to spread over a much larger area than it could otherwise have done. It is an excellent plan to layer a branch or two of all climbers. It adds greatly to their vigour, and, in the case of Clematises, which are apt to collapse more or less suddenly, owing to improper grafting, often saves their lives by providing them with roots of their own.

July 8th.—Rhododendrons, when well grown, are always beautiful, but when massed together they are perfectly lovely. They would be very much more common but for the idea that they will succeed only in peat. That this is a mistake was proved by a number of fine plants exhibited at the Temple show; they were labelled "Grown in Loam." It is useless to attempt to grow them on chalk, but, with a little care, they will thrive almost anywhere else.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 197.—Mr. F. Lever, at the Gardens, Hillside, Reading.

As may be imagined, the grounds attached to the residence of Mr. Leonard G. Sutton, President of the Reading and District Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association, are of quite exceptional interest, and the head gardener, Mr. F. Lever, is a man of exceptional ability. The pictures, from photographs which were expressly taken for Garden Life by the courtesy of Mr. Sutton, give some idea of the beauty of the gardens at Hillside, and on the occasion of my visit, at the beginning of May, Mr. Lever at once commenced to bring under my notice the special features of his operations.

"Most of our plants," he said, are raised from seed."

"Including Begonias?" I inquired, as we went into a house containing a large number.

"Yes, the tuberous-rooted and the fibrous-rooted of all the best varieties."

"What is your treatment of them?"

"We sow early in February, and prick off in three weeks or a month. By the end of April they are ready for potting; and in the second week in June they should be showing flower ready for putting out, so that a selection of the various colours can be made. As a matter of fact, they come so true from seed that it is very seldom necessary to make a selection. In making a selection of double varieties for growing on in pots, it is wise to choose those with the roundest foliage, because they invariably give the most distinct colour and the best flowers."

"Have you more of doubles or singles this year?"

"Singles. We prefer more singles, because we get so many more shades of colour, and also a big blaze of bloom. But we have a pretty large batch of the double-flowering, fibrous-rooted varieties. They make very nice plants in small pots, and they are equally good for bedding."

"Can you give me the names of some of the best doubles?"

"Argus, W. E. Gumbleton, Nina, Ianthe, B. R. Davis, Mrs. S. Pope, Hector, Rev. Lascelles, Clio (one of the choicest light orange), and Mr. Leonard Sutton (very choice, pink, with a light centre)."

"What about crested varieties?"

"Both singles and doubles are only seedlings. The plants from seed are so choice that it is unnecessary to have names. My experience is that by raising seedlings annually you have plants with much more vigour, better habit, and more substance in flower and foliage."

"How long do you keep them?"

"Not longer than two years, unless they are wanted for seed. After the second season they deteriorate, and some even after the first. I believe that the reason why many persons get disgusted with Begonias is that they buy old tubers instead of buying seed and growing from it."

"Before leaving Begonias, I may say that we grow B. manicata for winter flowering. It is one of the few plants which we raise from cuttings. Madame Carnot and Carolina are also grown from cuttings. I had a plant of Carolina in bloom for four years."

Then we went into the very handsome conservatory, where I noticed that Primulas were a feature.

"They, likewise, are grown from seed annually," said Mr. Lever, "because, as we find, there is more substance, as well as freer flowering, in Primula obconica raised from seed, than from divided plants. We sow in a fairly heavy soil in February, and prick off and pan on, as required, growing them outside from about the first week in June until the end of September."

Hillside, Reading.

The picturesque residence of Mr. Leonard G. Sutton.

"Are you troubled by what is called the poison of the obconica section?"

"No. Although we grow a tremendous quantity for cut flowers, no one here has suffered from it."

"I notice that you have a plant still throwing up a number of light pink flowers."

"It has been flowering continuously since last August, and there are still nearly forty trusses of enormous flowers on it. There is no doubt that light pink is the best colour."

"You have a grand show of Cineraria stellata."

"Yes, we grow Cinerarias for table work, and we exclude the florists' type entirely."

"When do you sow?"

"In July. Most of the plants are put in 'forty-eight'-sized pots; the flowers last longer when cut from small pots than when cut from large ones. We cut flowers from February until the end of June. The colours include dark blue, white, mauve and white, lavender, blue and white, and pink. There is one important point to bear in mind in connection with the cultivation of Cineraria stellata: after they are potted off and established, they should not be shaded. If possible, they should be placed facing full south. They may flag in the sun, but they always revive. When cut, they last five or six days; they also travel well if put in water for an hour before packing. It is a further advantage that they are gaining a little scent, but they can be used indoors without the perfume troubling anyone."

"Your mass of Schizanthus is as attractive as the Cinerarias."

"They are single plants raised from seed sown the first week in January. The average height of a plant in a 7-in. pot is two feet three inches, and they are as much through. The system is to grow one plant in a pot. These Schizanthus are Sutton's new hybrids. The foliage covers the soil upon the pots, and I think it is a point that the plants, while very graceful, are not too dense in flower."

"The variation in colour is remarkable?"

"It would be a difficult matter to find out of a hundred and fifty plants two of the same colour. I pot, finally, the second week in March, and those plants flower at the same time as others sown in August or September. This means that, unless very tall plants for conservatory work are wanted, there is no gain in early sowing."

"Compared with these hybrids, the plants of the Wisetoniensis variety close by do not seem so charming."

"That is because the flowers are so compact that they do not show themselves. The two plants with white flowers nearly side by side were sown on the same day; yet the new variety is, as you suggest, much more attractive."

"Are they expensive or difficult to grow?"

"Not at all. In fact, the Schizanthus, especially the new varieties, ought to be largely grown by amateurs. They are excellent for outdoor cultivation. As to the system, they can be sown out in a cold frame and pricked off, or sown very thinly, and then planted out broadcast, and not in drills. The object in this is to afford more room between the seeds."

"Which do you consider the best varieties of Stocks?"

"The Emperor and Empress are the two principal grown here. We sow in June, prick off into pots, and grow on in cold frames through the winter, planting out the last week in March. They may, however, be flowered in pots instead of planting out."

"What is the variety of Mignonette in the small pots?"

"Selected Machet. It is one of the best of dwarf varieties, is sown early in February, and comes in early in May."

"Before we leave the conservatory you might tell me how you treat your Campanulas?"

"They are sown in February, and grown on. We plant out in the borders as soon as the weather permits, eighteen inches apart each way. Even then the plants more than touch. Towards the autumn we take out the centre, and the result is that, instead of getting one straight pyramid, we have a number of breaks."

Turning into the stove, my attention centred at once on some fine specimens of yellow Callas.

"The Callas," continued Mr. Lever, "were grown from seed sown in 1901. C. Elliottiana has spotted foliage, with a better colour than C. Pentlandii. It has also a clear bottom to the flower, instead of a black one, like C. Pentlandii."

"You grow Gloxinias, too, from seed?"

"Yes, we sow them in February, and prick off about a month after sowing into 'sixty' pots, putting ten or twelve plants in a pot. During the first week in May we pot off into thumb pots, and go on as required. They begin to flower in July, and continue in bloom for some months. For flowering from February to July, it is well to have bulbs which flowered the second season, like the Reading Scarlet. The Empress is a charming spotted variety, and Her Majesty the best white of all. I like to store my thumb pots of Gloxinias on little trays, with about three-quarters of an inch of loam shot on the bottom. It gives off so much moisture."

"You have a fine specimen of Eucharis amazonica in flower."

"It has flowered four times in thirteen months since it has been in that pot. Twice it had nine spikes, once seven spikes, and once three. It has been in the same pot for three years."

In houses near the kitchen garden were some notable Fuchsias, and Mr. Lever confessed that he had always gone in for Fuchsias.

"They are young plants rooted last August, over five feet high, in 11-in. pots."

"Which are your favourite varieties?"

"Roderick Dhu, an old variety, of splendid habit, very free; Amy Lye (named after Mrs. Bright, who was Miss Lye, and whose father is such a famous grower of Fuchsias), a light colour; elegans, a dark variety; Miss Balfour, another light; Charming, dark; and Mrs. Rundle and Dr. Lancaster, two more light varieties."

"I judge by the Fuchsias in the other house that standards are a special feature?"

"Yes. We had one with a thrush's nest in it. The varieties I named just now are the best for 5-in. pots, though nothing is better as a standard than elegans. For basket work, Trailing Queen, a dark variety, which makes a growth from three to four feet, should not be overlooked."

"How many standards and pyramids do you grow?"

"Upwards of thirty. We plunge them out in the lawn, and they are at their best in July and August, when the standards make an imposing sight. No Fuchsias are used for bedding."

"Do you go in largely for Zonal Pelargoniums?"

"Principally for scarlet varieties. One of the best is Mr. W. Bealby. Other very good singles are Miller's Favourite, Cyclops, C. Mason, Hecla, Sunshine, and Red Shirt. Of doubles, we only grow Improved Raspail. In my opinion, it is much better to have only a few varieties and do them well. I apply that principle to Carnations, and only grow, to any extent, two of the winter-flowering varieties, Winter Cheer (scarlet), and Mrs. Rothschild (pink). Our Marguerite Carnations are sown in March, grown on in pots, and kept in as low a temperature as possible, with abundance of air."

"When were your Streptocarpus sown?"

"In February, and grown on in a similar way to Gloxinias, until June. After that they should be kept much cooler. These plants, two feet six inches through, in 'twenty-four' pots, were sown in February, 1904. From June to October they yield an enormous quantity of flowers. They are Sutton's new hybrids, and, coming with long stems, they are extremely useful for cutting."

The Conservatory at Hillside, Reading.

Here Mr. Lever drew my attention to a plant quite lately brought forward, Trachymene cœrulea.

"The flower," he said, "is very choice, a pretty bright blue, with a beautiful scent."

"Is it easy to grow?"

"Quite easy. It should be sown in August, and grown in cool houses through the winter; or in March, and grown on outside. But the flowers of those sown in August are larger and far superior. Trachymene cœrulea is equally useful for bedding or for pot culture."

Outside I asked what are the principal annuals.

"Phlox in variety, Pentstemon, Cineraria maritima, Antirrhinum (the pink variety), Chrysanthemums (no large-flowering varieties), Perennias, Stocks (eighteen varieties), Asters (thirty-nine distinct varieties), and Marigolds (a number of varieties, including Silver King, one of the best dwarf and newest), and Sutton's Diadem."

"Which are the best Asters?"

"The Comet, Sutton's Mammoth White, and Sutton's Shell Pink."

In the kitchen garden Mr. Lever mentioned that Japanese Cucumbers are grown out of doors in the summer, and that the flavour is excellent, while, inside, Early Market and Improved Telegraph are the favourites, the Tomatoes being Early Market and Princess of Wales.

"We sow Radishes, Lettuces and Carrots together in January, on a hotbed," he continued, "and as soon as the Lettuces are large enough, they are taken and pricked off into boxes or frames. Radishes we leave till they are large enough to use for eating. When the Radishes are over, we have a nice crop of Carrots. Sutton's Early Gem is the best for forcing."

"You might give me the names of just a few ordinary vegetables which you specially recommend."

"Sutton's Magnum Bonum Cauliflower, planted out between Peas, for protection, does well. The latest new Potato out is Superlative. Sutton's April is the earliest spring Cabbage. It is sown in August, and now, at the beginning of May, out of a bed of two hundred and fifty plants, there are only twelve left. Sutton's Flower of Spring, sown at the same time, is only just flowering. Next in order comes Enfield Market."

"Which are your leading Peas?"

"Sutton's Early Giant, Sutton's May Queen, Harbinger, Improved American Wonder, and Little Marvel, the earliest dwarf. We grow Spinach between the Peas. The Runner Beans are Sutton's Abundance and Prizewinner; the Broad Beans, Mammoth Longpod and Giant Green. Of Onions, we prefer Ailsa Craig, Perfection, White Leviathan, and Sutton's Long-keeping."

"Have you many varieties of Strawberries?"

"They are grown as annuals, a new bed every year. The varieties are Sir Joseph Paxton, Scarlet King, The Viscountess, The Laxton, and a few of the autumn-fruiting St. Joseph. We have been very successful in growing Strawberries in tubs."

"I suppose you grow a number of spring flowers in frames?"

"Yes, Polyanthus, for instance, for flowering next season. The principal varieties are Giant White, Giant Yellow, Cloth of Gold, Gold Laced, and Primrose Polyanthus."

"You have a lovely show of Wallflowers in the beds near your pretty orchard."

"They include the three Queens, Faerie Queene, Eastern Queen, and Purple Queen, with Phœnix, Blood-red, Sutton's Giant Purple, and Cloth of Gold, the finest yellow. Wallflowers are very easy to grow. We sow in May in the open ground, and prick out as soon as they are large enough—the earlier the better. Michaelmas Daisies, of which you see there are many, are grown from seed, and come in just before Chrysanthemums."

"You must have put in a vast number of bulbs in the orchard?"

"We planted upwards of half a ton of the best varieties. They grow naturally, and have never been lifted. Some of them have been in the ground for eight years."

"I observe that you grow Gooseberries here on the walls."

"Yes, the green varieties for early gathering. We pick them in May. Morello Cherries are also grown on the east wall."

"How large are the gardens altogether?" I inquired, as, passing a bank cleverly built up to cover a wall, richly adorned with Primroses, Polyanthus, Myosotis, and other spring-flowering plants, we proceeded to the lawn in front of the house.

"About nine acres. The principle of double bedding is adopted on the lawn. We plant bulbs in the bed first, and on the top of the bulbs Myosotis or Silene, varying these with Daisies or Violas. As soon as the bulbs have done flowering, we peg the foliage down flat with the ground under the Myosotis quite out of sight, and immediately have a bed of Myosotis in flower. There is a bed of Polyanthus (white and yellow), a bed of Italian Hyacinths (white and pink), and a round bed with the flowers just coming into bloom."

"Yes, they are very effective. What is the combination?"

"Heuchera sanguinea and Saxifraga London Pride. The white flower of the London Pride is a striking contrast to the Heuchera. They will last for a couple of months. The Violas are left in the beds all through the summer, and just a dot plant or two put in the beds."

"In the long border you have Crocuses and Pinks growing together?"

"The Pinks being there, the birds do not take the flower of the Crocuses so much."

At the end of the lawn opposite the house is a delightful wild garden, with a group of Penzance Sweet Briers on the grass. Under the Cupressus hedge beyond, some ten feet high, are a quantity of Crown Imperials, and among other features in the proximity of the lawn are a Whitethorn planted some years ago, and a most curious specimen of Weeping Wellingtonia, a seedling raised at Hillside. I had only time remaining, however, to ask Mr. Lever a few questions concerning his own career.

"I came here as head gardener eleven years ago," he replied, "and before that I was foreman at Cintra Lodge, Reading. I have also been foreman at Bulmershe Park, and I was some years previously under Mr. Bright, at White Knights. It was while I was with him that I got fond of Fuchsias."

"You have been awarded a good many certificates, I believe?"

"Since 1900 I have received certificates for a group of Tulips and Narcissi, a group of flowering bulbs, Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, Michaelmas Daisies, specimens of Roses (William Allen Richardson), collections of Violas (three or four varieties), Orchids (Odontoglossum pulchellum, twenty-three spikes on one plant), groups of Primulas stellata and obconica, Calla Elliottiana from seed, and Adiantum Suttoniensis. In addition to my ordinary work, I have lectured on behalf of Messrs. Sutton and Sons, on the Begonia and Primula."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 154.—CLEMATISES AND BIRDS.

DEAR KATE,—Have you seen the new Clematis, Ville de Lyon? It is a hybrid obtained, I believe, by Mons. Pernet Ducher, of Lyons, and is certainly a great acquisition, for the flowers are large (seven inches across), and in a shade of crimson which has not before been attained by these plants. I have it growing on the grey granite wall of my house, in a south-west exposure, and it appears to be quite happy there, for it is making strong growth, and flowering well. The warm colour is beautiful on the grey, but it is too blue in tint to mix well with the colour of a brick-red wall, I think.

CLEMATIS, VILLE DE LYON.

I am very fond of the mixture of Roses and Clematis, and if I were growing a Rose with Ville de Lyon, I should choose a creamy-white one, such as Devoniensis or Reve d'Or, and avoid the pink and red Roses, which look so beautiful with the clear colour of Blue Gem, or the pale lavender of Lady Caroline Neville; C. Fairy Queen is a beauty in palest pink, barred with a deeper shade of pink, and this harmonises well with Crimson Rambler, or another deep red Rose; whilst Miss Bateman, in white, will suit any pink Rose as a companion plant. My Rose arches, which are just now very beautiful, each have a Clematis planted each side, as well as a climbing Rose; I find this a good plan, because Clematises do not like to have their main stems much exposed, either to the light or to the hot sunshine, and, therefore, they do best when they have the sheltering foliage of the Rose to cover them, and can peep out between this, and throw long wreaths of their great star-like flowers over the rest.

In colder districts, and exposed situations, it would be safer, perhaps, to grow the large-flowered Clematises on a south or west wall, and plant the Mountain Clematis (C. montana) or C. Kermesina (a very beautiful flower in claret-red velvet, about the same size as C. montana), with the purple and white varieties of C. Jackmanni on arches, though here they do well, as it is warm, and sheltered from the wind; but, in any case, I advise you to plant these lovely things next spring, in May, from pots. Don't risk the large-flowered varieties by autumn planting, as they are often killed by severe frost when quite young, and should spend their first youth under glass. Then, whatever you do, keep your gardener's shears off the plants; C. montana only flowers on the growths of the previous year, and consequently every embryo bud will be chopped off if you let him reduce the plant to absolute stiffness in the autumn, and when the pruning is severe on the large-flowered Clematises, it opens them up to the frost, and tries them much. Any pruning that is absolutely necessary for them is better done in the early spring, but when planted with a Rose, which covers up all bare stems, they may be allowed their own way generally, and the effect will be lovely trails and sprays of both plants together.

this happens more frequently with grafted plants than with those growing on their own roots, the primary cause is probably some difference in functional activity between the scion and the stock, and the secondary cause, frost. In many cases the mischief passes unnoticed until the plants collapse, but if it is discovered soon enough, it may be possible to save them. A callus begins to form inside the split stem, and, if sacking is tied around it so as to make a funnel-shaped bag, and is filled with moist soil, roots will be produced. The tops can then be taken off, shortened back as may seem necessary, and planted.

January 25th.—Standing side by side in Kew Gardens, there are two fine trees which are as beautiful in their old age as they must have been in their vigorous youth. There is more than a touch of pathos in their broken limbs and in their close companionship. It is impossible to look at them without thinking of Saul and Jonathan—"lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided." These old friends have not entered the Valley of the Shadow, but they are descending the slopes. How long they have been together, I doubt if even the records of Kew could say.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of Sir W. Greenwell, at Marden Park, Woldingham.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. W. LINTOTT.

THE natural beauty of the gardens at Marden Park, which I visited by the courtesy of Sir Walpole Greenwell, towards the end of November, is very great, and the noble mansion is quite worthy of its surroundings. As Mr. Lintott, the head gardener, pointed out, on my arrival, formal bedding is not at all a prominent feature; in fact, there is little of it, even on the terrace. The creepers on the mansion are practically confined to Ivy, while the feature of the front is a number of beds of Yews in various shapes, carefully cut back. I asked about the spring bedding, and Mr. Lintott said:—

"We put in a few mixed Wallflowers in the spring, and in summer we use a certain quantity of Begonias, Heliotropes, and Calceolarias for the same purpose. But the chalk subsoil is not encouraging."

"I notice, however, that you have still some Antirrhinums in flower?"

"Yes, that bed is entirely composed of them. They were grown from seed. In this district it is not possible to propagate from cuttings."

"Are Yews the most useful shrubs?"

"They do best here. Hollies also thrive, but neither Laurels nor Portugal Laurels do well on the soil. Box always flourishes. The beds of shrubs on the sloping lawns are edged with Violas, peacock-blue and yellow."

Passing the old sundial on the south side of the lawn, and noticing a flourishing Yew hedge, we proceeded to what is at present known as "Cedar Lawn." Here, it is possible, developments may be made, and this portion of the pleasure grounds is very charming. Before we entered it, Mr. Lintott called my attention to a magnificent Beech tree. The Beeches altogether are exceptionally fine, but this one is justly famous, for the length of its stem is thirty feet, or over. The picturesque glade, which is called after the Cedars adorning it, constitutes a pleasant approach to the kitchen garden. Within the four acres enclosed by high walls, which are used for growing flowers, fruit, and vegetables, and include several ranges of houses, I found many evidences of interesting and admirable gardening. We first entered the range at the summit of the garden, with the gardener's residence in the centre, and inspected one of the Vineries.

"In this Vinery," said Mr. Lintott, "the Prince of Wales does extremely well. We have had it in cultivation for three years. It is a sport from Mrs. Pince; the colour is jet black, and the flavour is very good. I fully believe in its future."

"When does it ripen?"

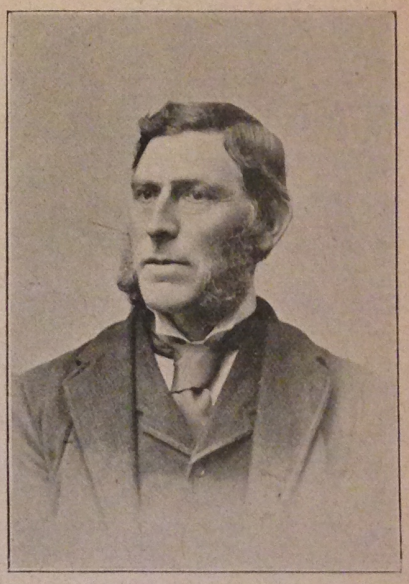
"In August, though I think that it would do in an early house with Hamburgh. I showed three bunches at Beddington on the August Bank holiday, and got an award. The other varieties in this and the early Vinery are Muscat, Mrs. Pince, Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, Foster's Seedling, and Buckland Sweetwater. We had good crops this year, and I began cutting in the early house in June. I start forcing early in January."

MARDEN PARK, WOLDINGHAM.

Chrysanthemums and Geraniums.

"I see you have some nice Chrysanthemums here."

"We like the small varieties for cutting, but do not grow the exhibition kinds. Source d'Or is a great favourite; its colour, old gold-bronze, is appreciated at the mansion. We also grow a number of W. H. Lincoln, a late variety."



MR. W. LINTOTT.

"How long has the fine Geranium which you have in one of the Vineries and in the conservatory we are now entering been planted?"

"You mean Gillium Manglesii. We also grow Raspail and Asa Grey on the back walls. From the first-named we get blooms from March to the end of December, and an enormous number in the summer. The plants were put in six or seven years ago, and they do not require any cutting back. Our object is to get as much flower of a particular colour as we can, not mixed colours. Thus, the Salvias, which you see in pots, are chosen because of the wealth of scarlet."

"You have other varieties?"

"Yes; there is S. Bethelii, a pink, of which we only grow a few, and S. Rutlandii, a scented red. Scent is another point we consider."

"Do you grow the Salvias in pots?"

"No, out of doors. We take them up out of the ground in September. Arum Lilies follow the Salvias on the stage, and they are mixed with the blue Coleus. The varieties are Calla Elliottiana and C. Pentlandii. They do better planted in cold frames than in any other way. The former, planted outside in a warm border, will live there for two or three years. Then we obtain a mass of white flower from the Datura, sometimes called Brugmansia. This is the double white variety, and by cutting it back we get hundreds of flowers at a time. The scent is very fragrant."

"You mentioned an award at Beddington. Do you show much?"

"Not a great deal, now. But this year we were second at the Royal Horticultural for late Grapes, and second for Pears. At Croydon in October we were first for nine dishes of Apples, first for black and white Grapes, second for Peas, and first for foliage plants. At the National Chrysanthemum Show we were

first for black Grapes, and third for three bunches of white Grapes."

Retarded Begonias.

We next proceeded to the range of houses in another part of the garden, looking in on the way at one containing a few Primula obconica, and the Violet frames.

"What Violets do you grow in the frames?" I enquired.

"Only Marie Louise, which we also plant out in the summer. They are partly shaded, and taken up for the frames in September. Czar is also grown out of doors.

"We go in for Orchids a little," continued Mr. Lintott, as we entered a house containing a considerable number, "but here, you notice, we have also a quantity of Gloire de Lorraine in baskets."

"You appear to have a fine display."

"We go in largely for both this variety and Turnford Hall (the white), using them for decoration together on the table. In order to get Begonias from October to April, we retard some of the plants—that is to say, we keep them in a cool house for a time, and when they want heat, bring them into a warmer one, putting them back to the cooler when they have made the necessary growth."

"Do you cut Calanthes, which I see are throwing up some spikes, for the table?"

"No, but we use the plants in the pots for the house; the variety is Veitchii. Both Cypripedium insigne and Dendrobium nobile are also used in pots for the house. There is nothing that will last longer than a plant of insigne; the flowers will keep in water for two months. D. nobile is exceedingly floriferous—on one plant last year we had seven hundred flowers."

"Do you get good crops from your Bananas?"

"Yes, a very nice supply, and the fruit is better than any you can buy. The variety is Cavendishi, and the plants make great growth. With regard to cultivation, the chief thing is to give them plenty of manure-water—in fact, it is impossible to give them too much. We go in for Figs, as well as Bananas, and have been picking fruit from June up to the present time. Both trees are Brown Turkey."

Combinations for Table Use.

"Can you tell me the names of your Pelargoniums in flower?"

"Barbara Hope, Captain Taylor, King of Denmark, Snowflake, Kaiser Ferdinand, Sirdar, and Turtle's Surprise. Primulas (double white) are largely used with a pink variety to decorate the table, also Primula stellata. Dendrobium Wardianum, which is just showing up buds, is used entirely for pot decoration."

"And Poinsettias?"

"Poinsettias we cut and use in the house, in combination with white flowers. Cyclamen are sometimes used for cutting for the table, but they do not last long. Then, we use in silver vases some of the best Crotons, such as Lady Zetland, superba, Mrs. Dorman, and Countess, with Ferns. The next house we use for Melons and Cucumbers, growing, of the latter, Telegraph chiefly, and of Melons, Hero of Lockinge, Countess, Sutton's Scarlet, and A1."

"How long have your Peaches been planted?"

"We took them off the walls outside a year ago. The varieties are Royal George, Noblesse, and Waterloo; the Nectarines, Lord Napier and Early Rivers. In the Vinery, which was only put up a year ago, are Muscat of Alexandria, Mrs. Pince, Lady Downe's Seedling, Alicante, and Gros Colmar. With regard to the last, we cannot get them to colour properly, and unless they finish well they are very indifferent Grapes."

"Now, with regard to flowers outside, beginning with the herbaceous border in front of the greenhouses?"

"I will give you the names of those that do best, namely, Achilleas in variety, Anemone japonica and alba, Asters (of which we have twenty varieties), Delphiniums (these do exceedingly well), Funkias, Hemerocallis, Pæonies in variety, Aquilegias, Dielytra spectabilis, Doronicums, Geums, Helianthus in variety, Tritomas, Phlox, Polygonatum (these grow very strong, and we use a great many of them for forcing), and Pyrethrums in variety. Carnations (Marguerite) are not grown indoors at all, but we have a large number outside."

"How do you treat them?"

"We sow a batch in February, and these come into flower in July. Sometimes we take them up and pot them, and they do well."

"Are Roses a feature?"

"No; we only grow them for cutting purposes, except Cheshunt Hybrid on pillars, and Crimson Rambler on arches. For cutting, Gloire de Dijon, Mrs. John Laing, and Baroness Rothschild are chiefly used. I may say that in the borders we plant a great many bulbs in the spring, filling up subsequently with annuals and herbaceous varieties."

"You have not mentioned Sweet Peas."

"We go in largely for them, growing fifty varieties, most being new. They are much used for table decoration, and when the family are yachting. I think the twelve best are Bolton's Pink, Flora Norton, Janet Scott, King Edward VII., Mrs. Collier, Queen Alexandra, Helen Pierce, Countess Spencer, Helen Lewis, Frank Dolby, Nora Unwin (I like this better than Dorothy Eckford), and Henry Eckford, which, if shaded, has a lovely colour."

Trained Gooseberries.

"Have you grown Gooseberries trained along the railings for many years?"

"They were planted four years ago, and there are twenty or thirty varieties, the best for this purpose being Whinham's Industry, Leader, Mrs. Chambers, Warrington, Dan's Mistake, Keepsake, Surprise, Crown Bob, Fascination, Gretna Green, Telegraph, Yellow Sulphur, Criterion, and King of Trumps. Other fruit grown as cordons on the walls includes Apples; those doing well are Loddington Pippin, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Lane's Prince Albert, Beauty of Kent, Allington Pippin, Bismarck, and Blenheim Orange. The crop of Pears on cordons this year has been better than for five years. The best varieties are Doyenné du Comice, Pitmaston Duchess, Conference, Beurré Bosc, Beurré Bachelier, and Williams's Bon Chrétien. In addition to the fruit on cordons, we grow a good many Apples, Pears and Plums on bushes, and there is a fruit orchard consisting entirely of Apples and Nuts."

"Then, there are Strawberries and Currants?"

"The two varieties we grow are Royal Sovereign, which are also used for forcing, and Loxford Hall, a late variety. We gather Royal Sovereign in June, and Loxford Hall keeps on until August. Currants are grown on the north wall (red and white), and we get very good crops. Black Currants and the older varieties of Gooseberries are grown in a quarter especially devoted to them. We are not troubled with the Black Currant mite."

"What vegetables does your soil suit best?"

"It suits nearly every kind, and we grow almost everything. Asparagus, for instance, is grown in quantities, and cut early. Peas we pick from June until November; we sow the seed in boxes, grow them inside, plant at the beginning of April, and stake them at once, as a protection against cold winds. Sweet Peas are grown in the same way. Only the early varieties of Potatoes are grown in the garden, the others being raised on the farm. The four best of the early varieties are Sharpe's Victor, Puritan, Lord Roberts, and British Queen."

"How long have you been at Marden Park, Mr. Lintott?"

"Just eleven years. Before I came here, I was for over twelve years at Milland Place, near Liphook, and previous to that I was head gardener for six years at Shopwyke House, Chichester. At both of these places I used to show with considerable success, and the cause of leaving in each case was that the property was sold."

Alfred Wilcox.

The Lawns at Marden Park, Woldingham.

It is not generally known that there is a Sweet Brier with double blossoms—it is known as the Double Scarlet, and both flowers and foliage are deliciously fragrant.

The shrubs commonly known in our gardens as Laurels are really not Laurels at all, but a species of Cherry (Cerasus, or Prunus, Laurocerasus). The true Laurel is the Sweet Bay (Laurus nobilis).

A heavy dressing of kainit forms an excellent remedy for attacks of the Pear gnat midge (Diplosis). As much as half a ton to the acre may be applied, spreading it over the roots, and it kills the larvæ of this insect (which usually passes the winter just below the surface) with the utmost certainty.

The variety of Pear known as Glou Morceau (Glout Morceau of some) was raised at Mons, in Belgium, by the Abbe d'Hardenpont, about the year 1759. It is of the finest quality and flavour, but requires a warm position and careful culture. It does well by the sea.

took the first place ("pods ten to thirteen inches long, broad, usually curved, in clusters of six; very heavy crop"). None of the twenty-eight Marrows tested received a first-class certificate, but two were given an award of merit—Defiance ("fruit small, roundish oval, smooth, dark green, striped with a paler colour; a very prolific variety") and Sutton's Marrow ("fruit small, oval, white, smooth, handsome; the heaviest crop in the collection").

February 18th.—Some time ago, Jacob was very concerned about the state of the borders. Might he dig them? They had not been dug for years—only top-dressed, and forked over lightly. I have had some experience of border-digging, and I have always found it a painful business, but "hope springs eternal in the human breast," and, as Jacob is generally a careful man, though getting dim of sight, I gave permission. The borders really needed digging; that was certain. For a long time I was unable to inspect the work. Jacob, whenever I happened to see him, appeared very pleased with himself. I ought to have recognised this as a suspicious sign, suggestive of "a thorough job," but I had other things to think of. Now, however, I have been

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round the garden, and, upon my word, I scarcely know it. The perennials which filled the borders seem to have disappeared. Guided by past experience, I hurried to the rubbish-heap, and there saw barrow-loads of plants—partly covered with leaves, for, though a gardener does this sort of thing out of sheer obstinacy, he always knows that he is doing what deserves a reprimand. When summoned to explain, Jacob said that the garden was filled with "Sunflowers and Michaelmas Daisies, and Phloxes and things," and that, as they were all over the place, he had thinned them out. That was, no doubt, true; but there were many new plants among them, and these, I am afraid, have fared badly. What are left are but the skeleton of the former army. However, I shall never again see them in flower, and as no one else will notice the gaps, it does not matter much. The old man was so proud of his "improvements," though he cast a sheepish eye at the rubbish-heap, that I had not the heart to scold him.

February 19th.—The Hydrangea makes a charming pot-plant, and as it is almost hardy, and very easily cultivated, it is to be found in most mixed collections. But if anyone would see it at its best he must go to some sheltered district where it thrives all the year round out of doors. I have in my mind's eye a vicarage garden in the Isle of Man, where the ground slopes down in terraces to a mountain stream, where Fuchsias sentinel the paths like trees, and Yuccas and Pampas-grass grow with tropical luxuriance. There, among other fine plants, are Hydrangeas of astonishing size, huge bushes covered for several months in the year with several hundred huge heads of bloom. The flowers, if my memory serves me well, vary a good deal in colour, some being pink and others blue, as is often the case, and as is also the case with Forget-me-nots. I have often tried to get the flowers on Hydrangeas all blue, but have never succeeded. The plan, often recommended, of putting a rusty nail in the pot, is not effectual—at least, I have not found it so. Perhaps a method advocated by a Belgian writer might be more successful. He states confidently, as the result of experiments, that if a ferruginous soil is used, and a little alum is dissolved in the water which is given to the plant, the flowers will all be a bright blue. Well, that is easily tested; it may be worth while to do so.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 125.—Mr. W. H. LISLE, at THE GARDENS, SANDERSTEAD COURT, SURREY.

ALTHOUGH the sale of land for building purposes is announced in the parish of Sanderstead, no profane hands have been laid near enough to the seat of Mr. L. A. Wallace to in any way mar its beauty. Surrounded by gardens upwards of ten acres in extent, and a park exceeding a hundred acres, Sanderstead Court is one of the typical delightful residences which stud the county of Surrey. Situated on heights far removed from the din of busy Croydon, the view from the lawn in front of the house is one of practically unbroken rural scenery of hill and dale. When I went to see Mr. Lisle for a chat about the gardens, we started on our rounds at this point.

"The lawn," Mr. Lisle remarked, "has been almost doubled in size during the time Mr. Wallace has lived here."

"I should like to know of any other changes which have been made under your auspices?"

"The walk, which now extends over a mile from the Court, through the shrubbery, round the Park, and back into the other end of the lawn, has been made. It passes underneath some beautiful specimens of Beeches and Hollies, and there is also a fine row of evergreen Oaks. We are gradually planting here and there, on each side, Narcissi and other bulbs, which we force; and we have also been grouping on the banks facing the windows of the Court, clumps of the Pheasant's-eye and other varieties of the Narcissus."

"The large Cedar on the upper part of the lawn must be of ancient date?"

"Yes, it is probably nearly two hundred years old. As you see, the Court itself is covered with Ivy. There are eight or nine varieties, including the Irish, which predominates, the golden and the silver variegated. On one side of the wall which divides part of the flower garden from part of the lawn, and stretches from the end of the Court, there is a great quantity of Clematis montana. In order to get it to flower luxuriantly, we refrain from pruning hard. On the same wall are three coloured varieties of Cydonia japonica, which we treat in the same manner. In each case pruning, if necessary, is done after the flowering."

"What do you grow on the other side of the wall?"

"There is a large plant of Wistaria, and a quantity of yellow Jasminum, of which we cut a quantity of long shoots in bud, and arrange in vases of water, and place in the drawing-room. The flowers open in the vases, and look very pretty at a time when bloom is scarce."

"How often do you plant the beds in front of the Court?"

"Twice a year. The spring flower bedding includes two beds of Narcissi, with a surface of blue Violas, two of Wallflowers, two of Polyanthus, and four of Tulips (Proserpine), surfaced with yellow and white Violas. The only variety of Narcissi used is Major, and the Wallflowers are Belvoir Castle and Blood-red. We have also four beds of French Pæonies."

"Have you had the French Pæonies for any length of time?"

"We imported them from France four years ago. At least, this will be the fourth year of flowering. There are a hundred plants, and every plant is a different variety. The colours range from a pale yellow to a very deep crimson, and when they are in flower they make a beautiful show."

"How did you treat them?"

"Before we planted, we took out the soil to the depth of three feet and a-half, and put a chopped-up preparation of turfy loam, rotten manure, and a little mixture of lime. Every year we take all the surface soil off the beds, and top-dress them with good farmyard manure, subsequently surfacing them over with a little soil, in order to avoid any smell and to give the beds a tidy appearance for the winter. The beds are edged with Star of Bethlehem."

"When do the French Pæonies come into flower?"

"About the first week in June, and they last until the middle of July—later, perhaps, if the weather is dull. The foliage is as elegant as the flower is pretty, and when we cut the long flower-stems for purposes of decoration we also cut some of the foliage. French Pæonies are becoming very popular."

"Are the Rhododendrons in the large beds on the lawns named?"

"Yes; we forced them, and then planted them out. We brought peat from miles distant, and took out the soil to the depth of three and a-half feet, filling in entirely with the peat, and planting the Rhododendrons by themselves, surfacing over with about six inches of yellow loam. The Rhododendrons have done extremely well."

"Did you make the Rosery?"

"That was a part of the scheme for the transformation of the lawn. In front of the greenhouse there was a very broad, clipped Privet hedge, and, inside, an old building, supposed to be a cottage, almost covered with Ivy. We took down the cottage, and in front of the greenhouse put the Rosery. It consists of eleven beds, one variety to each bed. The best Rose we have is Mrs. John Laing. The only Tea Rose that flourishes in the Rosery, which is exposed to north-east winds, is Gloire de Dijon, which we prune with long shoots. The Hybrid Teas and Hybrid Perpetuals seem to like the position, but not the finer Teas."

"You might tell me the names of some of the flowering shrubs in the numerous beds above and below the greenhouse?"

"Each bed contains one variety of shrub. For instance, there is a bed of Azalea mollis, another of Garrya elliptica, a third of Viburnum plicatum, a fourth of mixed Lilacs, a fifth of mixed Weigelas, a sixth of Spiræas, a seventh of Berberis, an eighth of Cydonia japonica, in addition to those on the wall; a ninth of golden Privet, a tenth of green Euonymus, and an eleventh with several varieties of the hardy Genista. The wall facing these beds, which used to be devoted to fruit, is covered with flowering shrubs, with Roses of all sorts in front."

Passing a well-kept Holly hedge, which divides the flower from a portion of the kitchen garden, Mr. Lisle drew my attention to the fact that an outside strip is utilised for various kinds of vegetables, and to a wooden fence, separating the strip from the main garden, on one side of which Raspberries (Superlatives) are grown, and on the other, Red Currants."

"Which," I inquired, "do better of Apples and Pears?"

"Apples do much better than Pears, except Pitmaston Duchess, which often grows to a very large size. The soil is rather light for Pears. As you see, there are, here and there, old standard trees of such Apples as Cox's Pippin and Kentish Beauty. There is also an old Pear tree of Williams' Bon Chrétien."

"What fruit do you grow chiefly on the main walls?"

"Plums of several varieties, including Victoria, Morella Cherries, Pears, Peaches, and Nectarines. I am extending the cultivation of the Loganberry in succession to Raspberries, and am planting it on a fence facing north-east, as the coldest aspect I could get."

"Did you have a good crop of Loganberries last year?"

"A splendid crop. I consider the Loganberry a most useful fruit for tarts and preserving purposes, and I think that the more it is grown the more it will be appreciated. With regard to Raspberries, Yellow Hornet is, I have found, one of the best. I ordered Falstaff from Veitch's, six years ago, and they sent me the Yellow Hornet instead, which I have never regretted. The Northumberland Fillbasket is a Raspberry which does well here."

"Have you any other varieties of fruit from the North of England?"

"Yes; Whinham's Industry Gooseberry, which Messrs. William Fell and Co., of Hexham, introduced, some fifteen years ago, into America, where it is now largely grown. We gather this variety in the green state, for tarts, more freely than any other Gooseberry in the garden."

"You have not mentioned Strawberries."

"In addition to a general collection of bush fruit, we grow a fair number of Strawberries, but only two varieties, Royal Sovereign and President."

"Can you name some of the plants in the herbaceous border on each side of the centre walk of the kitchen garden?"

"The lower half of the borders consists of mixed varieties, including Sunflowers at the back, Delphiniums, Michaelmas Daisies, Golden Rod, and Phloxes; but the top border is planted in patches of one variety. The patches are chiefly Gaillardias, Pyrethrums, dwarf Michaelmas Daisies, Delphiniums, Phloxes, Aquilegias, German Irises, Pæonies, and Montbretias Pottsi and Crocosmæflora."

"The wire trellis at the back of each side is, I suppose, planted with Roses?"

"Entirely, the varieties being the Chinese and Crimson Rambler. The latter are kept in as rough a state as possible for the purpose of forming a hedge and producing bloom. Most of the kitchen garden is surrounded with espalier-trained trees, and below these trees and the walk are borders, about two feet wide, planted with Wallflowers (the Harbinger variety, mainly), for spring cutting. The border facing north-west is planted exclusively with Parrot Tulips, and other borders with early-flowering bulbs, the Spanish Iris in particular, all being planted for the sake of getting plenty of bloom for cutting. Bulbs of various kinds for spring flowering are also planted round the shrubberies."

"How about vegetables?"

"A large square is devoted to Asparagus, most of it being Old Colossal. It does well, but, to make the soil suitable, we have to top-dress it with salt, and sow it on, if possible, before rain. We cut Asparagus from the last week in April until the end of June. Peas are another vegetable of which we need a large quantity. A field of two and a-half acres is devoted to Potatoes."

"Are decorative plants a great feature?"

"Decidedly. To take the houses as we go along, the large plant stove contains Palms, and the side stages a general collection of flowering and foliage plants. On the back stage are Adiantums in pots, and there are three baskets of the Fern Goniophlebium. Then, on the roof, we have Allamandas, of the Hendersonii, Schotti, and Williamsii varieties."

"And Anthuriums?"

"Yes. By the way, we got the Ferrieriense variety, from the Royal Horticultural Society, as a little 'thumb' plant, six years ago. Now, as you see, it is in a 12-in. pot. We have several plants of the Andreanum variety, and it is allowed by experts that we have one of the finest varieties of Scherzerianum Wardii."

"How many varieties of Grapes do you have in the early Vinery?"

"Only two—Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling. The shelves in this house are filled with bedding plants, including Ivy-leaved Pelargoniums Mrs. Pollock, Flower of Spring, Henri Jacoby, Lady Plymouth, and Crystal Palace Gem."

"You have a mixed collection of Orchids."

"Dendrobiums are the particular feature, including D. nobile, D. Ainsworthi, D. A. splendidissimum, and D. Wardianum. I pay special attention to these, and when they are in flower they make a charming sight."

"In the late Vinery," continued Mr. Lisle, "we have Muscat of Alexandria, Gros Colman, Alicante, Lady Downe, Gros Maroc, and Mrs. Pince. Here there are, now, quantities of young Chrysanthemums ready to pot off."

"I notice that the name of each Vine is given on a zinc label. Indeed, everything inside and outside seems to be labelled."

"That is the case. The labels, which are indelible, are made by Mr. Smith, of Stratford-on-Avon. They are very handy. No one working in the gardens has any difficulty about names. In the intermediate Vinery we have Muscat of Alexandria, Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, and Alicante Grapes."

"Also, I observe, Freesias and Lachenalias. How many of the latter do you grow?"

"There are about forty pots, chiefly tricolor and Nelsonii. This is the seventh year we have had Lachenalias. After they have done flowering we put them back on to a cosy shelf, in a cool house, where they get the rays of the sun. We keep them there some time, and feed them with a little liquid until the foliage begins to die off. When the foliage is nearly dead, the plants are carried out to the bottom of a north wall, in a full sun, and left there to ripen. About the last week in July we take them in and shake them out of the soil, repotting the large bulbs for flowering. They are not expensive. I got my whole stock from two dozen bulbs. Freesias are treated in a similar way to Lachenalias. In fact, almost all Cape bulbs require much the same treatment."

"Of course, in the flowering house you have fresh things constantly coming on?"

"Yes; just now there are Primulas in variety, early Narcissi, Roman Hyacinths. Azalea indica, and a few fragments of L. Canning. the last of the late white Chrysanthemums. In the next house are the Clivias and Callas. I find Clivias very accommodating. We set them out in any back place, when we are full up with Chrysan-

THE GARDEN STAFF AT SANDERSTEAD COURT, CROYDON.

themums, and then pot them out. There are several seedlings which I raised from C. grandiflora, on the place, and a seedling called Sanderstead. We have only one variety of Calla."

"What do you force in the remaining house?"

"In the first house in the span-roofed range there are a number of bulbs, and such plants as Azaleas indica and mollis are forced on for house and greenhouse decorations. Later on we use this house for Melons and Cucumbers. The next house in this range contains Orchids in variety, the third house contains Crotons on one side and Eucharis amazonica on the other. Other houses, which now contain Zonal Geraniums, Cyclamens, Orchids (Odontoglossums), etc., will also be full of Tomatoes and Melons later in the season. The chief varieties of Tomatoes are Frogmore Selected, Veitch's Golden Jubilee, Hackwood Park, Conference, and Perfection. Our favourite Melon is Eastnor Castle, a very old, green-fleshed variety, and, of Cucumbers, there is nothing to beat Lockie's Perfection."

"How many varieties of Violets do you grow under lights?"

"Only two—Neapolitan Double and Californian Single. We have tried several others, but like none so well. We use from twenty to twenty-five lights for Violets, and for winter salad, such as Lettuce and Endive, we use twenty-two. Later, they are used for early Potatoes."

"I have omitted to ask you about the Christmas Roses, which, I see, you have just planted near one of the ranges of glass."

"In the border I have some more, which I propose to lift and flower in pots, in order to be able to compare them with the new plants. Christmas Roses do well here. There are many other decorative plants which I have not mentioned, such as Deutzias, Hydrangeas, Poinsettias, and Amaryllis, that are grown largely; but I think I have told you enough to give you a fair idea of the operations here."

"You have been head gardener at Sanderstead for a number of years, Mr. Lisle?"

"Since Mr. Wallace took the Court. I came with him from the North of England."

"Did you commence your gardening career in the North?"

"Yes, in Northumberland, of which county I am a native. I was born at Eslington Park, the beautiful seat of Lord Ravensworth, in the parish of Whittingham, and started gardening there, under the then head gardener, Mr. A. Oliver, who was a very shrewd and practical man, and insisted on having the most minute thing thoroughly done. From Eslington I moved to Ravensworth Castle, in Durham, and there I was under Mr. Moult, who was one of the best gardeners I ever knew. The work, both under glass and outside, had to be well and neatly done. He would not tolerate untidiness. I remember the ladies of the house sending the maids one day to the kitchen garden to find some Groundsel and Chickweed for their canaries, and great was the disappointment of the ladies when the maids returned and told them that they could not find a bit of either in the whole of the garden."

"Where did you go next?"

"To Fern Dene, in the same county, as foreman, under Mr. Bollom, another excellent gardener, to whose practical teaching I owe a good deal. Fruit and plants were grown extensively, and there was a fine collection of Orchids. Amongst tropical fruits we grew the Banana and the Monstera deliciosa. There was also a nice collection of the Australian Pitcher plants. I was next appointed head gardener to the late Mr. W. H. Charlton, at Hesleyside, Northumberland. This position I occupied for seventeen years, continuing to hold it after Mr. Charlton's death, when Mr. Wallace, my present employer, took the place. I came to Mr. Wallace here in 1896."

"How large is the staff under you?"

"There are six men and a boy in the gardens, and a cowman and two cartmen. They all live in the bothies, which are close to the glasshouses and potting-shed, or in cottages on the estate. My house used to be the old Manor House."

"You are pleasantly located in the park."

"Yes; the situation is convenient, and the house very comfortable. In addition to the gardens, I have charge of the farming, and look after the pedigree stock, which includes herds of Guernsey and Highland cattle. Mr. Wallace is most interested in Roses, but he likes to see everything in good order, and appreciates all that is done by those whom he employs."

ALFRED WILCOX.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 82.—THE HERBACEOUS BORDER.

DEAR KATE,—This is a good time to overhaul your herbaceous border. You will find that amongst the plants it is the same as amongst human beings—the strong are inclined to oppress the weak—and it is our business to see that the latter get fair play. Michaelmas

PÆONY, METEOR FLIGHT.

Daisies and Helianthus Miss Mellish are the two chief culprits in my borders; they both increase and multiply themselves so rapidly that they swamp the more delicate flowers around them, and we are obliged to dig them up remorselessly, only leaving a little of each variety, and filling up the holes made by removing their roots with good, rich soil from the kitchen garden. The whole border gets a dressing of old hotbed stuff in March, but these rampant growers exhaust the soil terribly, and the half-starved plants, which have been nearly crushed out of existence by them, will be glad of some fresh food.

Blue Delphiniums are lovely, and if you have not any in your garden, this is the time to put them in. Their tall spikes, in many shades of colour, from pale azure to deep royal blue, are so valuable in the garden when all the pink and red Roses appear. These Delphiniums are easily propagated by division of their roots, or you can sow the seed in the kitchen garden in June, when you will have plenty of young plants for the following year; but they do not attain their full size under two or three seasons.

Then there are the Pæonies! How lovely they are now—quite different from the heavy red Pæony of thirty years ago, for the best are now in exquisite shades of pink and white, with great tufts of yellow anthers in the centre. Imperial Pæonies are the latest new comers, semi-double, and very elegant; they need deep, rich soil, and, when once they have established themselves (but they take a year or two to do it), they increase in beauty every season, and are wonderfully handsome additions to any garden. Meteor Flight, in rich pink, with golden anthers, and Queen Alexandra, in pure white, are Imperial Pæonies; Agnes Mary Kelway (a quaint flower, with distinct rows of pale pink, yellow, and crimson anthers, all forming a high tuft in the centre) always reminds me of the paper flowers which are sometimes used to decorate ballrooms, only it is far more beautiful; Summer Day is just like an enormous La Marque Rose, creamy-white in tint; and Princess Beatrice is in delicate shades of blush-rose.

The King of Flowers, as the Chinese call the Pæony, is very much like the Queen of Flowers (the Rose) when seen at a distance; it is a curious thing that so few people possess these grand plants, and yet they are the easiest of all things to grow when once planted, for all they want is a mulch of manure each spring, and to be let alone, to form magnificent groups. On the edge of a lawn they look lovely, and make a fine show at a distance; then, for a carriage drive, or the back of the herbaceous border, few plants can rival them in effect, especially if alternated or grouped with blue Delphiniums.

The spring is much the best time to put in Pyrethrums, for these, if planted in the autumn, are apt to disappear under the depressing effects of the cold and the wet, although they are hardy enough when once established. These great crimson Daisies are delightful for cutting; nothing can be more dainty than they for a dinner-table decoration in May, with plenty of flowering Grasses, and a frond or two of Fern. Let me recommend you to plant some good roots of these Pyrethrums at once, and you will be charmed with their rich and delicate tints; James Kelway is one of the finest in brilliant crimson; Jubilee is even brighter in tint, but the flowers are smaller; A. M. Kelway is a lovely thing in rich pink, of perfect form; and the pure white Daisies of Armida are needed to group with the rest. Then there are the double Pyrethrums (Wiga, in apricot and pink; Lord Rosebery, carmine, etc.), which are very pretty, too, but not quite so elegant for bouquets as the single varieties, I think.

In re-arranging and adding to your herbaceous border, you will find it the best way to arrange a few yards at a time; if one gets all the things dug up together, there is apt to be confusion in putting them back again, and the arrangement of a herbaceous border needs a good deal of consideration and taste, as well as knowledge of the colours, the heights, and the times of blooming, of the plants. If you have many gaps, you can easily fill them now, by sowing Shirley Poppy seed broadcast, and very thinly; even then you will have to thin out most of the young plants, for each should be at least a foot from the others. A good plan is to take the seed of Mignonette, of a fine variety, blue Cornflower (Cyanus), and Shirley Poppies—mix them all together, and then add about half a pound of silver sand, and again mix thoroughly. Just after you have raked your renovated herbaceous borders, you can sow this mixture, sand and all, very lightly in the bare spots; you will have plenty of flowers to fill them, and at a very small expense. The seeds do not need much covering—just take your smallest rake, and settle them a little in the soil, with the back of it, to make them firm, and they will be all right; but you must not forget to thin them, or they will all fight for the pre-eminence, and spoil each other's beauty. I shall never forget the sight of a round group of Shirley Poppies which I saw in quite a large, grand garden; it was about a yard across, and the only plants which were at all of decent size were those on the outside of the ring; in the middle the poor little dears were about three inches high, and they graduated to the outside, so as to form a sort of basin of small, miserable flowers, all starving together. This was for want of thinning; the grand gardener had sown the seed

SUPERPHOSPHATE FOR TOMATOES.—(1) Will you kindly inform me if superphosphate of lime should be used for the "sleepy disease" of Tomatoes, and how to use it? (2) What quantity of nitrate of soda should be used for feeding Cucumbers? (A.D.).——(1) Superphosphate is an excellent fertiliser for Tomatoes, but it will not kill the fungus (Fusarium) that causes the "sleepy" disease—for this there is nothing but sterilising the soil, or using some fungicide that will penetrate the whole. (2) Water the plants with a solution of half an ounce of the nitrate in each gallon of water, but do not give it more than once a week, nor let it touch the foliage.—ED.

APPLYING ARTIFICIAL MANURE.—Would you please tell me what proportions of artificial manure I should use for a piece of ground which I purpose planting with Potatoes? It is thirty-eight feet by forty-five, and is a light loam on chalk subsoil. I have twenty-eight pounds of kainit, seven pounds of basic slag, and seven pounds of nitrate of soda. What proportions of these should I use, and when should they be applied—previous to planting, or at the time of planting (W. Barnard, Brighton.)

THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE AT SANDERSTEAD COURT, CROYDON.

——This plot of ground contains about six rods, and, consequently, it may have the whole of the kainit (this is about the right quantity), and about the same amount of basic slag ought to be used—or rather more than less; seven pounds is not enough. The quantity of nitrate of soda will do, also, though a little more would do no harm. The kainit should be put on the ground at once, before planting (this really ought to have gone on earlier), and the slag may either be applied at the same time, or dusted in the drills when planting. Keep the soda till the haulm is up, and sprinkle it evenly between the rows just before earthing up.—ED.

IRIS RETICULATA.—How must I treat Iris reticulata, now flowering in pots in cool greenhouse, to get it to flower another year, in pots again, if possible? (Amateur.)——If carefully supplied with water and liquid manure, after flowering, until the foliage began to wither, and then gradually dried off, they would probably do well, but, on the whole, it will be the best to plant them out for a year or two.—ED.

PLANTS FOR AN OLD WALL.—I fear my query respecting an old wall, a fortnight ago (3rd inst.), was misunderstood. What I meant was: what could I grow in the wall itself, in the chinks of decaying mortar? And, in that case, would the stone on top keep off too much moisture? (Amateur.)——Sorry we failed to read your previous query correctly. Many of the Sedums are excellent rock- or wall-plants, especially the common S. acre, S. populifolium, S. rupestre, S. stolonferum, etc., also such Saxifrages as S. aizoon and its varieties, S. cœsia, S. Camposi, S. cœspitosa, etc. The Sempervivums would also thrive, and then there are the pretty little "Wandering Sailor" (Linaria), the Wall Pellitory, Wallflowers, Antirrhinums, and such Ferns as the common Polypody, the Wall-Rue (Asplenium ruta-muraria), and the Black Maidenhair Spleenwort (A. adiantum nigrum). Some care may be necessary to get the plants established, but this will be well repaid. We have now not mentioned the Aubrietias, Arabis, and others of this class. A flat stone coping on top of the wall would throw off a lot of rain, of course, and, on the whole, the plants would do better without it.—ED.

OBTAINING STOCK SEED.—I have obtained some of the finest Stocks, and I wish to know how to gather the seeds from these lovely plants to produce double flowers next year. I want to be on the right side before the time comes. Some tell me to gather the seeds from the main stem only; others, if I see a plant with five sprays, that will produce double flowers. Kindly say if there is any difference between gathering the seed of Stocks and Wallflowers. Kindly put me on the right track. If you know of a cheap book that gives instructions how to gather and prepare seeds, kindly let me know (C. A. Wood, Shrewsbury).——Double-flowered Stocks, however fine, never produce any seed. The only way is to grow the doubles and singles together, and gather the seed, when ripe, from the best of the single-flowered plants growing among the others. Or you may grow them in pots under glass, and, when in bloom, fertilise the singles with pollen from the doubles. Dry and shake out the seed when ripe. There is no book on the subject.

SKELETONIZED LEAVES. — Directions wanted for making these artistic specimens? (C.L.A., Faversham).——The leaves should be macerated, or laid in water, until the substance, or parenchyma, becomes decayed and soft, leaving only the midrib and veins. Then wash the former out carefully under a stream of water (as from a tap), and dry and press the skeletons.—ED.

AN UNHEALTHY CACTUS.—Will you please tell me what is the cause of, and cure for, enclosed Cactus? The leaves have been shrivelling for some time, and I now discover, at joints near roots, hundreds of small white insects, like maggots, which cause large pieces of the plant to rot and drop off. I have another Cactus, exactly like it, which is quite healthy, and they both have the same treatment (E.M.T., Kingston Hill).——This plant has simply been attacked by a small maggot, or grub of some kind (there were none visible when the box was opened), which has caused the damage. Rub or pick away the diseased parts, and apply a little quicklime. We should take cuttings in the spring, or early summer, and discard the old plant. It is an Epiphyllum.—ED.

SHRUBS, ROSES, ETC.—My garden is entirely uncultivated, with a clay soil, and has only been dug up once, and left rough. (1) The front of house faces east, and, as I have a small bed in front, I should like to know if I could plant two evergreen, berry-bearing shrubs there, and which would be best? Could I have a Pyracantha, and are these all climbers? (2) The small back garden is divided into two portions, with path down centre; on the shady side I wish to have evergreen and flowering shrubs; will you give me a dozen names of the most suitable and hardy? (3) I should also like some climbing Roses; could I have Crimson, White, and Pink Ramblers, and a W. A. Richardson? Also, please give me names of Sweet Briers. (4) Please give me names of some hardy annuals that would grow best on this poor soil, for north and south aspects. (5) Could I put in any perennials that would flower this year? (A.E.F., Norbiton.)——(1) The "Pyracantha" (Cratægus pyracantha, or Fiery Thorn) is such a weak-habited shrub that it requires the support of a wall or fence, and is usually treated as a semi-climber. There are only two varieties—the common, and that known as Lelandi. In the bed may be planted a couple of either the variegated or the plain-leaved Aucuba, and if you get one male and one female plant, there will be plenty of berries on the latter; or the Mezereon (Daphne mezereum) would be very suitable. (2) Variegated Aucubas, Rhododendrons, Berberis aquifolium and others, Azalea pontica, A. mollis, and some of the Ghent varieties, Weigela rosea, Spiræas of any of the shrubby species, such as S. Douglasi, S. callosa, S. ariæfolia, etc., Lilacs, Syringas (Philadelphus), and a few Laurestinus and variegated Euonymus. (3) Yes, all those mentioned would be suitable, though W. A. Richardson requires a rather sunny wall to do well; Gloire de Dijon is always good. Of the Sweet Briers there are the old kind, Hebe's Lip (white, edged purple), Meg Merrillies (crimson), Flora Mc'Ivor (blush-white), and Julia Mannering (pink). (4) Cornflowers, Mignonette, annual Chrysanthemums, Clarkias, Scabious, and the common Marigold, also Sunflowers, but no annuals will do much good in the shade. (5) Yes; strong roots of Delphiniums, Phloxes, Pyrethrums, Geums, and many others, if planted shortly, will bloom this year.—ED.

PRUNING VINES.—I have a small Vinery, and have pruned the Vines on the "double bud" method. I gather, from my gardening book, that I must rub off one of the buds when a quarter of an inch long. If I do so, I fear I may rub off the bud which would produce the fruit, and leave a bud which would only produce wood. Please inform me if there is any way of knowing the fruit-bearing bud. Please let me know when I should cut off the bud, or resulting branch, and, at the same time, know that I am not destroying the fruit, and leaving a bud or branch with no fruit (Self-Taught).——This is a very simple matter, and the only thing to be done is to rub off the weaker shoot, or growth, and leave the stronger. The main object

Henry Lister

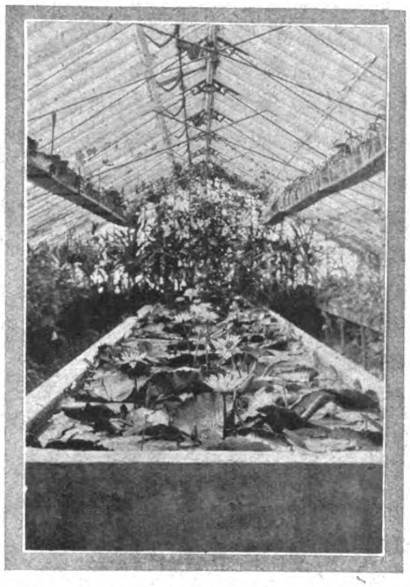
THE GARDENS OF THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF WARWICK, AT EASTON LODGE, DUNMOW.

THE special attractions of the gardens at Easton Lodge, the Essex seat of the Earl and Countess of Warwick, are so numerous that on the occasion of my visit in glorious summer weather, I made no attempt to take notes of ordinary features. Welcomed on my arrival by Lord Warwick, I had the opportunity of talking to him about the Lilies in which he takes the keenest interest, and later in respect to the massing of flowers and the effects produced by combinations. Upon Mr. Henry Lister, who has been in charge of the gardens for thirty-four years, devolved the task of showing me round, and bearing with the many questions which I asked in swift succession. At his suggestion we commenced the tour of inspection in the house of tropical Nymphæas, because, as the day proceeds, the flowers close. I saw many open, some of great size and beauty; and inquired when the collection was started.

"About four years ago," replied Mr. Lister, "and three years ago an award was obtained from the Royal Horticultural Society for a seedling called the Earl of Warwick. Most of the Lilies are seedlings. Two other awards have been gained, both two years ago, from the Royal Horticultural Society. One of the Lilies is called Lord Brooke, and the other has been named Listerii."

"What is the name of the fine blue flower?"

"Listerii. The pink flower with the yellow stem, of the stellata type, is the Earl of Warwick. Lord Brooke, you will notice, is a rather darker pink."



THE WATER LILY HOUSE AT EASTON LODGE.
(Photograph by Mr. F. Turner, 21, Bell's Hill, Bishop's Stortford.)

RAISING SEEDLINGS.

"Are the rest of your plants unnamed?"

"Yes, the rest are seedlings, which we keep on raising. I do not know of anyone else who raises them under the same conditions. They come fairly true, as can be seen by seedlings from the original varieties. Here is one distinct from anything else. It is a cross between N. pulcherrima and N. Earl of Warwick, with a very fragrant scent. Others are from N. Listerii."

"There seems to be a great number of seedlings in flower."

"With the parent plants, there are quite forty in bloom in the house. The flowers grown outside are larger."

"The leaves are scarcely less beautiful than the flowers. Can you tell me the size?"

"Several exceed twenty inches across, and are generally considered exceedingly ornamental. Lilies are very difficult to keep in the winter; and the only way to maintain a collection is to get the seeds and raise fresh flowers."

EASTON LODGE, DUNMOW, WITH A SECTION OF THE LILY POND.
(Photograph by Mr. F. Turner, 21, Bell's Hill, Bishop's Stortford.)

"When do you commence to fertilise the flowers?"

GERMINATION OF SEED.

"During July, and then we secure the seeds about October, sowing some of them straight away. The seeds germinate better if planted directly they are ripe, but I have kept some and had satisfactory results when sown in March."

"How long do the flowers last?"

"They open as a rule four or five days in succession. Some of the flowers close at noon, others not until seven in the evening. I do not know why. Neither sun nor shade makes any difference; but they should have a maximum of sun. They are all scented, and the perfume of the varieties is quite distinct. The water in this house is not heated."

In the extensive range of houses, Carnations are to the fore, the principal varieties being Princess of Wales, Lady Coventry, Maggie Hodson, Nautilus, and Duchess of Westminster. But we did not linger here, making our way instead to the Italian garden, in which the Lily pond is conspicuous.

A WONDERFUL HONEYSUCKLE.

Just at the entrance a magnificent mass of flowering Honeysuckle, with its splendour accentuated by its perfume, attracted my attention, and I asked for details.

"There is only one plant, which was put in eight years ago. The flower is white when it comes out, and fades off to yellow. The blooming season lasts three weeks, and every year this plant yields the same wealth of flowers. I have taken several cuttings from it, and they are all doing well.

"With regard to the Lilies," continued Mr. Lister, "the Marliacea section are strongly represented, including M. chromatella, albida, Brackleyi rosea, and Frobelli. James Brydon is one of the best reds. Laydekeri prolifera is a pretty deep pink, but it does not throw up outside shoots, and I cannot obtain a stock of it. N. Laydekeri liliacea flowers freely."

"What is the variety with a leaf almost crimson?"

A PRETTY LEAF.

"Arc en ciel. It is difficult to grow, and the leaf is better than the flower. There are a few good flowers from W. Shaw, a pretty pink, but a rather shy grower. The flowers of tuberosa rosea stand above the water nicely; and atropurpurea is one of the best colours, the darkest we have. There are two shades of colour in the flower of Aurora. This is the third year we have grown Moorei, a variety which was introduced from the Antipodes. It is, as you can observe, a shade darker than chromatella, and with leaves of a different character."

"I suppose you try all the new varieties as they come out?"

"As a rule, and if they are satisfactory we go on with them. One of the best white is the well known variety Gladstoniana. A month ago we put a number of plants from the Lily house into the pond, and they are thriving. Of course, we winter them indoors. The pond is embellished with Cyperus mariscus, Typhas (the variegated Rush), along the centre; and Ranunculus lingrea, with its yellow flowers making an excellent border all round."

CONCENTRATING THE COLOURS.

"Not less beautiful than the Lily pond is the surrounding bedding. Have you any system?"

"We allow the varieties in the border to have their own way. The beds, arranged with a view to the concentration of colours, include four of Cannas and four of Fuchsias. Most of the plants flower in August, but some of them, and also of the shrubs, much earlier. This year, for the first time in six years, Buddleia Colvillei flowered; the blooms are pink. The Antirrhinums and Pentstemons are going to do well. Abelia chinensis is showing a lot of flower on the wall. It is a very graceful, bell-

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shaped bloom. We get a great show of flowers from Mimulus luteus, which is grown from cuttings, the old roots being kept through the winter. Another variety of Mimulus is tigrinas, the value of which is not always realised. Not only are they very floriferous, but if they are kept well watered, they continue to throw out blooms for six weeks. Another plant which supplies a mass of colour is Sweet William Sutton's Pink Beauty; and so also does Salvia Pride of Zurich."

STRIKING COMBINATIONS.

"Please tell me some of the combinations."

"Carnations Raby Castle and Violas Maggie Mott do well together. An excellent combination of gold and blue is formed from Calceolarias amplexicaulis and Salvia patens. Tiger Lilies with Viola cornuta purpureum and Coreopsis, form an excellent combination of orange, purple, and yellow; while another equally useful consists of a few Tiger Lilies, Violas Maggie Mott, and variegated Abutilon. Begonias Lafayette, with their scarlet flowers and their dark foliage, dotted by Abutilons, are serviceable. In a corner Anchusa Opal with Lobelia cardinalis and Queen Victoria thrives; Petunias of mixed colours do well with Mimulus luteus; and Delphinium Belladonna, with yellow Violas, behind the light blue Delphinium being Eremurus Warei. In the way of ornamentation the Golden Yews and the stone pavement add to the general appearance."

Proceeding down the slopes along the new extension of the gardens, the flowers and shrubs on either side claimed attention.

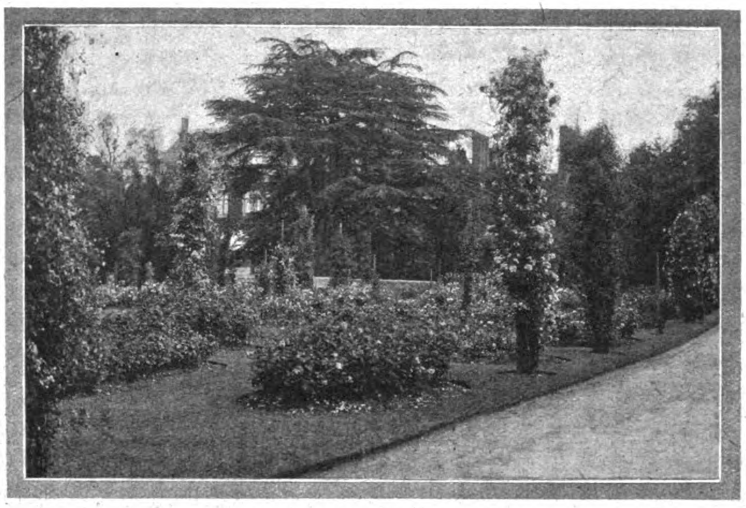
"Some of the more notable subjects which are massed in quantities are Canterbury Bells, Foxgloves, Sweet Williams, Anchusas (Dropmore variety), Columbines red and gold, Valerians which stand by themselves, and great clumps of Roses. One of the most useful of the Roses is Rubrafolium, especially in combination with Sea Buckthorn (Hippophæ rhamnoides), Erica carnea (after flowering), and blue Lobelias. Una, Alberic Barbier, Gardenia, and Rubens alba are amongst other Roses which are largely used.

"Close to the Japanese tea house is a fine show of the Rose Jeannie Deans, one of the Penzance Briers, which is never pruned, but allowed to grow in its natural way.

"In the lake are more clumps of Water Lilies of the same varieties you saw in the Italian garden. On the banks of the water, and adjacent, are Polygonum sachalinense; Alder lacinata imperalis, a very graceful and good plant for the waterside. The Stone Pines are great favourites of Lord Warwick, and are very effective.

"The slopes terminate with a wild garden, and more water. Here, early in the year, Primulas supplied great masses of colour. The variety is pulverulenta, and from May to early in June there were eight or nine tiers of bloom. Spiræas in variety flourish in this garden, and in the Lily pond, which was only made four years ago, varieties are as much at home as they are in the Italian garden. In this vicinity, you will observe, we are trying to make a Bamboo nook, growing at the same time the Rose Jeannie Deans wherever we can, in order to supply colour Garden varieties are avoided here, and plans chosen adapted for the conditions. The soil is suitable for Bamboos, and we add plenty of manure. They require protection from the wind, and it is abundantly afforded by the trees behind. The varieties include Quilioi, a fine plant for rough places. Nigra is a very ornamental variety, and anceps is one of the best of the Arundinaria section. The banks are clothed, amongst other things, with masses of Epilobium, which has to be replanted every third year, in order to procure big spikes. We top dress all the plants dotting the banks.

"On the other side of the slopes you will see, as we return, many more combinations of colour. One of these is Sea Buckthorn with red Roses; another Golden Privet and Delphiniums, Atriplex rubra associated with yellow Calceolaria amplexicaulis, which shows up at a distance remarkably well. The hedge of Cupressus macrocarpa lutea, close to the gates, and planted five years ago for trial, promises to be a great success."



PART OF THE ROSE GARDEN AT EASTON LODGE, DUNMOW.
(Photograph by Mr. F. Turner, 21, Bell's Hill, Bishop's Stortford.)

THE DUTCH GARDEN.

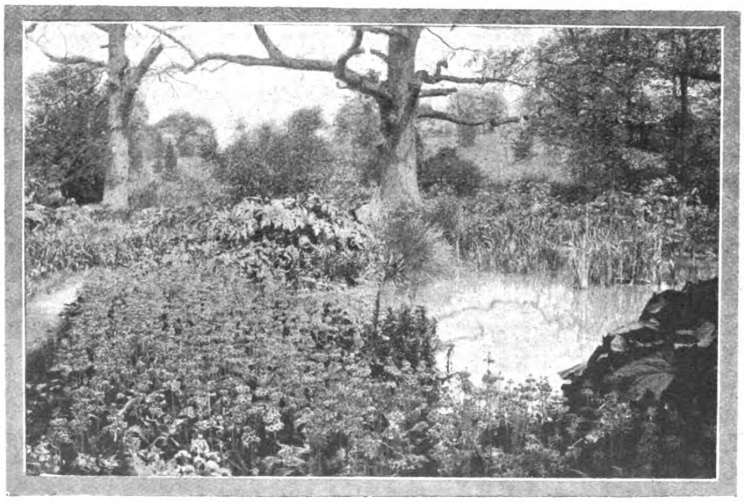
Some considerable time was next spent in the Dutch garden, with pink Rambler Roses on the wall and on arches. The beds contain one variety of a sort, and all are edged with Box. In the spring these beds are filled with late-flowering Tulips, and in July and later months with Fuchsias, Phloxes, Michaelmas Daisies, Hollyhocks, Border Carnations, Stocks, and a number of annuals, notably Galegas and Campanulas."

"What is the area of the gardens?"

"Just over forty acres," replied Mr. Lister, "and the Rosery, which we are now entering, is one of the most important features. The varieties are grown in beds of a kind. For example, there are two big beds of Caroline Testout containing three or four hundred plants. Of Mrs. John Laing there are about a hundred, and of Ulrich Brunner about one hundred and fifty. Charles Lefebvre runs to about four hundred. There is nothing to beat it, either for colour or for fragrance; it is a Rose that lasts as well in the garden as in water. The Earl of Warwick is a good exhibition Rose, and Madame Ravary is one of the best for garden purposes. There are two beds of Grand Duc de Luxemburg, and Lady Hillingdon is another favourite."

"When was the Rosery made?"

"This has been a Rose garden for at least one hundred years. The subsoil is clay below nine inches of good loam. The plants are lifted every third year and replanted, and fresh soil added. There is no particular design, but all the beds were cut out of the grass. On the poles the varieties include Lady Gay, Dorothy Perkins, Hiawatha, Carmine Pillar, Goldfinch, and Waltham Rambler. The pillar in the centre is Leuchstern, with its shoots tied down to wire so as to make a mass of flower; and American Pillar is treated in the same way. I omitted to mention that one of the best white varieties, which we grow largely, is Frau Karl Druschki, though we do not grow many whites. The border consists of Yews, the Monthly Rose, and the Rose Hermosa. We have Hermosa also in conjunction with Lavender on the borders of the tennis ground. On the



THE WILD GARDEN AT EASTON LODGE, DUNMOW.
(Photograph by Mr. F. Turner, 21, Bell's Hill, Bishop's Stortford.)

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pergola Mrs. Flight, Gruss an Teplitz, and several other varieties are used. Adjoining the Rosery is the American garden, containing a number of flowering shrubs, which include Cotoneaster reflex, and the Mock Orange varieties, Bouquet Blanche and maculata, which has a very pretty flower. The Purple-leaved Sloe is ornamental in the border near the Prunus, but it is quite different. Then there is the bedding on both sides of the mansion."

EIGHT THOUSAND BEGONIAS.

"On the north side there are twenty beds filled as to groundwork with Begonias, fibrous and tuberous, sixteen of the former and four of the latter, eight thousand plants in all. The three fibrous varieties are Magnificent, Prima Donna, and Fairy Queen. The tuberous are mixed. These beds are dotted with the Castor-oil plant. On the south side the terrace is bedded with Geraniums, and a border of Tea Roses. The contents of the conservatory are changed according to the season, but Begonias last from June to September, and the Chrysanthemums for several weeks."

Alfred Wilcox.

Next week: Interview with Mrs. Frederic E. Hall, of Cumberland Cottage, Redbourne, winner of the Eckford Memorial Cup at the National Sweet Pea Society's Show.

THE MADWORTS.

As garden plants, the Madworts or Alyssums have much to recommend them, being of easy culture, and wonderfully floriferous. Further, species can be found that are adapted for the front part of the herbaceous border, or vacant sites in the shrubbery, while others of small growth find a congenial home in the rock garden.

EASY TO GROW.

No difficulty will be experienced in raising a stock of plants from seeds, which germinate freely enough in a cold frame; or, again, cuttings inserted in sandy soil and given the protection of a close frame, form roots in the course of a fortnight or three weeks.

The Madworts may be planted at any time during the dormant season, provided the weather is open, but certainly the best season is early autumn, as this enables them to become established before the latent heat has left the soil. A full crop of flowers can scarcely be expected if the work be deferred until spring, as they resume activity at an early date.

Having noted these plants growing in luxuriant fashion in every conceivable kind of soil, it is hardly necessary to dwell upon the subject of a medium, and it will suffice to say that in dealing with them, I employ turfy loam, with short manure, lime, and plenty of sand added.

DESIRABLE SPECIES.

In Alyssum argenteum we have a good border plant, which assumes a shrub-like habit, while its bright yellow flowers surmount a mass of silvery-grey foliage. It is of evergreen habit, and forms a strikingly beautiful object in the rock garden, if given ample room for development.

Of similar habit is A. spinosum, and one often sees specimens fifteen inches in height and a yard through. It is a native of Southern Europe, and its flowers, which vary from white to pink, are continuously produced from June to September.

That old favourite, A. saxatile, is equally charming in a variety of positions, and it may be suggested that colonies be established in the border, also in the rock garden and dry wall, not forgetting its value as a carpeter in flower beds.

The same applies to the lemon-coloured variety, A. citrinum, and the very dwarf form known as compactum.

Of prostrate habit is A. alpestre, with rich golden flowers, while a dainty little form is seen in A. montanum, which rarely exceeds a couple of inches in height. The above is not intended as an exhaustive list, but from a garden or decorative standpoint, they represent the more desirable species.

Redriff.

THE LOGANBERRY.

The Loganberry seems to have been widely "boomed," and also widely scoffed at, when it was first introduced into England some few years ago. It is a cross between the Blackberry and the Raspberry, retaining the vigorous growth of the former, with the colour and shape of fruit of the latter. It really deserves to have a place given it amongst one's other fruit, as it is both very quick-growing and prolific.

Propagation is effected by means of sucker-growths the same as with Raspberrise. These young growths may be seen pushing up from the base or crown of the plant during the summer, and should be detached in the autumn, and planted in some permanent place.

AVOID CODDLING.

In the matter of soil and position, one finds the nature of the Blackberry comes out once more, as the Loganberry prefers rather a rough, wild sort of place to grow, and the soil which best suits it is a stony compost. It should not, therefore, be planted in a "tidy" portion of the garden. It peculiarly seems to resent cultivation and coddling. The ideal place to plant it is in the orchard. Plant one Loganberry at the root of a standard Apple tree—it does the Apple no harm at all, and I have seen the Loganberry succeed better under this treatment than in any other condition. It twines itself round the stem of the Apple, and follows quite a natural habit of growth, being unrestricted in every way.

All the pruning necessary is to cut out, early in autumn, the old canes which have borne the fruit during the summer, and train up the new ones in their place to fruit next summer.

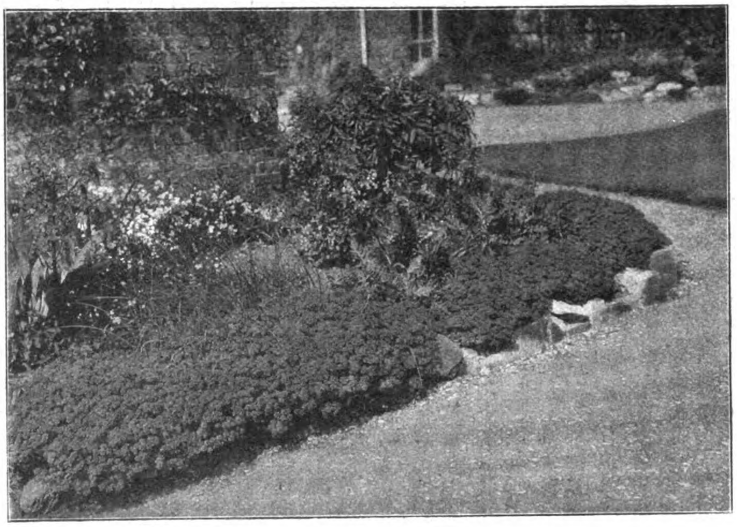
The fruit posseses a certain tart bitterness quite distinctive to itself, and is used for making jams and jellies, and also largely for mixing in with Raspberries, adding greatly to the flavour of the latter. For eating in the raw state it is not considered ripe until nearly black.

M. Kennedy Bell.

ORNAMENTAL THYMES.

Several species in this comparatively small genus are valuable garden plants, and should figure in the rock garden, also in the crevices of flagstone paths, dry walls, etc. With one or two exceptions they assume a creeping or prostrate habit, and being of rapid growth, speedily resolve themselves into dense masses of greenery, from which a more or less pronounced aromatic odour is emitted on being disturbed or slightly bruised.

T. odoratissimus is a very handsome species, which should be allocated a prominent position. It produces a wealth of pale purple flowers for the greater part of the summer, while the specific name indicates that it is very fragrant. It is a native of Russia.



A POPULAR MADWORT, ALYSSUM SAXATILE.
Useful for edging and carpeting beds, and for rockwork.

From Spain we get T. varnosus, a shrubby species with flowers of a lighter shade, and grey leaves. I have seen first-rate examples growing on walls in the west and south-west counties of England.

WELL-KNOWN SPECIES.

It is superfluous to speak of the ordinary Thyme (Thymus vulgaris), which finds a place amongst the sweet herbs; while everyone must be familiar with the wild species, T. serpyllum, which abounds in fairly dry and sun-bathed spots.

There are several varieties which are more showy than the types when in flower, and visitors to Kew should inspect them in the rock garden. Both T. coccineus and T. splendens bear red flowers, or perhaps, in the case of the first-named, it should be written down as crimson. Lilac colouring is found in T. lanuginosa, and bright rosy-purple in pulchellus, a beautiful kind.

A variety which bears the name of T. albus speaks for itself, and then we have the Corsican Thyme, T. Herba Barona, which up to the present is not widely distributed in gardens.

Walter H. Aggett.

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dry places and dense shade under trees. The flowers are described as purple, but they are really brown, so inconspicuous among the fallen leaves that often lie thickly around them, that the small flies which act as fertilising agents must have a difficulty in seeing them. They have, however, a faint scent, not unlike camphor. Besides A. europeum—which is a native plant, though it is rather rare—there are two other species, A. canadense and A. candatum. They belong to the same family as the Aristolochias, and are curious rather than beautiful. Still, we have so few plants that will thrive in dense shade, that many persons might be glad to give A. europeum a trial.

A Pillar Rose—Leuchstern.

October 23rd.—When well-grown, Leuchstern is a fine pillar Rose, and when it stands out against a dark background of evergreens, its large single flowers, bright rose, with white centre, are seen at their best. Unfortunately, they are produced only in summer, but that is an objection which applies equally to Crimson Rambler and others of the same class. Leuchstern does not grow so tall as some climbers, and, when used for arches or pergolas, may with advantage be associated with the taller varieties. In that way, flowers may be obtained in different positions, and not merely at the top. H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of Colonel Granville Smith.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. W. LITTLEWOOD, AT DUFFIELD HALL, DERBYSHIRE.

CLOSE to the town of Duffield, and on the fringe of beautiful Derbyshire scenery, stands Duffield Hall, the country seat of Colonel Granville Smith, an imposing stone mansion, surrounded by gardens of considerable interest. The latter are under the charge of Mr. Walter Littlewood, and when I visited them, last July, they had many bright features. Colonel Granville Smith is not able to spend much of his time at Duffield, but, as cut flowers are sent up to his town house twice a week, it may be imagined that an excellent supply is kept up. The old flower garden first claimed my attention. In fact, the great charm of the place is that it is of an old-world type, without any touch of modernity, except in the methods of cultivation, and the selection of varieties. Mr. W. Littlewood, who has held his present position for about eleven years, previously had the advantage of gaining experience in three famous gardens, namely Hardwick Hall and Riddings House, Derbyshire, and Serlby Hall, Yorkshire. He can thus bring varied knowledge to bear upon his treatment of plants, indoors or outside, and also upon fruit and vegetables. Both quality and quantity are aimed at throughout, and of this an illustration was afforded soon after we entered the flower garden, where Pæonies of fine foliage, with striking blooms, still adorned one of the borders.

"They have lasted well," I said.

"Yes, and I cut more than sixty in three cuttings during the last fortnight," rejoined Mr. Littlewood. "The soil, which is very dark loam, though the clay is not far down, suits them."

"It seems to suit Hollyhocks, also, looking at their height and the healthiness of the foliage."

"At any rate, we do not suffer from the pest which causes so much havoc in many places. They are about nine feet high, and I have no difficulty in cultivation."

"What do you consider the other principal features in the borders of herbaceous plants and annuals."

"Delphiniums, Lupins, Campanulas (persicifolia), Asters in variety, Helianthus Miss Mellish, Lychnis, Digitalis grandiflora, Spiræa aruncus, Iris in variety, Marguerites, and Stocks. Then there is Chrysanthemum carinatum in different shades of colour—yellow, tinted, and bright red. These were only planted out on Whit Monday, and are now, in the middle of July, in full bloom."

"Violas, I see, are used all round the borders, and largely for the beds."

"They are one of our features in the bedding. The varieties include The Swan, Hawick Yellow, and Duchess of Sutherland. Five of the sixteen beds are filled with Violas."

"And the others?"

"The two raised beds are Calceolaria amplexicaulis, edged with small-leaved Euonymus; then there are two beds of Phlox Drummondi; and the others contain, respectively, Salpiglossis (mixed), Verbenas (mixed), Fuchsias (edged with Lobelias), Ageratums, and Geraniums (West Brighton Gem). The colours prevailing are yellow, scarlet, and violet. In the side border, under the wall, on which Plums (Victoria and Greengage) are grown, we have Tom Thumb Nasturtiums and Mignonette."

"How do you fill the beds for spring?"

"Mainly with single Daffodils, double Arabis, Tulips, Wallflowers, and Myosotis."

Formal Bedding.

With a pretty summer-house in the corner, clothed with Honeysuckle, and a well-clipped Yew hedge at the back of the greater part, the old flower garden makes a delightful nook. We next proceeded to the front of the Hall, where there is bedding of a more formal character, noticing on our way a Jasminum wall about thirty yards long, with Geraniums Mrs. Pollock, Flower of Spring, Ball of Fire, Henry Jacoby, and Golden Harry Hieover, edged with single blue Lobelias, under it

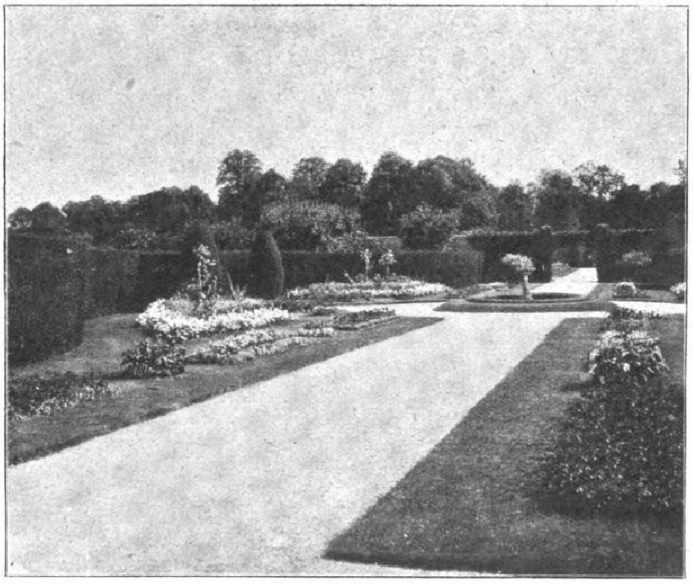
"The seven flat beds facing the drawing-room," said Mr. Littlewood, "include two with Geraniums Scarlet Vesuvius, edged with double blue Lobelias, and four beds, the shape of boats. The latter are filled with variegated Geraniums, chosen for colour—Golden Harry Hieover, Flower of Spring, Cloth of Gold, and Happy Thought; while the centre bed, with the vase, contains Calceolarias amplexicaulis."

"Then, there are the beds edged with Box?"

"In the centre bed, Mignonette prevails, with Geraniums (Rev. Atkinson and Madame Crousse), while, of the six small beds, two are filled with Geraniums Mrs. Pollock, two with Geraniums Perks, and two with dark Heliotrope. All these are spring-bedded with Polyanthus, Myosotis, Daffodils, and Wallflowers."

"I observe that you have blue flowers amongst your Hydrangeas in the conservatory. Is there iron in the soil?"

"None at all, and we only give them liquid manure. The contents of the conservatory also include a number of Palms, Lapagerias (alba and rosea), Camellias (pink and white); on the roof, Tacsonia Von Volxemii, and, on the back wall, Begonia metallica and Swainsonia galegifolia. These, with Asparagus plumosa and Sprengerii—in fact, anything here—we cut twice



EFFECTIVE BEDDING IN THE FLOWER GARDEN.

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a week, and send to London. We do this at all seasons. One of the favourites for cutting in spring and winter is Cineraria stellata."

"You have some flourishing creepers on the alcove."

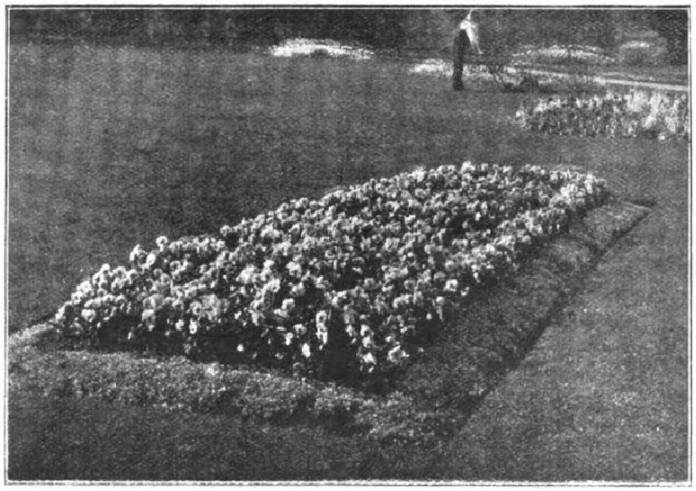
"They are Roses Crimson Rambler and Gloire de Dijon, with Virginia Creeper."

"I suppose that the Tulip-tree now in flower on the lawn is amongst the most notable of your specimen trees?"

"It is considered a very good one. On the lawn, which is divided from the meadows by a ha-ha, are also excellent specimens of Wellingtonia gigantea, Copper Beech, Acacia, Ash, Cedar, and Yews. Roses on arches and in beds are grown on one side of the lawn, but the soil does not suit them any too well. The chief variety on the arches is Crimson Rambler, and in the beds the varieties belong to the Tea section."

Climbers on the Mansion.

After we had inspected the site for a new rockery, we returned to the mansion, where I noticed Roses doing well on the walls.



A BED OF WHITE VIOLAS.

"It is strange," said Mr. Littlewood, "that while Madame Alfred Carriere and Dorothy Perkins thrive on the walls of the mansion, the standard Roses opposite, with the same aspect, are not so flourishing. Other climbers on the house are Cotoneasters, Wistaria sinensis (a very handsome specimen), and Coignetiæ fragrans. In the border in front of the dining-room are Mignonette and Heliotrope, grown largely in order that their perfume may be enjoyed indoors. One of the two borders, each six yards long, is filled with Snapdragons, and the other with Ten-week Stocks, both having Echeveria sempervirens in front."

Rapid Growth of Rhododendrons.

"The carriage drive from the entrance door looks as if it had been newly planted with shrubs."

"Only twelve months ago a number of trees were removed, and since then Rhododendrons, Cupressus, Arbor-Vitæ, and Hollies have been put in. The Rhododendrons were not planted until November."

"Judging by their wonderful growth, there must be plenty of peat in the soil."

"There is none at all. But they were planted in good yellow loam. The varieties comprise John Walter, James Marshall Brooke, Mrs. John Clutton, Caractacus, Prince Camille de Rohan, H. M. Austin, John Waterer, Cunningham; and others. On the south wall, to hide the brickwork, are Crimson Rambler and Dorothy Perkins Roses. Here are planted out in the grass among the shrubs, about five thousand Daffodils. The border close to the lodge where I live is also newly made, and embraces Geraniums, Marguerites, and Asters, with Echeveria in front. But now, I think, we might explore the kitchen garden."

The kitchen garden was conveniently near, but before going round it, we spent some little time in the houses.

A Day's Consignment.

"The cultivation of plants and fruit under glass," said Mr. Littlewood, "is not done on a large scale, but we make the most of what space we have. In the house you are now entering, you can see what sort of supplies we send to London in one day."

"I should like to have the details."

"To-day's consignment consists of Delphiniums, Campanulas, Pæonies, Geraniums, Sweet Peas, Alstrœmerias, Spiræas, Foxgloves, Chrysanthemum carinatum, and Carnations."

Contents of the Houses.

"In the house itself, I see you have a number of Orchids."

"Only a small number, including Cattleyas, Dendrobium nobile, Cypripedium insigne and barbatum, Oncidiums, and a number of varieties of Caladiums. Baskets of Begonias (Gloire de Lorraine and Turnford Hall) are also grown in this house, and also a collection of Coleus. Likewise, Bananas, which fruit, and Melons in pots, the varieties of the latter being Windsor Castle, Ringleader, Lord Derby, Emerald Gem, and Superlative. The next house we intend to make a Rose house. It already has Niphetos on the roof, and Mrs. W. J. Grant, Marechal Niel and Perle des Jardins are trained up the wall. Meanwhile, it is being used for other purposes; for instance, we started French Beans (Canadian Wonder) just before Easter, and kept on cutting till the crop out of doors was ready. Ferns, chiefly Nephrolepis todæaoides, are grown here, and a considerable number of Cyclamen; also Solanum jasminoides, which is very useful in the winter-time."

The Treatment of Celosias.

"You have more Coleus in your flowering house?"

"Yes, we make rather a feature of these, and also of Gloxinias, which are just coming on. Then there are the Celosias, which last so well when they are cut. Many shades of colour are represented, conspicuously red, yellow, orange, strawberry, and gold."

"What is your treatment of them?"

"They are potted in ordinary leaf-soil and sand, and subsequently we feed them well with manure. The foliage is pretty, and they remain in flower for quite a couple of months. We cut a good many of the Petunias (white and pink) for sending to town. Streptocarpus, in two or three different colours, is grown."

Grapes and Peaches.

"You grow Grapes and Peaches together, in the old-fashioned way."

"Yes, Vines above, and Peaches, fan-trained, below. The Grapes are Muscat of Alexandria and Black Hamburgh, and the Peaches are Royal George, Rivers' Early, Lord Napier, and Early Rivers. The only drawback of the system is that the Peaches suffer at the back, because of the shade, but they do extremely well in front. In the other or larger house, which you see has some fine fruit, the varieties are Bellegarde, and Nectarines Princess of Wales, Early Rivers, and Lord Napier. In this house they get plenty of light and sun. The Grapes are the same as in the other house."

"I gather that you make the most of the frames?"

"They are never empty. Just now coming on we have Cucumbers (Telegraph Improved), a batch of Melons, and Violets for winter use (Czar, Neapolitan, and Princess of Wales). Early Cabbages are also grown in frames, and here we have seedling Violas and Wallflowers for bedding-out in spring."

Carnations and Pelargoniums.

"In the other house," continued Mr. Littlewood, "I am just starting Carnations, and am going in for the varieties of Malmaisons, including Margot, Mrs. Trelawney, The Queen, Princess May, and Trumpeter. In this house, which is nine yards long, I have just finished Tomatoes in pots. The varieties are The Peach, Princess of Wales, and Best of All. Speaking generally, I am very much adverse to changing varieties when I know by experience that they are good. Amongst the Show Pelargoniums is a very good double white, called White Abbey, which ought, I think, to be more widely known. Delicatum is a very good pink."

Clumps in the Kitchen Garden.

"Are Chrysanthemums a feature?"

"We keep up-to-date with Japanese and singles, growing chiefly the yellow, white, and bronze varieties. Sweet Peas are grown in rows, six of the best older varieties being Gladys Unwin, Mrs. Gladstone, Dorothy Eckford, Queen Alexandra, Countess of Cardigan, and Lady Grisel Hamilton. Of new varieties, King Edward and Evelyn Hemus are particularly good."

"You have a number of clumps of flowers here, as well as in the herbaceous border."

"The clumps include a fine show of Pentstemons, dark Antirrhinums, more Chrysanthemum carinatum, Carnations (Silver Queen), and Myosotis Royal Blue. The herbaceous border, between forty and fifty yards long, contains, on both sides, varieties similar to those I have already mentioned."

Fruit and Vegetables.

"What about fruit and vegetables?"

"Apples are not largely grown, the principal

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varieties being Lord Suffield, Chelmsford Wonder, and Red Astrachan. Bush fruit (Currants and Gooseberries) does fairly well, except Black Currants, which everywhere in this neighbourhood are affected by blight. Sir Joseph Paxton and Royal Sovereign are the only Strawberries grown. The only Raspberry is Superlative. Loganberries and Whinberries are also grown. Vegetables are cultivated here, in the allotment ground eighteen hundred yards long, and in another small kitchen garden. English Wonder, Gladstone, and May Queen are the best varieties of Peas. The Potatoes include May Queen, Windsor Castle, and Up-to-Date; the Onions are Leamington Giant; the Scarlet Runners, Sutton's Pyramid and Clibran's Exhibition; the Carrots, Perfection; and the Broad Beans, Green Windsor. Flowers grown out of doors take precedence of everything else here." ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 378.—RED LEAVES.

DEAR KATE,—Many years ago—before the era of music-hall jigs set to idiotic clap-trap—there was a sweet old madrigal which we used to sing, with the above title—"Red Leaves." It expressed the very spirit of autumn in its exquisite harmonies, the half-sad, half-hopeful thoughts which the advent of the quiet winter rest of Nature brings with it, reminding us of the resurrection of the flowers in spring, with renewed strength and enhanced beauty.

"Red leaves are falling to the ground,
The wind no more is still—"

Thus it began, and we hear no such music now, such perfect melody and harmony combined, so simple and pure—as much unlike the fashionable tunes of the present day, as those good old quiet times were also unlike the noise and unrest of to-day. But this growl is not gardening, although this season of the year always recalls that quartette to me, just as the harvest fields earlier in the autumn seem to sing—

"Come out, 'tis now September,
The Hunter's moon's begun."

But now the red leaves which have been making a goodly drapery for the house have fallen, and the golden and bronze foliage of the Oaks and the Beeches are quickly following them, strewing the garden with their kindly mulch, for although our ideas of tidiness compel us to brush them up, they are very useful in adding nourishment to the soil, and providing a cosy shelter for the Violets, etc., from hail and frost.

The Uses of Leaf-mould.

But I advise you to collect as many leaves as possible from the walks, the woods, and the lawn, and keep them in a sheltered corner, across which you can stretch a piece of wire-netting on big nails, to prevent the wind from distributing them again. They should be turned over two or three times at intervals, during the winter, and you will then find them valuable for the forcing of early Rhubarb (see GARDEN LIFE, September 25th), for early Potatoes in a frame, or Carrots, etc., to say nothing of their use to mix with fresh stable manure in making a hotbed for Cucumbers, Melons, etc. In fact, leaves (especially Oak leaves) are things of which it is difficult to have too much, and most of us have far too little, for Oak leaf-mould is the perfection of pure nourishment for plant life, and many pot plants need it.

With plenty of leaves, and the store of rich humus which can be accumulated in the kitchen garden from the waste of the Cabbages and the vegetables used in the kitchen, cuttings of shrubs, weeds, and all manner of debris, we shall not find it necessary to spend so much on animal manure in the spring, and certainly vegetable manure is much the purer of the two, and less likely to make the soil sour. The best way to manage is to dig a trench in the vegetable garden, about three feet deep, keeping a closed box of lime (or agricultural salt, but this must not be used so freely as lime) near it. The waste material is placed in the trench at one end, to the depth of two and a half feet, and well sprinkled with lime (or a little of the salt), then covered with the displaced soil in a ridge one foot above the surface. This ridge will be found to have disappeared in six months, and if you then open the trench you will find splendid stuff in it, to add to the soil for spring crops, so that you should always have a store of humus for this purpose, if you continue your trench as required.

This plan is much more economical than that of burning everything, although you will no doubt find some of the larger cuttings from shrubs must be burned, and the ashes are, of course, very valuable, too, especially in a heavy soil. But for a light gravel soil on a sunny slope there is nothing like humus to retain the moisture so necessary to vegetation, and in most gardens a good start to fill the trench might now be made by clearing the ground of every weed visible, for they will be of use then, instead of going to seed, and giving endless trouble in the spring.

It is odd that we do not always realise how much less difficult it is to keep the soil clean in a well-kept place than in a garden where Groundsel and Dandelions and other winged seeds are allowed to come to seed, and so provide much work for the future. It is true that weeds will appear in spring, whatever we do, but we should then deal with them whilst they are very small, by the constant use of the Dutch hoe, to open the surface soil to the depth of about an inch, taking care to devote some regular time each week to hand-weeding in corners and near seedlings where the hoe cannot be wielded safely. There is a great difference in the crops in a garden thus treated from those in a neglected, weedy place; and no doubt it is true that much more nourishment will reach the roots of plants through soil which is kept open on the surface than can possibly reach them through a hard, caked surface. The air, as well as the rain, are both heavily charged with nitrogen (that chemical manure which is so largely sold in the form of nitrates), and Nature has her own most efficient plans of aiding the growth of vegetation, if only we will give her a chance by means of clean culture and an open surface.

A Subject for Experiment.

You can easily prove whether this is true or not, by means of trying the two plans on the same plot of ground, giving half the bed or border to each. You will soon find that the plants which are in the clean and open ground will rapidly outstrip those growing amongst weeds in hard soil; every time you use the Dutch hoe between them, they will make a fresh spurt, growing strong and sturdy instead of weak and spirey. Even two pot plants of the same kind and size (in fact, similar in all other ways) will soon convince you of the necessity for stirring the upper soil, and preventing moss and weeds from settling on it, if you treat one of them in this way, and leave the other alone. But be careful not to injure the roots in stirring the upper soil—a small wooden label is a good implement to use for a pot plant.

If you have moss or weeds on your lawn, you will do well to attack them before the spring, and for this work you will find a good sprinkling of freshly-slaked lime useful in destroying moss, either now or in February, following it up in March with a mulch of fine rich soil, with a sixth part of soot or other suitable manure mixed with it. I see that sulphuric acid is said to be very effectual in the case of Dandelions and Plantains, which will not easily succumb to lawn sand, which, however, answers well in the case of Daisies, and other small weeds. No doubt, sulphuric acid and some other strong poisons will kill anything; but I think they should be used (if at all) with the greatest caution, and personally I should not like to think that my little dog might take a favourite bone on to the poisonous lawn, and die there in agonies.

To Destroy Weeds on Lawns.

Agricultural salt (or even common kitchen salt) will destroy Plantains without danger or the trouble of cutting them off; try the effect of a teaspoonful (large or small, in proportion to the size of the Plantain) laid on the centre of the plant, and you will find it shrivel away completely in a week's time. Small Dandelions which have not had time to make deep roots can be killed in the same way, but old plants should have their heads cut off an inch below the surface, and you can fill the round hole thus made with salt, which gradually dissolves and kills the long tap-root of the plant. Salt will also destroy moss, if sprinkled lightly over it at the rate of about two ounces to the square yard, and, of course, all the smaller weeds, too. It suits light, well-drained soil better than that which is damp or waterlogged, however, for it is a strong manure, which holds moisture in dry weather, and is not therefore so desirable (except to deal with Dandelions and Plantains) on a clay soil as on one which is sandy or gravelly.

Burnt vegetable ashes and soot, mixed with old hotbed material, and sifted before it is evenly laid down, makes a most valuable mulch for an impoverished lawn on clay soil; it should not, however, be mixed with lime (which nullifies its effect if the two are used together), so that it is best to let six weeks or more elapse after dressing a mossy lawn on heavy soil with lime, adding the mulch in the early spring, when the sward will soon reward your care.—Your friend, I. L. R.

Work in the French Garden.

RECENT heavy rains have interfered somewhat with trenching work, but we are well ahead of our requirements—always a wise provision in intensive culture—and can look back with keen satisfaction to things accomplished. Thus, Osborne's Forcing Beans, in the special hotbeds, are in flower, and the frames in which they are quartered make a fine picture. We are plunging May Queen Potatoes in pots adown the centre, whilst under the manure, all around the Beans and Potatoes, Mushroom spawn will find a congenial germinating home.

Cauliflowers in pots are looking well. These go into winter quarters among the cold frames

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THE GARDENS OF CAPTAIN WEINER, AT EWELL CASTLE, SURREY.

COMPARATIVELY few people have any idea of the beauty of Ewell, the tranquil Surrey village between Sutton and Epsom, which, thanks to the owners of the land, has not been spoilt by the invasion of the remorseless builder. And quite the feature of the village is Ewell Castle, the ancient historic residence facing the church. Purchased a few years ago by Captain Weiner, its interior has undergone transformation, but the attractive exterior remains unaltered. In the same way, the original pleasure grounds have not been interfered with, but the most remarkable addition has been made. When I visited the gardens in May, by the courtesy of the owner, who also was good enough to have several photographs taken for publication in GARDEN LIFE, Mr. H. Lloyd, the gardener, first showed me round this interesting extension. The salient fact is that on the site of a portion of the park has been created and developed a magnificent Japanese garden. There are others, but they are of secondary importance, simply because of the manner in which the primary object of the extension has been accomplished. The idea of making a Japanese garden occurred to Captain Weiner, and it was carried into execution under the auspices of Messrs. Cheal and Sons, of Crawley, Sussex.

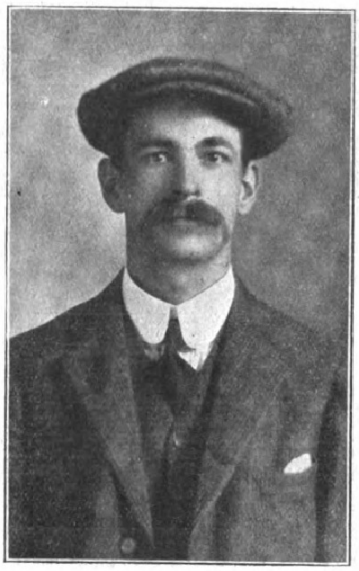
"To explain the whole scheme," said Mr. Lloyd, as we strolled up the slope to inspect the old foundation walls of the banqueting hall of Nonsuch Palace, "I may say that it embraces first the addition of the tennis-courts, then the Japanese garden and lake, and lastly the terrace with a herbaceous border as background. From this point the new portion spreads itself out, and you can realise its characteristics. Here, adjacent to the foundation walls, are many trees worthy of notice, including one of the Spanish Chestnuts brought into England by Sir Walter Raleigh, and planted by him. It has now a circumference of twenty-two feet four feet from the ground. Round the walls, which are octagonal in shape, with four turrets, are Scotch Firs, Cedars, Hollies, and a golden-leaved Laburnum."

A Border of Tall Plants.

The transition from the ancient to the modern at Ewell is speedily accomplished, and we were soon standing on the green path in front of the herbaceous border which completed the extension.

"When was the extension made?" I asked.

"In 1910, and the work occupied six months, including the construction of the hills and of the lake. With regard to the herbaceous border, which is fourteen feet wide, and sixty yards long, it is not, in any sense, a colour scheme, but is planted for general effect, so that there may be a continuous supply of flowers from May until November, when we finish with the Asters. In furtherance of the design, the border is made up of tall-growing varieties, principally Delphiniums, Oriental Poppies, Hollyhocks, Sweet Peas, Solidagos, Helianthus, Galegas, and many varieties of Asters. On the slopes are Spanish Gorse, Hypericums, Cotoneasters, Euonymus, Berberis, and other flowering shrubs of limited height; in between the crevices of the walls are a variety of Alpine plants; and planted in the open vases are Marguerites."



MR. H. LLOYD.

The Rose Temples.

"Is there any order of grouping in the border?"

"The Sweet Peas are planted in clumps in separate colours, ranging from white to blue, and all shades of pink to crimson. At each end of the terrace is a Rose Temple, old English style, planted with climbing Roses, chiefly in pairs, also with Japanese Honeysuckles, and Clematis Nelly Moser. This variety seems to do better here than any other of the same section. The Roses, mostly of the Wichuriana type, include Paradise, Rubin, Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Lady Gay, Hiawatha, White Dorothy, and about a dozen more. The wall below, next to the lake, is overhung with Ruby Queen, Minnehaha, Hiawatha, Paul Transon, and Jersey Beauty. The vases, built into the wall above the water, contain Hydrangea hortensis."

"What about Lilies?"

"The principal is the great American variety, Nuphar Advena, a very strong grower, with a lemon-coloured flower. You will observe that the whole of the garden is protected, both by the hill and by a plantation of forest trees. Close to one of the Rose Temples is a boat cave, with accommodation for a pair of boats. The trees planted on the banks of the lake include the golden-barked Weeping Willow, and Berberis of several varieties; while on the summit is the Silver Birch. The Willows, which were only planted fifteen months ago, are flourishing exceedingly, but they felt the drought of last year less than anything else."

The Japanese Garden.

At this juncture we crossed a stone bridge, and entered the Japanese garden.

"Here," continued Mr. Lloyd, "are shrubs and Alpines of many varieties. They are far too numerous to recite, but I may mention Bamboos, Almonds, Cherries, Azaleas, Prunus, Acers, Japanese Larches, Cytisus, Retinospora, Abies of sorts, Cupressus lutea and C. Wisseli, Cedrus atlantica glauca, Cryptomeria japonica and C. elegans, Juniperus chinensis, and Pinus cembra."

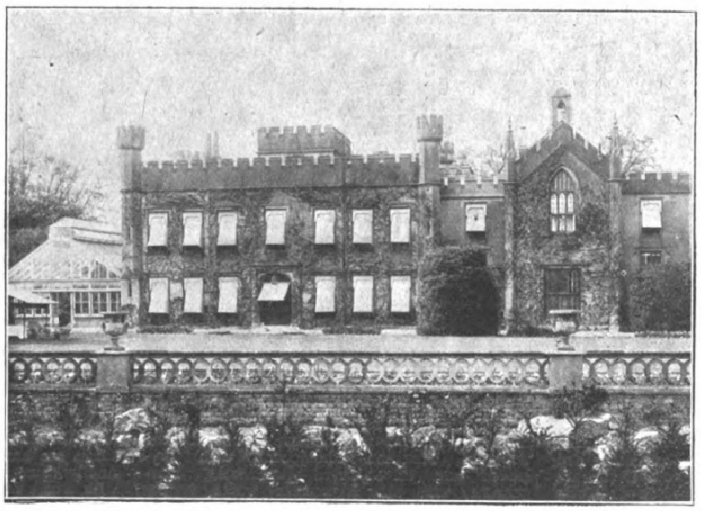
"And the principal Alpines?"

"There are the varieties of the Alpine Dianthus; Helianthemum Fireball, which makes a fine show just now; Sedums and Saxifrages, Veronicas, Phloxes, Cerastiums, Alyssum saxatile, Campanula pusila, C. pumilla, and C. carpatica, and Aubrietias in variety. In the bog garden are Lythrums, Spiræas, Pampas Grass, Kniphofias, and quite a collection of Iris siberica and Kæmpferi. Then there are beds of Pæonies, chiefly Chinese, also standards of Magnolias, Laburnums, Cerasus, and Golden Yews."

"The waterfall has been adroitly planned."

"Yes, it runs naturally down a series of shallow basins to the main lake, and the impression is heightened by the fancy pigeons, flitting about."

"Also by the two Japanese umbrellas with seats underneath!"



THE TERRACE, EWELL CASTLE.

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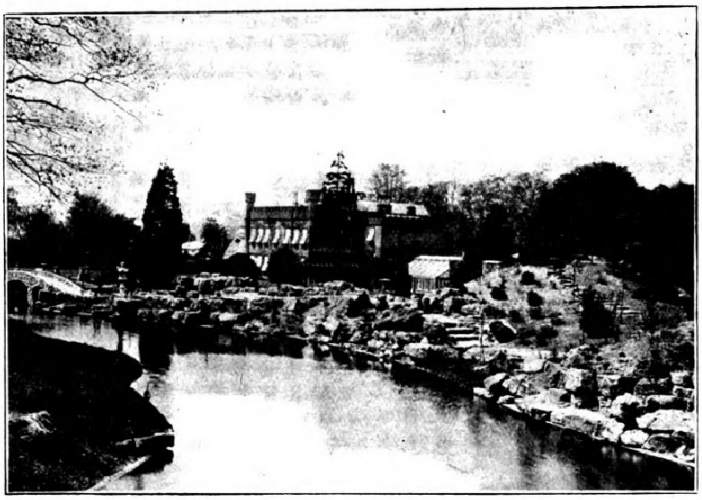
"On the other side of the bridge, Zauschneria californica will make a splendid show of scarlet. It revels in a hot, dry border, and is perfectly hardy. The yellow Achillea is very ornamental. Of course, for spring we had a great number of all sorts of bulbs."

"How much ground does the Japanese garden cover?" I enquired, as we ascended a hill, and entered the Japanese tea-house, adorned with Japanese Honeysuckles.

"An acre of land and an acre of water. The pleasure grounds altogether are between nine and ten acres. At this point a swing bridge takes us on to the new portion of the lawn, with an old English paved walk leading up to the sundial, the walk forming an avenue of standard Roses. There are about thirty varieties, including Frau Karl Druschki, Bessie Brown, Madame M. Soupert, and Liberty. The short walk to the bridge from the lawn is planted exclusively with Richmond. Behind the Roses is a large bed of Rhododendron Pink Pearl, dotted with Tiger Lilies. To embellish the tennis-courts and afford protection, a Yew hedge is planted all round. At the entrance are two clipped specimens to represent pigs, and on the steps two to represent birds. Beyond the tennis-courts is a bowling green, planted at the side with Cedrus deodara and Abies pungens glauca."



THE LAKE, EWELL CASTLE.

A Noble Copper Beech.

"The trees surrounding the extension are anything but modern?"

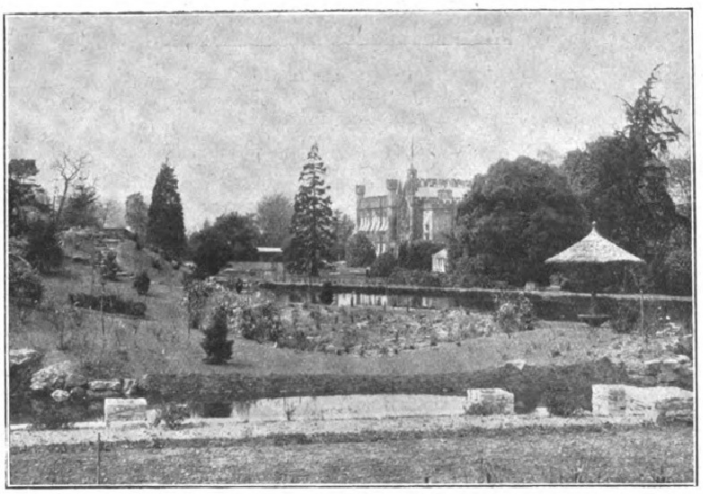
"Yes; some of them are a great age, like the pink Chestnut now profusely flowering, the Elms, the Turkey Oak, and the Copper Beech."

"The last is such a splendid specimen that it overshadows everything else in the neighbourhood."

"It is always greatly admired for its perfect shape and its enormous spread. Together with the other trees the background of that portion of the gardens is considered very fine. To complete the story of the extension, just outside the original terrace is an Alpine border, with water at the base, containing a variety of subjects, including eight kinds of Helianthemum, Veronica rupestris, Acæna adscendens, New Zealand Bur, and Achillea Huteri. In the original garden we might first take the scheme of spring bedding, which will almost immediately be succeeded by that of summer. There are about thirty beds, and most of them are planted with Wallflowers and Tulips; the average number of plants to a bed being one hundred. With Wallflower Belvoir Castle we combined Tulip Artus; with Wallflower Ruby Gem, Tulip Cottage Maid; with Wallflower Eastern Queen, Tulip Canary Bird; and with Wallflower Blood-red, Tulip La Reine. These filled the square beds, the round ones consisting of double Arabis and dwarf yellow Wallflowers. Another big bed contained Doronicums and Tulip Sir Thomas Moore."

"The beds still look very effective. I presume your scheme for summer bedding is well advanced. Can you furnish me with any details as to what it consists of?"

"It is conspicuous by the absence of Geraniums, with the exception of the varieties Flower of Spring and Madame Crousse. The bedding is practically made up of standard Heliotropes, with a groundwork of tuberous Begonias, Abutilon Thompsoni, with Ivy-leaved and Silver-leaved Geraniums, Marguerites, with blue Ageratums, which supply us with a quantity of bloom, and Mesembryanthemums, Echeverias, Sweet Alyssums, Pyrethrums, and blue Lobelias for edging. For many of the smaller beds we use Grevilleas and fibrous-rooted Begonia Fairy Queen, and for others Marigold Legion of Honour. These make varied combinations in colour, which seem to be appreciated. During the summer we plant Eucalyptus outside in the borders, and let it take its chance. Sometimes it lives on through the winter."



THE JAPANESE GARDEN, EWELL CASTLE.

"The whole of the castle itself appears to be covered with Ampelopsis Veitchii?"

"Yes, there is no other creeper on the mansion. It was planted eight years ago, and makes a brilliant show in the autumn. On one side of the castle is a house which we use for Azaleas, Chrysanthemums, and Cinerarias, and on the other side the conservatory proper. One of the features at the present moment is the display of herbaceous Calceolarias, which will be followed by Gloxinias and Fuchsias. We grow about a hundred of the latter, of which the favourite varieties are Mrs. Marshall, Charmer, Wave of Life, and Molesworth, a double variety. Mrs. Marshall is the variety used for the baskets, and it hangs down four feet during the season. Among the Ferns is a new variety of Nephrolepis called Marshalli, which is very dense and a fine shade of colour. To these might be added a big group of Cinerarias, a number of variegated Acers, Rex Begonias, and Dracæna purpureum, a purple variety of the old australis. On the lawn are some good specimens of weeping, silver, variegated, and green Hollies."

"You have also a Rose garden on a portion of the lawn?"

"In this the principal feature is Rose Dorothy Perkins chiefly on poles. In the beds below are German Iris and Lilium candidum, edged by Pinks Mrs. Sinkins. The specimens of Golden Yew, clipped into a cone shape, are very effective just here, and so is an Ilex in flower. Near the latter is a bed of Lyons Roses, intermingled with Carnation Raby Castle; a mixed bed of dwarf Roses, with Gruss an Teplitz in the centre, and arches of Crimson Rambler. Facing these is the original herbaceous border, with all the tall subjects taken out of it. A few of the best are Aster amellus, Statice latifolia, Eryngiums in variety, Centaureas (red, white and blue), Potentillas, and Campanulas in variety. Here, too, are more Rose beds of different shapes. A half-moon is composed of Lady Roberts, a new Tea Rose; and a diamond-shaped bed of Rayon d'Or and Juliet, with Carnation Raby Castle. The star-shaped bed contains Caroline Testout, one of the finest bedding Roses we have for summer and autumn; and finally there is another half-moon bed planted with Roses at random."

Then, noting the excellent effect produced by the Golden Yew, Silver Box, and Cedars behind these beds, we proceeded to the kitchen

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garden, some distance away, and quite separated from the pleasure grounds. Here, approached by a trimly kept path, with grass on either side, is Mr. Lloyd's house, bright with Roses, other climbers being Pyrus japonica, and the silver variegated Euonymus, very seldom seen against walls. Just outside the house is a small herbaceous border, and a large bed of Lilies of the Valley.

Sweet Peas and Phlox.

"Sweet Peas, too," said Mr. Lloyd, "are grown here in groups to colour. We have about twenty-five varieties, all of the Spencer type. They lend themselves better to house decoration. The Phlox outside the Sweet Peas is a pure white variety, and it is pretty to see the tops of the Sweet Peas, in their different shades of colour, growing over the Phlox. One of our features is a collection of Chrysanthemums, and they are my special hobby. We have about sixty varieties of Japanese, twelve of Incurved, and the same number of Singles. We get our best exhibition blooms from the spring-struck plants, and I find I do better altogether with these than with the big autumn-struck plants. So I have one hundred of the latter, and two hundred of the former. I used to grow all autumn-struck plants, but gradually gave the preference to the spring-struck, which are better for handling and grouping. The spring-struck system is now followed by some of our best exhibition growers."

The Kitchen Garden.

"Broadly speaking, what are the features of your kitchen garden within walls?"

"There is nothing very special, but we go in for all kinds of hardy fruit and breadths of vegetables. In a favourable season we get good crops of fruit, both on the walls and of bush varieties. Black Currants do fairly well, and of Raspberries we grow about eighty yards on strained wires. Lately we have been planting in the orchard a number of young Apple, Pear, and Plum trees, including most of the up-to-date varieties. We find the combination of fowls and fruit good for both. As to vegetables, the principal Potatoes are The Pioneer, King Edward VII., White Beauty of Hebron, and Up-to-Date. We commence picking Peas in the middle of June, and if the weather is not too hot, continue until the end of September, the varieties being Gradus, Edwin Beckett, Chelsea Gem, Gladstone, Duke of Albany, and Autocrat. We get a supply of Mustard and Cress, or salad of some kind, all the year round, going in largely for Endive and Chicory."

Tree Carnations.

"Then there are the houses, of which there are not a great number, I gather?"

"We are not overstocked with glass. The range close to my house is a Peach house, and contains an old tree of Noblesse. Recently we added Condor and Hale's Early. The back wall is planted with Figs. The house is also used for forcing early Lettuces, Radishes, and Cauliflowers. Of two Vineries, one contains Black Hamburgh, and the other Black Alicante. We start cutting Grapes in July, and go on until the end of December. In the Melon house, where fruit is just setting, we have one variety only, The Manchester. It is a scarlet flesh variety, and of very good flavour. No Cucumber can surpass in excellence the Improved Telegraph, which filled the Cucumber house. We also grow the Cantaloupe Melon in frames."

"Do you go in largely for stove plants?"

"Not at all, the only kinds being Caladiums, Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, Poinsettias, and Gloxinias. But we go in considerably for Tree Carnations. About five hundred are grown, and the cream of two dozen varieties are Enchantress, Marmion, Mikado, Carola, R. F. Felton, White Perfection, White House, Scarlet Glow, Britannia, Orpheus, and Lady Audley Neild. A few of the newer ones are Mrs. C. F. Raphael, The Geisha, British Triumph, Lady Allington, La Raymonte, and Mrs. Tatton. Of Malmaisons, Yaller Gal and Maggie Hodson are our only varieties. I have been cutting flowers in the Tree house continually since September. We use them for house and table decoration."

"In the same house as your Gloxinias, I see that you have some Capsicums."

"Yes; we grow a great number, and use them for cooking purposes. The variety is Chinese Giant, scarlet. We also grow the Aubergine Large Purple in quantity for the table, about a hundred in large pots, keeping up a supply through the summer and autumn. They do best with moderately warm treatment. I tried them outside, but they were not a success. They are fruited in 6-in. pots. The last is a Tomato house. The varieties are Sunrise, Moneymaker, Winter Beauty, and Golden Jubilee. Outside we grow Perfection, and the small red dessert."

Mr. Lloyd's Career.

"You have shown Carnations, I think?"

"Just a few at the Royal Horticultural Hall in three colours last spring, and I succeeded in one. But we only started growing Teas last year. This year we propose to exhibit at local shows. For some time I showed groups—table plants, Fuchsias, and Pelargoniums, etc., locally—but since 1909 I have devoted my attention more especially to Chrysanthemums. At Epsom I have won a silver medal, also a silver cup, for Japanese. Last year I won the silver cup at the Crystal Palace for twenty-four Japanese. I took two seconds at Winchester two years ago, and also won the open class at Sutton."

"When did you begin your gardening career?"

"At Beamhurst Hill, Staffordshire, and I was next at Arnot Hill, Nottingham. Then, fifteen years ago, I moved to Ewell Castle, starting as journeyman, subsequently becoming foreman, and in 1903 head. I have served under three different employers, but the gardens, with the exception of the recent additions, have not been altered since I came here."

ALFRED WILCOX

THE interview next week will be with Mr. Lewis Hatting, of The Nest, Hornchurch, the amateur who was second in the Sweet Pea Competition at the International Horticultural Exhibition.

BROMPTON STOCKS.

A PINCH of seed sown at any time in June will produce a wealth of sweet-scented blossoms the following May and June. If a few plants are placed in 5-in. pots, these will keep the greenhouse gay in the early spring months.

Although the Brompton Stock is perfectly hardy, yet, when sowing the seed, I prefer to use boxes rather than sow in the open border, principally because, somehow, one usually pays a little more attention to the seedlings when sown in this way.

Avoid Coddling.

A cold frame is an ideal spot for raising the young plants, but on no account must there be any coddling. As soon as the tiny seedlings are well through the soil, expose them gradually to full sunshine, and endeavour to grow on as sturdily as possible, by transplanting them into a nursery bed three inches apart, before they become crowded in the seed boxes. Tread the ground firmly before planting, if it is of a light, sandy nature. Nor is it wise to add manure in any form, as this only tends to undue grossness.

By the third week in August, stocky little plants should be ready for placing in the position in which they are to flower. Shelter from the north and east is imperative, and if the ground is rather poor, this is all in favour of the plants, for anything like succulency of growth is to be avoided.

H. BULMER.

TOMATOES IN THE OPEN AIR.

FEW plants cultivated by the kitchen gardener appeal more strongly to the amateur than Tomatoes, but although we do occasionally find a few plants doing really well, it is the exception rather than the rule. The great mistake of many growers is to commence giving the plants strong doses of liquid manure before a single fruit is set, the result of this mistaken kindness being a rank growth, which is very pleasing to the eye, and not infrequently draws forth words of commendation from visitors. But too often the grower finds little satisfaction in the crop of fruit these plants reward him with, and in the majority of cases he decides that outdoor Tomato culture is only suitable for those having very sheltered gardens, exceptionally good soil, and plenty of time and money to cater for the wants of the plants.

Having grown many score varieties in the open air during the past twenty years, on various soils, and not always under the best of conditions (but never once failing to get a profitable return for my labour), I give a few salient points in Tomato culture, and feel sure if these are observed, even though the present season may not favour the production of such stupendous crops as last year, the amateur will get a better return for his pains.

Make Soil Firm.

Tomatoes like a very firm soil; therefore plants already growing in a spongy or loose compost should have the soil for two feet around them trodden as firmly as possible.

Where plants are growing against walls, and are supported by wires, make a point of examining the ties every few days. Growth being now so very rapid, there is a great likelihood of many of the ties not allowing for expansion, and if these are neglected, the whole shoot may be cut through and the plant be ruined.

Do not attempt to produce a record crop by running up several leaders. This plan answers very well if it is desired to cover a bare wall in a short time, but it neither favours an early nor a profitable crop. Most growers find it to their advantage to grow but one leader to each plant; and realising that in an ordinary summer these will perfect four to six bunches of fair-sized fruit, little cause should be found for complaint. Persistently remove all side shoots as soon as they show. It is decidedly unwise to let them remain to rob the plant a day longer than is necessary.

Trusses of flower showing a leaf at the extremity should have this removed at once. It is a great mistake to leave this under the impression that it will mean a larger and heavier bunch, the chances being against either.

The Question of Feeding.

Do not fall into the too common error of giving the plants doses of strong manure, until at least the second truss of fruit is set. The old-fashioned plan of feeding with soot-water for the first fortnight—thus preparing the plants for something stronger—has much to commend it, as it induces a strong, yet not too rank, growth. As a matter of fact, I have many times grown heavy crops on outdoor plants by the use of this alone. But with so many really excellent and cheap proprietary manures now offered, I certainly advise the use of a little of one or more of these.

Avoid a too drastic removal of foliage, except to cut a portion of a leaf away here and there where extra crowded. We never commence defoliation until the autumn, and even then the suicidal policy adopted by many is not followed, only half of each leaf being removed.

Should the month of August go without ripe fruit being gathered, it will be advisable to nip out the leader at a couple of leaves beyond the last bunch of fruit. It is only in exceptionally favourable seasons that flowers opening after this date set and mature fruit, even of fair size.

F. R. CASTLE.

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Lobb, William (*bap.* 1809, *d.* 1863), *plant collector*
by Sue Shephard
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Lobb, William (*bap.* 1809, *d.* 1863), plant collector, was born in Perran-ar-worthal, Cornwall and grew up in Egloshayle, where he was baptized on 12 March 1809, the son of John Lobb and his wife, Jane. His father worked first as estate carpenter at Pencarrow and later as gamekeeper at Carclew, home of Sir Charles Lemon, a noted botanist and gardener. Lobb was educated at Wadebridge boys' school and acquired his father's love of natural history. As a boy he made a fine collection of dried specimens of British plants, particularly Devon ferns. He worked in the Carclew stove-houses where Sir Charles encouraged his interest in botany and horticulture. Lobb was later employed as gardener at Scorrier House near Falmouth where he watched boats returning from long voyages and longed to travel.

William Lobb's younger brother Thomas [*see below*], who was employed at horticultural nurseries in Exeter, told the proprietor James Veitch about William's botanical interests and desire for travel. William Lobb was taken on to become the first of the famous Veitch plant collectors. He was ordered to search in South America for new plants that could be commercially cultivated for growing in English gardens. On 7 November 1840 Lobb set sail for Rio de Janeiro on the packet *Seagull*. James Veitch had equipped him with Wardian glass cases, herbarium drying kits, passport, maps, money (£400 per annum), tickets, and a small leather-bound copy of *Daily Food for Christians*. He had instructions to collect viable seeds of the Chile pine *Araucaria araucana*, discovered in 1795 by Archibald Menzies.

After a period spent around Buenos Aires in Argentina, William Lobb explored the Orgon Mountains of Brazil and discovered *Begonia coccinea* and *Passiflora actinea*. He then decided to avoid the perilous sea passage around Cape Horn by going to Chile via the Uspallata Pass over the Andes on mules, a dangerous and exhausting journey. Reaching the region of Araucanía in southern Chile he found huge forests of *Araucaria*, later popularly known in the west as the monkey puzzle tree. He collected over 3000 seeds by shooting cones from the high tree-tops. Among his Chilean discoveries were *Desfontainea spinosa*, *Mandevilla splendens*, and *Tropaeolum azureum*. From Chile he travelled to Peru via Ecuador and southern Colombia. At every port he sent cases of seeds to Veitch and herbarium specimens to Kew; among them were *Calceolaria amplexicaulis*, *Abutilon vitifolium*, and *Passiflora mollissima*. He eventually reached Panama, where he found a letter from Veitch complaining that the Peru collection had not arrived and was forced to return to Quayaquil, where he found his cases rotting in the warehouse and eaten by ants. The agent said the cases ‘had quite escaped his notice’. Lobb had to spend another four months in Peru making a new collection.

William Lobb returned home in May 1844, after three and a half years of gruelling, dangerous, and often lonely travelling. A year later, in April 1845, Veitch dispatched him back to South America for another three-year trip. He revisited the

Orgon Mountains and this time sailed round the Horn to Valparaíso. He explored the cool cloud forests of the Colombian Andes and then went south to the shores of Tierra del Fuego and Valdivia in northern Patagonia, from where he sent home seeds of the Antarctic beech, *Nothofagus antarctica*. Lobb spent time on Chiloé Island, where he found *Berberis darwinii* and *Escallonia macrantha* var. *rubra*. From the mainland came the Chilean fire bush, *Embothrium coccineum*, *Crinodendron hookerianum*, the flame nasturtium, *Tropaeolum speciosum*, and the Chilean bellflower (now the national flower of Chile), *Lapageria rosea*.

William Lobb returned from his second voyage early in 1848 and was reunited with his brother Thomas, who was now also collecting for the firm. They spent a happy and productive year working in the nursery helping raise and propagate their introductions, which were already enormously popular with English gardeners and making considerable profits for James Veitch. Despite his poor health William Lobb was sent out again in 1849, this time to collect on the west coast of North America. His instructions were to find conifers and hardy shrubs in commercial quantities like those recently found by David Douglas, who had been travelling in the region for the Horticultural Society. He arrived during the Californian gold rush and escaped to the more peaceful area around Monterey, where he found the Monterey pine, *Pinus radiata*, the coastal or Californian redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, and the Santa Lucia fir, *Abies bracteata*, which William Hooker at Kew described as ‘among the most remarkable of all true pines’. Lobb developed a passion for conifers and collected seeds of several new trees, including the western red cedar, *Thuja plicata*, and a number of others that Douglas had only sent as herbarium specimens. Lobb's Californian collection of hardy shrubs is one of the most rewarding for gardeners, especially the glorious blue Californian lilacs or Ceanothus, including two natural hybrids, *C.* × *veitchinaus* and *C. s lobbianus*. He also collected seeds of butter-yellow *Fremontodendron californicum*, the red *Delphinium cardinale*, and a flowering currant, *Ribes lobbii*.

In the summer of 1852 William Lobb was in San Francisco preparing to send another collection of seeds to England when he attended a meeting of the newly founded California Academy of Science. He became terribly excited by a report from a hunter named Augustus Dowd of a grove of ‘Big Trees’ he had found in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in Calaveras county. Lobb knew at once that this was the prize he was dreaming of and raced back to find the trees. He too was stunned by their size and recorded ‘From 80 to 90 trees exist all within circuit of a mile, from 250ft to 320ft in height, 10–20ft in diameter’ (Shephard, 115). Wasting no time, he collected all the seeds, botanical specimens, vegetative shoots, and seedlings he could carry back to San Francisco and immediately booked himself on to the first ship home. Six months later the *Gardeners' Chronicle* reported that Veitch was offering seedlings of this remarkable tree at £3 2*s*. 0*d*. each, reducing to £1 1*s*. 0*d*. each if twelve pairs were bought. Several enthusiasts planted avenues of the tree, which John Lindley named *Wellingtonia gigantea* to mark the recent death of the duke of Wellington, enraging Americans who thought it should be named *Washingtonea* after their own first president. Sixty years later it was named *Sequoiadendron giganteum* after the local Native American chief Sequoia, and to show its botanical relationship with the coastal or Californian redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*.

The Veitch nurseries became rich and famous but their collectors remained largely anonymous. Veitch dreamed of another success like the *Wellingtonia* and sent Lobb back to California for another three-year contract. Lobb found little more and sent only repeat collections of conifer seeds. He was now suffering persistent ill

health, Veitch noting that his writing had become shaky. He did not, however, return home and instead remained in California after his contract expired in 1858, sending seeds to private collectors. In his only known surviving letter, dated 4 February 1858, Lobb informed Sir William Hooker that he had shipped five cases of seeds, specimens, and plants directly to Kew—bypassing his old employer. 'We thought he had given up collecting plants, for Californian gold', Veitch wrote bitterly to Hooker. 'His conduct towards us seems inexplicable and I am tempted to make strong comments.' Veitchs were obliged to buy back the collection to preserve their exclusivity (Shephard, 126).

William Lobb died of 'paralysis', or most probably syphilis, alone and forgotten in San Francisco in 1863. He was buried in a public plot in Lone Mountain cemetery. In 1927 his headstone was moved to South Ridge Lawn and later, in 1940, to a crypt at Cypress Lawn cemetery by the California Academy of Sciences.

His younger brother **Thomas Lobb** (*bap*. 1817, *d*. 1894), plant collector, was baptized at Egloshayle, Cornwall, on 5 August 1817. Like William, he was educated at Wadebridge and briefly worked at Carclew. At thirteen he was apprenticed to the Veitch horticultural nursery in Exeter where he remained until he was chosen, as a result of his brother's successful travels in the Americas, to search in south-east Asia for new 'exotics', especially orchids, rhododendrons, and insect-eating pitcher plants.

Thomas Lobb signed a lengthy and exclusive contract with Veitchs and was sworn to secrecy. He sailed in January 1843 with instructions to start collecting in China, still a remote and inaccessible country virtually closed to foreigners. He was refused entry and sailed instead to Singapore, where he plunged into the steamy rainforests and cool mountains of the Malay peninsula and the island of Penang. He spent a year collecting, speaking to no one but native porters, and impervious to insects, heat, and diseases. He sent home seeds of numerous new plants including *Nepenthes rafflesiana*, the first pitcher plant to be raised in the Veitch glasshouses, and the orchid *Cypripedium barbatum*. He finally reached Java, where he collected the huge climbing *Hoya cinnamomifolia*, *Vanda tricolor* var. *suavis*, the putrid-smelling *Bulbophyllum beccarii*, several tender rhododendrons including *R. javanicum* and *R. jasminiflorum*, and *Phalaenopsis amabilis*. Later he sailed to Burma where he found *Hoya bella*, which the *Botanical Magazine* likened to an amethyst set in silver.

Thomas Lobb returned to England at the end of 1847, bringing some of the finest dried herbarium specimens ever sent to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. He was passionate about orchids and spent many years working with the great Veitch hybridist John Dominy (1816–1891), creating new orchid varieties from plants he had found in the wild.

On Christmas day 1848 Thomas Lobb sailed east once again in search of hothouse plants and exotic shrubs and in March arrived in Calcutta. Sir William Hooker's son Joseph was already collecting in north-east India for the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. When he heard of Lobb's travels Hooker wrote to his father, asking him to tell Veitch that Lobb would receive every assistance if he joined him at Darjeeling. In the professional rivalry among collectors information regarding the sources of discoveries was jealously withheld. Thomas Lobb, who was known to be shy, even taciturn, and a loner, had no intention of being patronized by the great Joseph Hooker, nor to share his knowledge of plants. Hooker travelled with numerous servants and coolies with tons of equipment and even an armed escort

while Lobb had a couple of men and some mules.

Thomas Lobb managed to avoid meeting Hooker for a year and kept busy collecting in Sarawak, the Philippines, and Burma. He found numerous rhododendrons including *R. brookeanum* and *R. moulmainense*, and several orchids including *Phalaenopsis rosea*, *Dendrobium palpebrae*, and *Cypripedium villosum*, which was later used as a Veitch hybrid parent. He sent home two new hothouse plants, *Medinilla speciosa* and *M. magnifica*. To protect the secrecy of his sources he labelled each of four duplicate sets of herbarium specimens differently: one from Java, one from Borneo, one from the Malay peninsula, and one from Luzon. This caused considerable confusion for botanists in later years as they were unable to make proper geographical designations and classifications of Lobb's discoveries.

But the real treasure he was after was the lovely blue orchid, *Vanda caerulea*, first discovered by the botanist William Griffiths in 1837 in the Khasia hills of Assam. Lobb had met Griffiths in Singapore and knew its exact location. Hooker, who was also searching for the fabled orchid, finally met Lobb in a camp in the Khasia hills, but found him unwilling to stay even a day there. His guarded behaviour was in order to carry out his employer's strict instructions regarding secrecy. According to Hooker, whose own collection of blue orchids had failed to survive, the orchid was ‘collected under my sight and directions’ for a ‘gentleman who sent his gardener with us to be shown the locality’ (Shephard, 106). In fact Lobb had already shipped home a quantity of *Vanda caerulea* and Veitch was selling divisions for up to £10 each. Hooker later complained that commercial collectors had an economic advantage over Kew collectors. Certainly in this case commercialism had won over science and the gentleman botanist had lost out to the garden boy.

After a period in the Nepalese foothills, where he found *Cardiocrimun giganteum*, and a brief stop in south-west India, where he found more orchids in the Nilgiri hills, Lobb returned to England in 1853 to find his employers had made such enormous profits that Veitch & Sons had opened a vast new nursery in London, on the King's Road in Chelsea. This meant huge orders for hothouse and conservatory plants, ferns, orchids, and other fashionable exotics, and Lobb was dispatched once again in August 1854 to Java. From Burma he sent an unusual variegated fern and a new rhododendron, *Rhododendron lobbii*. In 1858 Lobb made his final expedition, returning to north Borneo, Burma, Sumatra, and the Philippines to collect mostly ornamental foliage plants to be grown as house plants. His finds in Borneo included the marvellous *Alocasia lowii* var. *veitchii* and several davallias, and from Burma the lovely *Lygodium polystachyum* and the first variegated fern, *Pteris argyraea*. While in the Philippines Lobb badly injured his leg and he was forced to return to England. He went home to Cornwall to live with his sister Jane Mitchell and her family.

Thomas Lobb remained in Cornwall and out of touch with the Veitch business for some ten years, until 9 September 1869, when he was summoned to London by the irascible James Veitch junior, who unlike his father had failed to organize successful plant collecting expeditions. He hoped to persuade Thomas Lobb to collect for Veitch again despite his badly injured leg. There was a heated argument, Lobb left the house, and Veitch suffered a fatal heart attack. Lobb was probably angry at the way he had been treated and felt bitter, unrewarded, and forgotten while his valuable plants had become household names and made his employers a fortune. He no doubt also nursed great resentment at the way his brother William had been abandoned and left to die in San Francisco.

Thomas Lobb spent the rest of his life in the Cornish village of Devoran, near Feock. At some point his leg became so bad that he had to have it amputated under anaesthesia on his sister's kitchen table. He became a virtual recluse, tending his garden and relying on his nephew to bring supplies. One villager recalled that Lobb could be seen every morning stumping through the village to visit his sister. His house was described as 'spick and span', the walls covered with his paintings of orchids. He was a man of very few words and orchids were his sole topic of conversation. He died at his home, Coral Villa, Devoran, Cornwall, on 27 April 1894 (though some sources give 30 April) and was buried in the churchyard at Devoran.

The Lobb brothers were the first and, with the exception of E. H. Wilson, the best of the Veitch nursery's twenty-three plant collectors. They are arguably two of the finest but least known of the plant collectors who introduced remarkable trees, popular garden plants, and rare botanical specimens and hybrids to Britain.

SUE SHEPHARD

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Archives RGB Kew, corresp. with Veitchs

Wealth at death £451—Thomas Lobb: probate, 6 July 1894, *CGPLA Eng. & Wales*

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Sue Shephard, 'Lobb, William (*bap*. 1809, *d*. 1863)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, May 2009; online edn, Jan 2010 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/59320, accessed 13 Nov 2014]

William Lobb (*bap*. 1809, *d*. 1863): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/59320
Thomas Lobb (*bap*. 1817, *d*. 1894): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/59321

the ground where Cabbages have been, if the still growing, should be forked over or dug so as to expose as many of the grubs as possible. Robins and starlings will soon make short work of them. If ducks or poultry can be turned on to the plot, they will be still more effectual.

December 1st.—The planting of Roses is still in progress, but the sooner it is completed the better. Some growers are opposed to planting late in the year—at any rate, in the case of Teas and Hybrid Teas. They recommend laying them in and leaving them, with bracken, or some similar material, to protect them, until March, but the wisdom of this recommendation is doubtful. When the area available for Roses is limited, it is not easy to decide where to put each kind to the best advantage. All of them, of course, clamour for the sunniest positions, but there are more or less shady corners where some of them must go. Which are they to be? Gloire de Dijon must be one of them. I have grown this Rose on a north wall, where it never had a look at the sun, and found it to do remarkably well there. The flowers were not produced as freely as in a warmer situation, but they lasted longer, and there were what, on any other variety, would have been called a large number. Bouquet d'Or is another climber which does well in a shady position, and so, among the Hybrid Teas, do Cheshunt Hybrid and Viscountess Folkestone. But, perhaps, the best of all for a north or an east wall are the evergreen Roses, such as Félicité Perpetué.

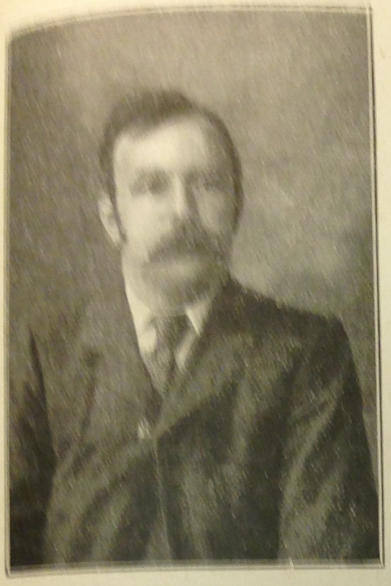
December 2nd.—When building a house of any size, the modern architect has such a horror of any of his work being hidden that he cases it in solid cement or something equally unplantable. In the house shown in the photograph, however, it has been possible to drape the walls with creepers, and to plant trees and shrubs close up to the building, with the result that it has been made infinitely more beautiful than it would have been if left bare.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

A PLANT of any kind should never be repotted and pruned, or cut back to any extent, at the same time. Either prune it first, and wait until it has well "broken" into growth again before repotting, or else do this first, and prune when the plant has made fresh roots and is beginning to grow again.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 218.—MR. JAMES LOCK, AT THE GARDENS, OATLANDS LODGE, WEYBRIDGE.



MR. JAMES LOCK.

TO his long list of successes at leading horticultural shows, Mr. Lock has made material additions since I saw him on October 26th. At the Crystal Palace he took several prizes for cut blooms of Chrysanthemums; at Guildford he won six first and two third prizes for Chrysanthemums and fruit, including two challenge cups; and at Weybridge, in his own district, he carried away the lion's share of the honours. These achievements do not surprise me, for when, by the courteous permission of Sir Charles Swinfen-Eady, I visited Oatlands Lodge, Mr. Lock showed me both the Chrysanthemums and the fruit which he intended to exhibit. But Chrysanthemums and fruit are by no means the only features of interest in the gardens at Oatlands Lodge.

We commenced our round with the old range of glass, which is now used for the storage of the plants from the garden vases and the summer beds.

"These old houses," said Mr. Lock, "chiefly contain Henry Jacoby Geraniums, of which we plant out between fifteen and sixteen hundred, used largely for the borders, Ivy-leaf Geraniums being more extensively used for bedding. I generally make a bed of Charles Turner, and then run up six pyramidal pink Ivy-leaved Geraniums, to relieve the formality. You will also notice, as we proceed, that in various parts of the grounds there are a number of tree stumps. When the trees become dangerous, instead of grubbing them up, we cut them off, and plant in the stumps either Geraniums, Eucalyptus globulus, Fuchsias, Campanula pyramidalis, Tracheliums, or Bamboos. The plants are changed every year, in order to make variety. We get the Eucalyptus from four to five feet high on the stumps, and Bamboos up to fifteen feet. Tracheliums hang down, and the flowers turn up, the blue being very effective. Sometimes we plant Ivy to cover the stump, which looks pleasing in both summer and winter."

"In one of these houses I see you grow Bananas?"

"Yes, and some have just fruited. Four months ago we imported from Barbadoes a number of the 'Claret' Bananas, which came to hand cut off about one foot from the roots. You may judge from their present appearance that they are very fast growing. They are already quite seven feet high, and I think of taking them out and putting them in beds. At present I do not know when they will fruit."

"Where did the other trees come from?"

"Most of them are from South Africa. Except the 'Claret' Bananas, the only variety we grow is Musa Cavendishii."

As we proceeded in the direction of the mansion, Mr. Lock observed, "You will notice that the house, like the grounds, is Italian in style."

"Considerable historic interest, I believe, attaches to the property?"

"Yes. The Oatlands Park was Crown property in the reign of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth. It passed, by exchange, to the Earls of Lincoln, and then was exchanged back again to the Crown in the reign of George III., who granted it to his son, the Duke of York."

OATLANDS LODGE, WEYBRIDGE.

This house is one of the beauty spots of the neighbourhood. It was formerly the home of the Duke of York, son of George the Third.

"How large are the grounds?"

"Exclusive of the Oatlands Palace gardens, about eighteen acres. The Palace gardens are the remains of the old Oatlands Palace, built by Henry VIII., and part of the walls enclosing them were the actual walls enclosing the courtyard of the Palace. These gardens, which Sir Charles Eady acquired three years ago, are six acres in extent."

Passing the conservatory, which, while the houses are being painted, is filled with Ferns, but at other times is gay with flowers, we arrived at the beds in front of the house, and I was naturally curious as to their planting for the spring display.

"The four round beds are planted with varieties of Sutton's Polyanthus in four colours, edged with Daisies; four other beds have Sutton's Dwarf Brown and Dwarf Yellow Wallflowers, edged with Forget-me-nots, while in the centre bed there are Sutton's tall Blood-red Wallflowers, edged with Daisies. I may add that the round beds are dotted with Tulips, and that in the centre with Hyacinths. Pampas Grass, as you perceive, is quite at home on the lawn."

From the terrace we proceeded to the Orange walk, which contains about twenty trees.

"Two of these," said Mr. Lock, "the Tangerine and Sweet Portuguese, yield fruit which is edible. The trees flower at different times, and both in the spring months and in September the Orange walk looks exceedingly nice."

"Your Portugal Laurels are another feature, and look remarkably well."

"I attribute their good looks to the fact that they are cut with the knife, instead of trimmed with the shears, in September. Cutting with the knife prevents tearing of the tree, and the leaves from going yellow and falling during the winter and spring months. There are eighteen Portugal Laurels in all."

"Hollies also seem to prosper with you."

"The Gold and Silver Hollies thrive here, and another fact worth noting is that Aloes, which are placed in recesses of the terrace, stand out from May until the beginning of October. We treat Agapanthus in the same manner."

"I observe that you have a nice little Rosery on the terrace."

"That also is part of the original garden, but we do not make Roses a great feature, simply growing Teas, Hybrid Teas, and Hybrid Perpetuals of good quality. They are chiefly standards, with a few bushes outside."

From the lawns we walked to the lake, where the moorhens are obviously at home. The lake, which is of considerable length, is remarkable for its freedom from weeds, the reason being that they are regularly cut by a petrol motor-boat. Bamboos of the Metake variety are as much at home as the moorhens, by the water, and grow to a height of sixteen or seventeen feet. Pentstemons, which had been very fine, were just over, and, in addition to a fine plant of Azalea amœna, there is an enormous mass of Laurels.

"The herbaceous border," resumed Mr. Lock, "has just been cleared off. Among the varieties which do especially well are Delphiniums, Asters, Phlox, Dracocephalums, Tritomas, Asphodelus luteus, Heuchera sanguinea (which, with the hybrids, used with Gypsophila elegans, are sweetly pretty for table decorations), Phygelius capensis, Campanulas in variety, and Œnothera missouriensis. Some of the rustic arches which you see here were made out of the old Vines from the Palace gardens, and are covered with Clematis, which we have in variety, Jackmanii being chiefly used. Other varieties in the herbaceous border which were particularly effective included Pæonies 'mpress of Russia, Lady Beresford, Glory of Limerick, and Snowflake), Galega officinalis, Iris, Incarvillea, Kopmanii, and Achillea The Pearl. For background we use the old Golden Rod and Helianthus gigantseus."

Through a rustic arch we entered the wilderness, where I saw many more of the stumps of trees which are so admirably turned to account, as well as several more rustic arches planted with Crimson Rambler Roses and Honeysuckles, a large bed of Azalea mollis, and a good collection of hardy Ferns. Here, too, is a great Beech, thirty-four yards through, and branches extending the same distance right round; also a very fine Cedar, the ground close by being utilised with vegetables, especially Carrots, for which the soil is singularly suitable.

"But," remarked Mr. Lock, "to ensure a crop of Carrots it is necessary to sow in July. If we sow in spring, they are attacked by the Carrot-fly, which always means failure."

"What are the propagating pits now filled with?"

"Christmas-flowering Forget-me-nots, Schizanthus in variety, herbaceous Calceolarias, and Cinerarias, mostly stellata. We force about eight hundred Strawberries, Royal Sovereign, and Latest of All. I prefer the crowns at the side of the pots instead of in the centre, because, by this means, you get the flowers well away from the soil."

"You have some nice young fruit trees outside?"

"These are fan trees, and include Pears, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Doyenné du Comice, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Jargonelle; Figs, Brunswick; Apricots, Moor Park; Peaches, Grosse Mignonne; Nectarines, Elruge; and Plums, Victoria.

Then we went into the new fruit room, where I saw a magnificent collection of Muscat Grapes ready for exhibition, and also a splendid lot of Apples saved for the same purpose. The varieties of the latter were Cornish Aromatic, Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Blenheim Orange. Proceeding through the houses, I asked the names of the varieties grown in the late Peach house.

"The Nectarines are Dryden and Early Rivers, which latter is grown in the late house in order that we may get fruit during the first week in September; the Peaches are Gladstone and Barrington."

"But just now the attraction of this house is unquestionably your Chrysanthemums. Which do you consider the best of these wonderful blooms?"

"Mrs. Barkley, Edith Smith, Mafeking Hero, Mildred Ware, Walford Pink, Henry Perkins, Mr. W. Knox (new this year), Edith Shrimpton, Mr. E. Beckett, Duchess of Sutherland, Ethel Fitzroy, George Lawrence, General Hutton, Bessie Godfrey, and Valerie Greenham."

"How long have the trees in the early Peach house been planted?"

"Just eleven years. I made the whole of the border myself, and the trees grow right over the roofs of the house. The varieties are Rivers' Early York, Dymond, Alexandra, Noblesse, and the new Peach Libra, sent out by Mr. William Tayler, of Hampton, and Nectarines, Early Rivers and Dryden. There are some rather fine seedlings in this house."

"I see that you have more Chrysanthemums in the early Vinery?"

"The chief varieties here are Mrs. A. H. Lee, the Vallis varieties, Mrs. Dalton, George Mileham, Godfrey's Pride, President Viger, and others. With regard to Grapes, we have two rods of Madresfield Court, three rods of Black Hamburgh, and three rods of Foster's Seedling. We used to have Figs on the back of the walls, but the Vines shaded them too much. There are Strawberries on the shelves right through the Vineries."

"What about the late varieties of Grapes?"

"Lady Downe's Seedling is the best for keeping, and the other varieties are Grosse Colmar, Mrs. Pearson, Black Alicante, and Alnwick Seedling. In this house the Citron tree is in flower, and an Orange tree laden with fruit. Here, also, after the Chrysanthemums are over, we have Salvia splendens and Pitcheri in flower. In the Pine stove we grow two varie-

The Terrace at Oatlands Lodge, Weybridge.

Adjoining this terrace is the Orange Walk, and some of the trees—the Tangerine and Sweet Portuguese—yield fruit.

fies—Cayenne and The Queen—and get some very fine fruit. One Pine recently cut weighed nearly eight pounds."

"What do you grow chiefly in the stove?"

"There are some exceedingly fine specimens of Acalypha Sanderii, and also of Crotons. The latter include Warrenii, Chelsoni, Princess of Wales, Cleveii, Mrs. Dorman, angustifolium, and Victoria. Other plants grown in quantity are Anthuriums, Ixoras, Clerodendrons, Caladiums, Allamandas, and Stephanotis."

"You appear to grow only Muscats in the Muscat house."

"Yes. I think it wise not to have any other variety in the Muscat house. Here you see one of the very finest of our Chrysanthemums—Beauty of Leigh."

"How many Chrysanthemums do you grow altogether?"

"About three hundred and fifty Japanese and Incurved, and for bush and decorative work we have about a thousand. Azaleas and Solanums are, as you see, temporarily resting in the second Peach house, the Peaches grown being Crimson Galande and Grosse Mignonne; the Nectarines, Lord Napier, Rivers' Orange, and Spenser."

"You have a nice collection of Callas in the cool greenhouse. What is your system with them?"

"We plant them out all the summer, and then lift them, obtaining a continuous supply of flower. We have about a hundred Bouvardias, which are very useful for cutting. The varieties are Hogarth, The Bride, Alfred Neuner, Priory Beauty, Flava, President Garfield, and Dazzler. We also grow sixty plants of Kalanchoes, the varieties being Flamelii, Kirkii, and Kewensis. They only require very simple treatment. Then we have between four and five dozen of Kalosanthes coccinea."

"You have a very fine range of glass altogether."

"Yes; it was put up eleven years ago. We have, altogether, twenty-six houses, of which you have seen a considerable number, but we had better now go to the old Palace gardens."

These famous gardens are divided into three portions, and are square in formation, being laid out in the old Elizabethan style; the herbaceous border runs the whole length, and the fruit trees are admirably trained.

"We are gradually," said Mr. Lock, taking the old trees off the walls and working the new ones in. Strawberries do extremely well under the north wall, the varieties including Latest of All, Royal Sovereign, Fillbasket, The Laxton, Givon's Late and British Queen, but the soil is hardly stiff enough for the last. We have just been planting fruit trees, Pears and Plums, out of pots. Apricots also do well on the walls."

"Have you more than one variety?"

"Yes, we have six. In addition to Moor Park, we have Large Early, Peach, Brenda, Shipley, and Hemskirk. Figs also do well outside, Brunswick and Brown Turkey, while Plums out of doors include Coe's Golden Drop, Kirke's, Apricot Plum, Monarch, Jefferson, Oullin's Golden, Angelina Burdett, and Decaisne."

"Is there anything special in the way of vegetables?"

"We grow a large quantity of Seakale (Lily-white chiefly), and enough Potatoes to keep the family all through the year. The early varieties are Ringleader, May Queen, and Ninetyfold. We have Up-to-Date for the main crop, and other varieties include Windsor Castle, Satisfaction, Supreme, Discovery, and Eldorado."

"You have a good deal of glass in these gardens, also."

"In one of these houses we grow late Peaches (Princess of Wales and Libra), with Nectarines, Victoria, and Humboldt. The sashes are taken off to retard them. In the Melon house we have Hero of Lockinge, Sutton's A1, and Royal Jubilee. Another very large house is devoted entirely to cordon fruit trees. The Pears are Pitmaston Duchess, Doyenné du Comice, Duchesse d'Angouleme, Clapp's Favourite, Marguerite Marillat, Easter Beurré, and Beurré Diel. The Apples are Cox's Orange Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Irish Peach, Pine, Golden Pippin, Fearn's Pippin, Okera (a conical-shaped dessert Apple which we get early in September), and Washington."

"But you get some of the Apples earlier than September?"

"Oh, yes; we get both Apples and Pears at the end of July. The great object, however, in growing them under glass is to ensure a crop against frost. Cherries are grown here in pots under glass. The varieties are Governor Wood, Rivers' Early, Empress Eugenie, Frogmore Bigarreau, Late Black Bigarreau, Black Tartarian, and Semisde Bur. The old Vineries we devote to pot fruit trees, but they are now full of Chrysanthemums; and in the Rose house we grow Maréchal Niel, Niphetos, and Adam, a very pretty Rose."

"Then, there are the Carnations."

"They are chiefly Malmaisons, with a few trees, the Malmaisons being Churchwarden, Nell Gwynne, Princess of Wales, Maggie Hodson, Mercia, Mrs. Martin Smith, and Rothschild. The trees include Mrs. T. W. Lawson, Winter Cheer, Alpine Glow, Henry Fenn, Floriana, and Flamingo. I am glad to say we are not troubled by rust. In another house, which is intended for Figs, the whole of the shelves are devoted to Border Carnations to be planted out in the spring. Some of the varieties will not stand the winter out of doors."

"Do you grow Tomatoes in pots?"

"Yes, out of doors, in the summer. The best varieties are Sutton's Perfection, Satisfaction, Winter Beauty, Frogmore Selected, Ham Green Favourite, and Early Ruby. In this house we intend to grow Figs only. We also have, in small pots, about a hundred Chrysanthemums, which are struck in March, and are most useful for indoor decoration. About a hundred and fifty of the Bridal Wreath are grown for table decoration and grouping at the shows."

There remained still to be seen the famous Grotto, which was built by the Earl of Lincoln between 1740 and 1750 at a cost of £40,000. It took a man and his two sons two years to erect, and consists entirely of single shells, running in number to many millions. It is, in fact, the finest grotto in the world, and contains three chambers on the ground floor and one above, which contain marvellous specimens of stalachtite, granite, coral, and seaweed, the colours being most skilfully blended. The approach to the upper chamber is paved with horses' teeth, and a remarkable feature in one of the lower chambers is the Duchess of York's bath. Near this unique and costly grotto is the dog cemetery, planned by the Duchess of York, with gravestones erected to seventy favourites. When we had finished the inspection of these curiosities, I asked Mr. Lock to give me a few details about his successes in showing.

"I have exhibited at Exeter, Taunton, Weybridge, the Royal Horticultural shows, the National Chrysanthemum shows, Kingston, Chertsey, Richmond, Woking, and Guildford. I am pleased to say I have won cups, medals, and shields, as well as money, but one cup in particular I was most proud of winning."

"Which was that?"

"The Challenge Japanese Chrysanthemum Cup, the value of which, I suppose, I shall never know. It is, of course, a great help to me that my employer is so fond of gardening, and takes a real interest in my work. You ask what form of showing I prefer. I think I ought to say fruit-showing and grouping; and the keener the competition, the better I can group. I am lending you an album of photographs, which were not only given to me, but were all taken by Lady Eady."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 174.—CAMELLIAS AND JOSS LILIES.

DEAR KATE,—I hear that Camellias are again to become popular and fashionable, after an eclipse of about a quarter of a century. What a queer thing fashion is, especially in flowers, but there is no doubt that it has a great effect. I believe some actress has condescended to deck herself with these lovely blossoms lately, and, consequently, we are all to be allowed to do so now. Certainly, they are very beautiful, and the plants are not difficult to manage unless they are given too much fire heat, when they have a provoking way of dropping their buds instead of expanding them. They are, in fact, almost hardy, and will grow in Devonshire against a shady wall out of doors, or in a cold porch, which they adorn in spring with quantities of splendid flowers.

CAMELLIA JAPONICA.

If you have *any* place, in fact, where the frost and snow will not fall heavily upon their foliage, such as a verandah, or an overhanging porch open to the air, that will suit them well, unless it is too sunny, for they like partial shade. If you keep the plant in a pot, however, you should wrap a mat or something round this in sharp weather, or it may break with the frost; and, besides, the roots which cling to the pot do not care about being frozen, and they feel the cold much more in earthenware than in the ground. Camellias will, of course, bear slight forcing if you want early blossoms; but this must be done very gradually, as any sudden change of temperature will be likely to be fatal to their buds, and plenty of moisture must be supplied in the atmosphere as well as to their roots, where there is artificial heat. I do not think they would bear the effects of a hand-stove to force them, and even with hot-water pipes, and constant syringing, it is necessary to place them on a damp position, not over the pipes, or even near them, as it is disgusting to come down some fine morning and have to pick up all your Camellia buds from the ground. All this is about the double varieties of Camellia japonica, in white, rich pink, and crimson.

There are several single-flowered Camellias which are still more hardy (in fact, as hardy as Laurels, it is said), and these can be planted against a north-west wall, or even at the north, without any special protection, in the south of our islands. One of the hardiest of all is Camellia sasanqua, with single blooms and

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JANUARY 18TH, 1919.

BETWEEN OURSELVES.

A PROFITABLE VINE.

WHAT is the record value of a crop of Grapes from a single Vine? I know of nothing to beat that of a Vine (Gros Colmar) in the nursery of Mr. Duncan Buchanan, at Kippen, Kelso. Last season this plant, which is twenty-seven years old, carried one thousand five hundred and fifty-eight bunches, which produced the sum of £367. The sum realised might have been about £50 more, but for the fact that there were a number of ragged and damaged bunches—the work of various pests—which were sold at less than five shillings per pound, whereas the bulk of the crop made six shillings. Cutting started in the middle of September, and finished about the middle of December. The Vine is increasing in size and productiveness at the rate of two hundred bunches per annum. Mr. Buchanan is asking for particulars of other big Vines, including those at Cumberland Lodge, and Manresa, Roehampton. Can any reader furnish the information?

APPLE CULTURE SOCIETIES.

A Northumberland correspondent, Mr. J. N. Kidd, of Well Close, Stocksfield, has sent me an account of an "Apple Culture Society" which has been started "up North." It is the outcome of discussions over the mid-day coffee, a few enthusiasts meeting round the table to talk about their experiences and give their opinions on the varieties and methods of culture. The society now numbers seventy members, and it is expected that more will join this year. Mr. Kidd suggests that similar societies might be started in other districts, and eventually all could join hands for the common good. The subscription is nominal—merely one shilling per year. Among the aims are to report on new varieties and their suitability for any particular locality; to exchange views by holding meetings and arranging excursions to the gardens and plantations of members; to give encouragement to the raising of improved varieties; and to hold an annual Apple show. Some of these objects are those of existing and older societies, but the idea is, I think, worthy of every consideration, and I hope to return to the subject again shortly.

WART DISEASE OF POTATOES.

A survey of the whole of the counties of England and Wales was undertaken lately by the Food Production Department in order to ascertain in what areas wart disease exists. As a result, sixty-eight districts have had to be certified as infected areas under the Wart Disease of Potatoes Order, 1918. Among the areas so certified are a district including the county of Glamorgan and parts of the counties of Monmouth, Carmarthen, and Brecon; the whole of Lancashire south of the river Ribble; and a number of parishes in the counties of Nottingham and Derby. The county of Stafford is to be declared an infected area as and from January 1st, 1920.

SEED POTATOES.

An official intimation states that during 1918 the Food Production Department distributed to allotment-holders, small-holders, and others in England and Wales, thirty-two thousand tons of seed Potatoes—thirteen thousand tons being varieties immune from wart disease. In addition, nine thousand two hundred tons were shipped to the British Expeditionary Forces for planting in France or at Salonica; and sixteen hundred tons were supplied to the Allied Governments.

THE EDITOR.

OATLANDS LODGE, WEYBRIDGE.

GOOSEBERRIES AS CORDONS.

The Gooseberry is amenable to various forms of training, such as the clean-stemmed bush, bush with sucker growths, pyramids, standards, and cordons.

The cordon method provides trees for so many and varied sites that the wonder to me is that this system of training has not been more generally adopted. When fruit trees—as Plums, for example—are planted against walls, the space between the permanent trees could most profitably be employed with cordon trained Gooseberries. From trees growing on a southern or an eastern aspect much earlier fruit can be gathered than from any form of trained tree in the open. When the fruit on wall trees is required to ripen for dessert, the flavour is much improved by the warmth from the wall.

Trees to plant in these vacant spaces do not require any special form of training. Any young bush tree with half a dozen shoots will provide the means of shaping a cordon with the desired number of branches, giving each branch a space of six inches. As growth proceeds, train the shoots in an upward position, removing the point of the shoot each year until the desired height—six to eight feet—is obtained. Prune to an eye all sideshoots that form, and summer-prune these to two inches, to aid in the formation of fruiting spurs which will give annual crops of fruit. During a spell of dry weather in May or June, the trees growing against walls are somewhat more subject to attacks of red spider than trees growing in the open. This pest should not be neglected, or the growth will be crippled, resulting in small, immature fruit and a poor foundation for the future crop. Copious supplies of water should be given to the roots, afterwards mulching the surface soil with half-decayed manure, or vegetable refuse and old potting soil. Vigorously syringe the trees in the evening, mixing sulphur with the water, or apply a dose of petroleum emulsion if the fruit is not large enough to gather, so that there is no likelihood of tainting it.

Alongside a path in the kitchen garden is a good site for cordon trained trees, with a single main stem. Plant the trees one foot apart, and train them upright to horizontal wires. With care in keeping the foliage clean, and liberally supplying them with manure, they will flourish for a long time.—E. MOLYNEUX.

KIRENGOSHOMA PALMATA.

This handsome plant, which has been cultivated at Kew for some years, but which has been an expensive plant to purchase, is now being offered at a more reasonable price. It is worth consideration by those who want flowers which are so seldom seen as to be a source of interest, as well as by those who love plants because of their beauty. It has handsome leaves, which are prettily lobed, and nice creamy-yellow flowers. It grows from two to as much as three feet high, but in warm, dry situations does not develop to the latter height, and may, indeed, be less than two feet. Kirengoshoma palmata likes a partly shaded, cool position in a peaty soil, and should have a fair amount of moisture in summer.—S. ARNOTT.

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FAMOUS BRITISH GARDENS.

OATLANDS LODGE, WEYBRIDGE.

Interview with Mr. James Lock.

FROM the days when Henry VIII. built a palace there for the reception of his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, Oatlands has had historical associations of more than ordinary interest. Anne, it is true, never lived there, divorce following within a few months of her marriage; but within its walls Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I. in turn held revels. Surrounding the palace was a park with a circuit of three miles, and many fine old trees still remain. The estate passed through several hands before it came into the possession of the seventh Earl of Lincoln, under whose directions the laying out of the gardens and shrubberies was commenced, as well as the replanting of the park, and the building of a house close to where Oatlands Lodge now stands. It was he, too, who designed the world-famous grotto. His descendants, the Dukes of Newcastle, retained possession until the closing years of the eighteenth century, when the property was sold to the Duke of York, son of George III. Considerable additions were made to the park, which brought the area to three thousand acres. About this time the house was burned down. After the death of the Duke, in 1827, the estate was sold, and has since been split up.

Oatlands Lodge is a modern building in the Italian style, with a handsome tower. The grounds are beautifully timbered, and the gardens, until the outbreak of war, were among the finest in this part of Surrey. The present owner, Mr S. P. Emanuel, takes a keen interest in horticultural matters, as did his predecessor, Sir Charles Swinfen-Eady, and the head gardener, Mr. James Lock, who has been here for a good many years, counts himself fortunate in having employers who have encouraged his efforts in every possible manner.

The story of the gardens at Oatlands Lodge is the story of most gardens at the present time: Great scarcity of labour, but much determination on the part of the gardener to "carry on" as well as possible, and, while letting the least essential parts go, doing the utmost to maintain the rest in a creditable state.

"The present staff consists of four men and boys," said Mr. James Lock, when I called on him just before Christmas; "formerly there were fourteen."

"What is the extent of the gardens?"

"The pleasure grounds and park are about twenty acres; the kitchen gardens two and three-quarter acres. Part of the old palace grounds used to be included, but were not taken over by Mr. Emanuel when the property changed hands."

"Then there are the houses?"

"These include three span-roof Peach houses, three three-quarter-span Vineries, a Fernery, Melon house, stove, plant house, two pot fruit houses, Carnation house, and a small Orchid house There is an old range of houses that has been shut right down, partly for lack of fuel, and partly because they are badly in need of repair, and we have been unable to get anything done. We will commence with the late Peach house."

"What are the varieties here?"

POINTS IN PEACH CULTURE.

"They are Barrington and Princess of Wales, and Nectarines Early Rivers and Elruge. Early Rivers comes in nicely in September. The trees, as you see, are tied ready for cleaning and washing the house. The next is the early Peach house, and that is already cleaned, and the trees pruned. The varieties are Rivers' Early York, Libra, Dymond, and Nectarines Dryden, Early Rivers, and Lord Napier. Some people do not like large Peaches, but I think, if well grown, they are better than small ones, as the flesh is deeper, and must be juicier, like a deep-fleshed Melon."

"When do you start gathering fruit?"

"During the third week in May, and continue until the end of September. The crops are always good. After I have been over the blossoms with a rabbit's tail, I take the syringe and make a misty spray, and this helps pollinization."

"I notice you do not have other plants, such as Chrysanthemums, in these houses."

MR. JAMES LOCK.

"I am not a believer in housing Chrysanthemums with Peaches, because just when you have to keep the atmosphere dry and give a little heat to help the Chrysanthemums, the Peaches should be resting. If you put on heat the Peaches are excited into growth, and you get fluctuations in temperature which do them no good. I am hoping, when times and conditions alter, to have a house specially built for Peaches. It will have a movable front, so that in winter this can be slid right out, and allow air to play all round the trees, leaving only the glass covering overhead. The Peaches will be at the sides, and Figs on staging in the middle."

"What is the length of this main range of houses?" I asked, as we turned at right angles out of the early Peach house, and I saw a long vista of glass ahead.

"It is a hundred and thirty-three feet long. It was built by Messenger and Co., and was originally in the shape of the letter 'E,' with three short ranges running off the main one; but since Mr. Emanuel bought the property he has had two more added in between them, making five in all."

"You have been busy scrubbing down here?"

"Yes; this is the early Vinery. The varieties are Madresfield Court, Foster's Seedling, and Black Hamburgh. The shelves were used for forcing Strawberries in pre-war days, but we have none now. Altogether we used to force five hundred plants here and in the next house, where the late Vines are Lady Downe's Seedling, Prince of Wales, Barbarossa, Black Alicante, and Alnwick Seedling."

"Do you use the Vineries for early work?"

"Yes; early in the year we have Potatoes, Beans, and Peas in pots. All told we have about two hundred pots going. We commence with new Potatoes about Easter, and when the plants in pots are done, those in frames are ready."

A Fernery on the north side of the Vinery, into which we next went, is noticeable for the choice species growing there, such as Marattia Cooperi, with fronds fully six feet long; Davallia Mooreana, whose fronds are about half that length; Davallia polyantha, Adiantums, Nephrolepsis, and Bamboos requiring a warm house or stove.

From the Fernery we passed to the Melon house, where some Seakale and Chicory was being forced, and a good batch of Poinsettias were ready for decorative work. In this house, too, were a few Pines, one in fruit.

"I try to have a few Pines going," said Mr. Lock. "One was sold, a short time ago, at a Red Cross sale, and realised £17. Of course, owing to shortage of labour and scarcity of fuel, it has not been possible to get the utmost out of these houses."

"The labour problem with you has evidently been very serious. How have you managed with all these houses?".

"We have had to do the best we could. My son, who is sixteen, and I have done Sunday duty every week, where formerly we had two men on regularly. We used to keep five men on the houses. I am hoping we shall soon be getting more help, although all the old hands will not be coming back, for two of them have been killed, and two others badly injured."

THE QUESTION OF FEMALE LABOUR.

"Did you give female labour a trial?"

"No; being short-handed, I had no time to train girls to do the work they are best fitted for; and I do not like the idea of asking them to push heavy barrow-loads up and down these slopes, or dig the land, or take on other laborious tasks. Even with Grape-thinning, the operator must be trained. A good grower will not trust a hand to do this until he has had some training, and shows he can be relied on to do it properly. No two varieties are alike, and each wants its own special treatment. Some berries swell more than others, and he must make allowance for that. Some are round, and others long; then there are seedless berries. He must know the shape of the bunch, so as to judge which berries to take; whether to leave the shoulder or not; and so on. All this calls for care and some knowledge, and, as I say, I had not time to take it in hand."

Passing on, we entered the stove, where Anthuriums were conspicuous occupants.

"We had a number of Crotons here, but threw them away when war broke out, merely keeping a few young ones for stock. We have all the best sorts, such as Princess of Wales, Warrenii, Mrs. Dorman, Chelsonii, Countess of Zetland, and Victoria. It is the same with the Anthuriums; owing to the scarcity of sphagnum moss, which is used in the compost, they have been reduced in number, although we have retained some of each of the varieties. The Caladiums are now dried off. Then there are Bougainvillea Sanderiana, which I consider a much better colour than glabra; Phyllanthus nivosus albus, a handsome foliage plant; Allamandas, Dracænas, and Nepenthes."

LATE CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

In the Muscat house, which we next visited, there were a few late Chrysanthemums for Christmas work, and a quantity of bedding Geraniums in pots

"The Geraniums," said Mr. Lock, "are mostly Paul Crampel, of which we use two thousand

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for summer bedding. We managed to keep the beds going last season. The pink Chrysanthemum is Mdlle. L. Charvet, one of the best for late flowering. Winter Cheer, deep pink; Madame Oberthur, white; W. H. Lincoln, golden yellow; and Heston White, are others that are very good for this season. The next house is the second Peach house, and in it are Crimson Galande, Grosse Mignonne, Royal George, Violette Hâtive, and Nectarines Lord Napier and Rivers' Orange."

After looking at the pot fruit trees plunged in ashes outside, and at the frames used for forcing, the Fig house engaged our attention.

"In this," explained Mr. Lock, "we grow Figs down the centre, and Tomatoes at the sides, both running at the same time. They are over in time for these winter-flowering Begonias—of which we grow a good many—to come in."

"They are as fine a lot of plants as one could wish to see, and make a wonderful display of colour."

Tomatoes are also grown down the sides of the two fruit houses when the pot trees—Apples, Pears, Plums, and Cherries—are brought in; at present the centre staging is full of Cinerarias, which will make a good show in spring. Asked whether he was troubled by leaf-miner, Mr. Lock informed me that he kept them under by means of "Auto-Shreds," which he had found the best remedy. A good lot of Primula malacoides was also looked at, and we then moved on to the Carnation house.

CLARKIAS IN POTS.

"Among the Perpetual-flowering varieties (we have most of them), Carola, Rose-pink Enchantress, White Perfection, and Enchantress Supreme are favourites, and Mrs. C. F. Raphael is a good Perpetual Malmaison. In the early part of the season we have five hundred Malmaisons here—Calypso, Churchwarden, Baldwin, Dr. Sage, Maggie Hodgson, Mercia, Princess of Wales, and others. There is another thing you may like to notice—these Clarkias. I do not know a better thing than these for giving a good display of flowers in spring. They want repotting now, and then they will make tall plants, some growing ten feet high. They are easy to grow, if you give them plenty of air, and not too much heat."

Two other houses call for special mention, the first containing a batch of at least fifty Poinsettias, their lovely crimson bracts shedding a warm glow on the other occupants of the house. Some I noticed were six to eight feet high, and these occupied the centre of the staging, while dwarfer plants were in front of them.

"The tall plants," Mr. Lock explained, "are two years old; the younger ones are in front. I find the two-year-old plants give better bracts, and they are especially useful when you want to make a high bank of colour, the dwarfer plants filling up the space and hiding their stems. We have here a few Arums coming on, and also some Cypripediums, which are grown principally for cut flowers. But most of the Orchids are in the next house, where there are one hundred and fifty pots of Calanthes of different sorts, just throwing up their spikes. They come in useful in February."

"You have some handsome baskets of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine," I remarked, "and a lovely Plumbago."

"It is certainly a beautiful thing, this Plumbago rosea, and is quite easy to grow. We employ a number of them for the conservatory."

Having, with this, completed our tour of the houses, we took a walk round the upper kitchen garden (the kitchen garden, I may say, is in three parts). Espalier fruit trees border the beds, mixed with cordons of Apples Ribston Pippin and Cox's Orange Pippin. On the walls are fan-trained Pears and Peaches in the leading varieties. Frames here, with hotbeds of leaf-mould, were ready for sowing or planting Carrots, Potatoes, Beans, and other vegetables

The second kitchen garden is new, and has been formed out of what was formerly a paddock. Here are many fine trained fruit trees, Apples and Pears, and a series of arches covered with Roses. An arch which had been blown down in a gale a little while before prompted Mr. Lock to add:

"We cannot spare the labour to put this right yet; and I am afraid the fruit trees also will suffer, for we cannot attend to spraying just now. However, I am hoping we shall get some men soon, though the time is getting on."

THE WILDERNESS.

A grand old Cedar, with an immense spread of branches, and a very fine Holly, are features of this part of the gardens, which lead to the Wilderness, a delightful spot where bulbs, Primulas, and hardy Ferns are naturalised. Evidences were plentiful that labour has been scarce, and there will be much work in the way of thinning and regulating to be done later. So, too, with the herbaceous borders in this part of the grounds, they are still waiting to be cleaned up and the plants divided. Hereabouts are many stumps of trees, round which Roses and Clematis twine, this plan being adopted in preference to cutting them down to the ground. Through another pergola we catch a glimpse of the lake, known as Broadwater, a mile and a half long, which affords excellent boating, and is the home of numerous waterfowl.

Along by the lake we see some large colonies of Iris Kæmpferi, and farther round an immense clump of Azalea amœna, with richly tinted foliage. Then, making our way up the slope towards the house, we pass the croquet and tennis lawn, which has been mown, and cross the front lawn, which has had to go, and which, Mr. Lock remarks, will give some trouble to get back into good condition. Close by is another grand old tree, a Beech, more than a hundred feet through. It suffered damage from wind last August, and lost a big branch, but its appearance will not be altogether spoilt.

Arrived at the terrace, we pause for a moment to admire the views across the Thames valley, and then turn to look at the little Rose garden, which, enclosed by a tall, well-kept hedge, faces the steps leading up to the house. From this point, too, we get a general view of the gardens, which are laid out in the Italian manner, in keeping with the building. Tall, columnar Yews, which Mr. Lock and his son had just trimmed and wired—they had been left untrimmed for some time—make a striking feature here.

Passing round, we give a brief glance at the conservatory, which has just been cleared of the Chrysanthemums, and is at present occupied with handsome Palms, Dicksonia antarctica, and other foliage plants. In front of the conservatory is another lawn, the turf nicely kept, with a number of beds, filled with Wallflowers and Polyanthus Miss Jekyll's strain. Two tall Araucarias show that the prevailing winds are east, for on that side their branches are broken and thinned.

Beyond and around the lawn are large Rhododendrons, and Mr. Lock called my attention to their promise of a good show next year:

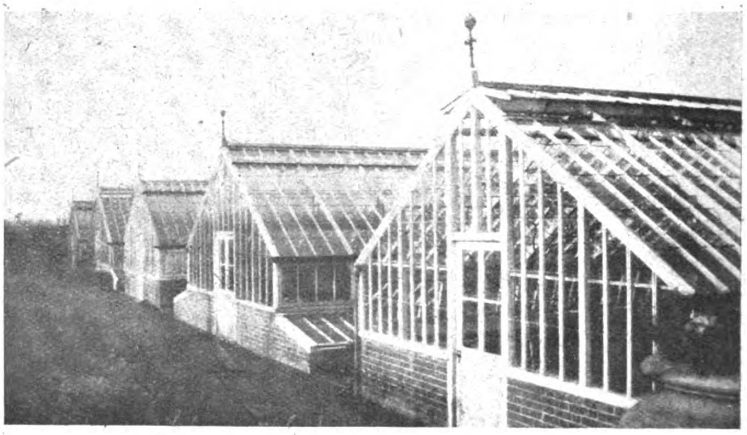
"They are all the leading varieties, but I think Pink Pearl is still one of the very best. The Portugal Laurels hereabouts had to go for a couple of years, and got out of hand. They have now been cut down, and are breaking again nicely. There are some good forest trees here, but some of them want to come down. This, however, is a job we must defer until we get more labour."

THE GROTTO.

A path through the trees took us towards the grotto I have already mentioned. This, said to be the finest thing of its class in the world, was built about 1747 to the order of the Earl of Lincoln, and a man and his two sons were employed on it for upwards of twenty years. It cost over £40,000. It is an irregular-shaped edifice, consisting of three large chambers, and made entirely of shells of all shapes, sizes, and colourings, brought from every quarter of the world. The ceilings are domed, and from them hang artificial stalactites, inlaid with satin spar, granite, and coral. The light that penetrates through the few small windows throws up the varying colours, and produces a magnificent effect. The approach to the upper chamber is paved with horses' teeth. This grotto was a favourite retreat of the Duchess of York, and in one of the lower chambers is a superb bath which she was accustomed to use.

Daylight was now fading, but before bidding farewell to Mr. Lock I referred to his showing—for he has made for himself a name as an exhibitor, fruit and Chrysanthemums being his special points. Last September he was first in the Muscat class at the R.H.S. show, and third for nine dishes of dessert fruit.

"Since the war I have done practically nothing," he said, "save for the Grapes in London, but I hope to be able to exhibit again when shows are started. Mr. Emanuel is a kind and generous employer, and likes to see his produce shown." W. J. CHITTENDEN.



THE RANGE OF HOUSES AT OATLANDS LODGE.

Next week: The gardens of Earl Brownlow, Ashridge Park, Berkhamsted. Interview with Mr. David D. Robertson.

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Lockhart, David (*d.* 1845), *botanist*
by B. D. Jackson, *rev.* Giles Hudson
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Lockhart, David (*d.* 1845), botanist, who was born in Cumberland, was a gardener in the Royal Gardens, Kew. In 1816 he became the assistant of Christian Smith, the naturalist of the Congo expedition under Captain James Kingston Tuckey. Lockhart escaped with his life, but suffered much from the fever that killed Tuckey and most of his crew. Two years later he was put in charge of the Colonial Gardens at Trinidad, then under the supervision of Sir Ralph Woodford; they were much improved by him. He visited England in 1844 with the view of enriching the Trinidad gardens, but he died in 1845 soon after his return to the island. A genus of orchids was named *Lockhartia* after him by William Jackson Hooker but, being already named, was subsequently merged as *Fernandezia*.

B. D. JACKSON, *rev.* GILES HUDSON

Sources *Gardeners' Chronicle*, new ser., 24 (1885), 236–7 · Desmond, *Botanists*
Archives NHM, botanical specimens · RBG Kew, letters · RBG Kew, botanical specimens

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David Lockhart (*d.* 1845): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/16899

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Loudon, John Claudius (1783–1843), *landscape gardener and horticultural writer*
by Brent Elliott
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Loudon, John Claudius (1783–1843), landscape gardener and horticultural writer, was born on 8 April 1783 at Cambuslang, Lanarkshire, the eldest son of William Loudon (*d.* 1809), farmer, of Kerse Hall, Lothian, and his wife, Agnes, *née* Somers (*d.* 1831).

Early years

In 1794 Loudon began working part-time as an assistant to John Mawer, a nurseryman and landscape gardener at Dalry; on Mawer's death in 1798 he became a part-time apprentice to Dickson and Shade, nurserymen at Leith Walk, Edinburgh. At the same time he entered the University of Edinburgh, where he studied until 1802, attending Andrew Coventry's lectures on agriculture, as well as classes in botany and chemistry. While at university, according to his wife's account, he developed the habit of staying up two nights a week to study. His first publication, a translation of the life of Abelard for an encyclopaedia, took place in 1802.

In 1803 Loudon visited London with letters of introduction from Coventry, and met James Sowerby, Sir Joseph Banks, and Jeremy Bentham, the last of whom became a major influence on his social and political thinking. His first horticultural publication, 'Hints respecting the manner of laying out the grounds of the public squares in London', was published in the *Literary Journal* for 31 December of that year; it revealed him as a follower of Sir Uvedale Price and a critic of Humphry Repton. His first book appeared in 1804: *Observations on the Formation and Management of Useful and Ornamental Plantations*, which was followed in 1805 by *A Short Treatise on Several Improvements Recently Made in Hot-Houses* and in 1806 by a two-volume *Treatise on Forming, Improving, and Managing Country Residences*.

In 1804, meanwhile, Loudon had exhibited three landscapes at the Royal Academy. On 13 March 1805 he was elected to the Society of Arts, and the following year he was made a fellow of the Linnean Society. He had already begun a career as a landscape gardener in 1803, with proposals for improvements to the grounds of Scone Palace, Perthshire, the seat of Lord Mansfield; 1804 saw commissions from the duchess of Brunswick and others, for properties in the London vicinity and in Scotland (some of these early commissions he was to describe in his book on Scottish farms in 1811).

In 1806 Loudon moved to 90 Newman Street, London, and exhibited the first symptoms of the ill health that affected him for the rest of his life: following an attack of rheumatic fever, his knee became ankylosed and his right arm permanently contracted. In 1807 he retired to Wood Hall Farm in Pinner, Middlesex, and with his father took out a lease on the nearby Kenton Farm. The following year he published a pamphlet, *An Immediate and Effectual Mode of Raising the Rental of the Landed Property of England*, as a result of which he was

invited by General George F. Stratton to appraise his property at Great Tew, Oxfordshire; Loudon took over the tenancy of Tew Lodge Farm on an undertaking to double its rental value. In 1809 he established a small agricultural college at Tew, and in 1811 he published *Designs for Laying out Farms and Farm-Buildings, in the Scotch Style* (reprinted the next year as *Observations on Laying out Farms ...*), celebrating his accomplishments there. General Stratton bought back the lease in February 1811, but the agricultural reversals of the Napoleonic wars meant that his expected profits did not materialize. Loudon moved to 42 Pall Mall. His father had died on 29 December 1809, and was buried in the churchyard of St John the Baptist, Pinner; Loudon designed a unique monument for the grave, in the form of a pyramid from whose sides projected the ends of a sarcophagus carrying inscriptions on their end-panels.

Continental visits

Loudon had amassed £15,000 by the time he left Tew. In 1812 he published *Hints on the Formation of Gardens and Pleasure Grounds*, which included designs for formal gardens as well as informal landscapes. He journeyed though the south of England, and in 1813 and 1814 travelled on the continent, visiting Germany, Latvia, St Petersburg, Moscow, and central Europe. According to his wife's account, 'he proceeded by Grodno to Wilna, through a country covered with the remains of the French army, horses and men lying dead by the road-side, and bands of wild-looking Cossacks scouring the country' (J. Loudon, xxii). He arrived in Moscow in time for the celebrations on learning of the allied armies' entry into Paris. When he returned to England he found that his banker had mishandled his finances and largely dissolved the fortune he had built up. During the following year he 'made several fruitless journeys [including one to Paris] in the hope of recovering some part of the property', but ultimately had to resign himself to its loss (ibid., xxv). In 1816 he moved to Bayswater.

In 1817 Loudon published *Remarks on the Construction of Hot-Houses* and the next year *A Comparative View of the Common and Curvilinear Mode of Roofing Hot-Houses* and *Sketches of Curvilinear Hot-Houses*. Following a suggestion by Sir George Mackenzie, that the ideal design for a greenhouse was spherical, so that light would be admitted equally at all times of day, Loudon invented a glazing bar in wrought iron that could be made in curvilinear sections. He later recorded that he sold his design to Messrs W. and D. Bailey of Holborn, and the patent (no. 4277, granted 11 July 1818) was taken out by them; Loudon's name does not appear on it. Loudon collaborated with Baileys on an unascertained number of glasshouses in the following years. Grandiose plans for glasshouses characterized his plans in 1831 for the Birmingham Botanic Garden, but on these he was overruled by the town council.

In 1819, carrying letters of introduction from Sir Joseph Banks, Loudon visited France, Italy, Switzerland, and the Low Countries to gather material for a proposed *Encyclopaedia of Gardening*. The book was published in 1822 as an octavo of nearly 1500 pages, covering plant culture, botany, garden design, and an international survey and history of gardening. It went through six editions, with varying degrees of revision and expansion, during Loudon's lifetime, and posthumous editions continued to appear into the 1870s. The period of writing of this work was one of great physical pain for Loudon: in 1820, an attempted operation fractured his right arm, which in 1825 was amputated. During the intervening years he had become addicted to laudanum as a painkiller, but after the amputation he broke his addiction by progressively diluting the dose he took. Other works of these years include *The Different Modes of Cultivating the Pine-Apple*

(published anonymously, 1823), *The Green-House Companion* (1824, with further editions in 1825 and 1832), and *An Encyclopaedia of Agriculture* (1825). In 1823–4 Loudon designed and supervised the building of a villa at 3 Porchester Terrace, Bayswater, which incorporated an entrance conservatory with a wrought-iron dome; he lived there until his death. (The house now bears an LCC plaque, installed in 1953.)

The Gardener's Magazine

In 1826 Loudon began publishing the *Gardener's Magazine*, first as a quarterly, priced 5*s*.; according to Jane Loudon, 4000 copies of the first issue were sold. From 1827 it appeared bi-monthly, and from 1831 as a monthly, the price per issue declining until in 1834 it reached 1*s*. 2*d*. Loudon's magazine, which reached nineteen volumes before it ceased on his death at the end of 1843, was soon imitated by magazines edited by Joseph Paxton, George Glenny, and others, and accusations of plagiarism passed between rival editors; but, in its early years in particular, Loudon himself had republished much material from the more expensive *Transactions* of the Horticultural Society. The *Gardener's Magazine* became a forum for the exchange of ideas on gardening on a national scale; it also served as Loudon's main forum for promoting his ideas on a variety of subjects. He recounted in it his various journeys around Great Britain, describing the gardens he visited and commenting freely on how they could be improved. In 1829 he published in it articles recommending a national system of education, workers' dwellings, and a plan for the controlled expansion of London through concentric circles of alternating open space and residential and commercial development.

The *Gardener's Magazine* was not Loudon's only venture in periodical publication. Between 1828 and 1836 he edited the *Magazine of Natural History*, and between 1834 and 1839 the *Architectural Magazine*, which provided the young John Ruskin's first opportunity at publication. In 1830 Loudon also launched a folio publication, *Illustrations of Landscape-Gardening and Garden Architecture*, but this was poorly subscribed to and was discontinued after its third number in 1833.

In March 1828 Loudon had reviewed an anonymous novel called *The Mummy*, published the year before, which favourably impressed him by its account of the scientific and technological advances made in its imagined future. In February 1830 he met the author, who proved, to his surprise, to be a young woman, Jane Webb (1807–1858) [*see* Loudon, Jane], and he married her on 14 September. They had one child, Agnes (married name Spofforth), who was born in 1832.

Botanical publications

1828 saw Loudon's third continental tour, in France and Germany. In 1829 came the first of his important botanical publications: *An Encyclopaedia of Plants*, with the botanical text contributed by John Lindley. This was followed in 1830 by *Hortus Britannicus* and an anonymous *Manual of Cottage Gardening*, and in 1832–3 by *An Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm, and Villa Architecture and Furniture*.

In 1835 Loudon designed a small public garden at an unnamed location, which has been identified as Gravesend, Kent; the site, although built over in the 1870s, marked his practical involvement with the movement in favour of creating public walks and gardens for the country's congested towns. In 1839 he was commissioned by Joseph Strutt to design a public garden for Derby; the 11 acre Derby Arboretum was opened in 1840, and Loudon published a book about its design in the same year.

Two publishing projects occupied Loudon between the years 1836 and 1838. The first of these was *The Suburban Gardener and Villa Companion* (1838). Much of the material had been published in the *Gardener's Magazine*; additional material from that source was included in the second, posthumous, edition of 1850 (retitled *The Villa Gardener*). A sequel devoted to practical gardening, mostly dealing with the kitchen garden, was published in 1842 as *The Suburban Horticulturist*.

The second project was the *Arboretum et fruticetum Britannicum* (1838), a survey on a scale never before attempted of all the trees grown in the British Isles, whether native or exotic. Again, John Lindley provided botanical assistance. The illustrations for the *Arboretum* required the employment of seven artists, including James De Carle Sowerby and G. R. Lewis and H. W. Jukes, both of whom were employed by the owners of the estates where the trees were drawn. Even with Jane acting as amanuensis, the expenses of its production left Loudon £10,000 in debt. He placed his other publications in Longmans' hands as a pledge for the debt, and, by the end of 1841, when financial depression hit the book trade, the debt was reduced to £2600. Loudon compiled two smaller publications from the text of the *Arboretum*: the *Hortus lignosus Londinensis* (1838) and the *Encyclopaedia of Trees and Shrubs* (1842).

In 1840, besides another continental tour, Loudon undertook the editing, in a handy, inexpensive, and pocket-sized volume, of *The Landscape Gardening and Landscape Architecture of the Late Humphry Repton*. He also, for several months in 1840–41, conducted the horticultural department of the weekly newspaper the *Gardener's Gazette*, founded in 1837 by his rival George Glenny, who had been ousted from editorship by the publishers. In 1841 he laid out the grounds of Castle Kennedy, Stranraer.

Cemeteries

The last direction which Loudon found for his talents was the creation of cemeteries. In 1842, with Edward Buckton Lamb as his architect, he designed the Histon Road cemetery in Cambridge, which was laid out on a strict grid plan to facilitate the location of graves, and was planted with specimen trees, mostly evergreen, arranged geometrically. A series of articles on cemetery design, criticizing various aspects of the layout and management of the new cemeteries which had been opened in the preceding twenty years, and advocating grid layout and evergreen planting, was published in the *Gardener's Magazine* in 1843, to be published towards the end of the year as *On the Planting, Managing, and Laying out of Cemeteries*. Loudon's financial difficulties led him to accept two commissions for cemeteries in 1843, one for a private company (Bath Abbey cemetery) and one for a local authority (Southampton cemetery). He saw neither project to completion, and his plans for Southampton were the subject of much controversy with the council.

Loudon had suffered inflammation of the lungs in 1842, which left him in declining condition throughout 1843. Despite his poor health, he was overworking frantically in an attempt to work off his debt resulting from the *Arboretum*, for one of the creditors, the engraver (whose name does not appear in the work), became bankrupt, and his assignees threatened to arrest Loudon for the required sum of £1500. The other creditors refused their consent to the threat, and on 1 December Longmans issued a plea for the sale of additional copies of the *Arboretum* to help clear the debt (copies to the value of £300 were sold in the next two weeks). Loudon was working simultaneously on plans for Coleshill House, Berkshire, and

his two cemeteries, when he was taken ill on a visit to the Isle of Wight. Not long after returning to London he died at his home, 3 Porchester Terrace, on 14 December 1843; his death certificate attributed his death to chronic bronchitis. He was buried in Kensal Green cemetery on 21 December. A public meeting was held in February 1844 to raise funds to clear the remaining debt, and Sir Robert Peel provided Mrs Loudon with an annuity. Loudon's last work, *Self-Instruction for Young Gardeners*, was published in 1845, with a biographical notice by his widow.

BRENT ELLIOTT

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Likenesses J. Linnell, oils, 1840–41, Linn. Soc. [*see illus.*] · stipple, repro. in Loudon, *Self-instruction*, frontispiece

Wealth at death died in debt; approx. £1000 of debt paid off by February 1844; widow continued to carry burden of debt

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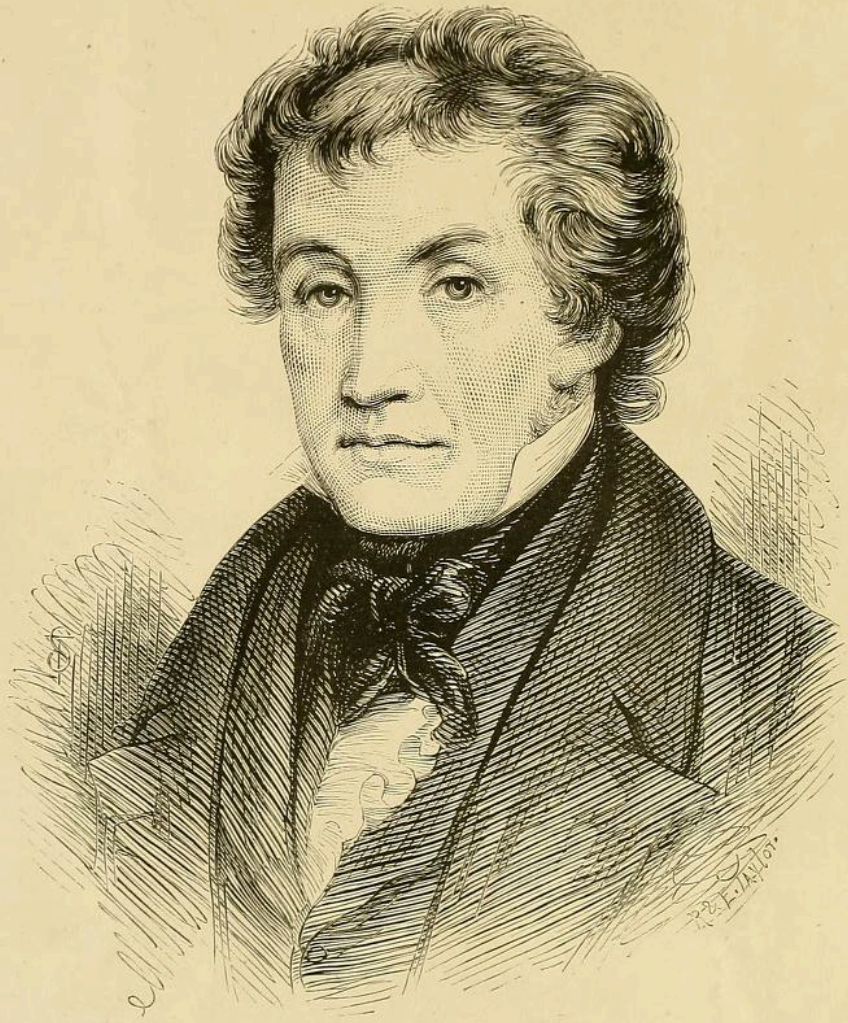
John Claudius Loudon (1783–1843): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/17031



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J. C. Loudon

have to this fourth codicil to my last will and testament and to a duplicate thereof set my hand and seal this eighteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty two - Henry Legge — signed sealed and declared by the said Henry Legge as and for a fourth codicil to his last will and testament in the presence of us present at the same time who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto set our names as witnesses thereto —
Thos. Hy. Whitmarsh Green Man Hotel Blackheath — / Simon Southern Grocer Blackheath —

Proved at London with four codicils 9th May 1844 before the worshipful Robert Joseph Phillimore Doctor of Laws and Surrogate by the oaths of Joseph Phillimore Esq. the executor named in the will and the Honorable and Rev. Henry Legge clerk the nephew and Thomas Parker the younger Esq. the executors named in the first codicil to whom administration was granted having been first sworn duly to administer.

This is the last Will and Testament

of me John Claudius London of No. 3 Pontefract Terrace Bayswater in the first place I give and bequeath to my wife Jane London her executors administrators and assigns all my furniture library plate linen china wines liquors and all other effects whatsoever except the fixtures of the said house which shall be in and about my said residence and the appurtenances thereunto belonging at the time of my decease and I direct that my said wife shall live in the said house without paying any rent to my estate for the same but paying all rates and taxes and making the usual tenants repairs / as long as she shall think fit provided she do not contract any second marriage and from and after the death or said second marriage I direct the clear proceeds of the said house to go in aid of my other personal estate as in hereafter directed I give and bequeath all the Rest and Residue of the estate and effects real and personal of every kind whatsoever I may die possessed of to my said wife Jane London so long as she shall continue my widow in trust while the clear proceeds of such rent and residue shall amount to three hundred pounds p annum to pay one hundred pounds thereof every year by quarterly payments to my sister Ann London for and during the term of her natural life to be by her applied in her own sole maintenance and support of my other two unmarried sisters Jane and Mary London or the survivor of them and should the said clear proceeds not amount to three hundred pounds a year then I direct my said wife to pay to my said sister Ann London one third only of such clear annual profits and from and after the decease of my said sister Ann London I give and bequeath the said annuity of one hundred £ £ £ per annum or one third of the clear proceeds as the case may be to my said sisters Jane and Mary London equally share and share alike so long as both shall live and when one shall die to whole to such survivor for her life and I give and bequeath the said clear annual profits subject to the annuity to my said wife so long as she shall continue my widow and should she not contract a second marriage for and during the term of her natural life to be by her applied in her own sole maintenance and from and after the death or second marriage of my said wife I give the whole property I may die possessed of (with the exception of the first bequest of £ £ £ £ furniture &c.) to my said wife / to my friends James Ellerker Erwin of Clayton Street Marylebone and Thomas Woodhouse of Stepney Green both in the county of Middlesex their heirs executors administrators and assigns in trust to pay from the clear proceeds of the same the said annuity of one hundred pounds or one third of the said £ £ £ proceeds in manner aforesaid to my sisters or sister and the remainder of the said proceeds to my said daughter Agnes London for and during the term of her natural life for her sole and separate use free from the debts power and control of any £ £ £ husband she may marry and her receipt alone to be a sufficient discharge for the same and from and after her decease upon trust to pay and transfer my said £ £ £ property subject to such annuity as aforesaid / in such manner as my said daughter shall by her will notwithstanding her coverture appoint and in default of such appointment into and amongst her children their heirs executors administrators and assigns

John Claudius London Esquire 13

and in as far as she shall think fit but not so as to make a trust in the nature maintenance and support

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On the 18th December 1858 Admon with the Will annexed of the personal Estate and Effects of John Claudius Loudon late of No 3 Dorchester Terrace Bayswater in the County of Middlesex who died at No 3 Dorchester Terrace on 14th December 1843 unadministered by Jane Loudon Widow deceased whilst living the Relict the Residuary Legatee in trust and Residuary Legatee during life or widowhood named in the said Will was granted to Agnes Loudon Spinster the Daughter the Residuary Legatee for life Substituted in the said Will with a power of appointment by Will she having been first sworn.

Francis Ellerker Lewin one of the Executors and Residuary Legatees in trust substituted in the said Will having died in the lifetime of the said Jane Loudon and Thomas Woodhouse the other Executor and other Residuary Legatee in trust substituted in the said Will having renounced the Probate and Execution thereof and also the Letters of Admon with the said Will annexed of the personal Estate and Effects of the said deceased.

equally and in default of any children unto and amongst my brother and sisters &c equally their heirs executors administrators and assigns and during the life or widowhood of my said wife I direct that no other trustees or trustee appointed or to be appointed by me or on a under this my will shall act all or any of them themselves or in anywise with the administration of the said trust or with the investment or security of the said trust property and I direct that the executrix executors and trustees for the time being of this my will shall not be bound to call convert or call in any leasehold copyrights money on personal security or any other part whatever of my estate and effects but shall be at liberty if she or they think fit to continue the same in the condition in which the same shall be at the time of my death and I direct that the receipts of the executrix the executors or the trustees for the time being of this my will shall be a sufficient discharge for any money payable to her or them by virtue of my said will and that they shall be authorized to invest any trust money in any government or real securities in England or Wales with power from time to time to &c alter and vary the same and I direct that in case either of my said trustees or any trustee to be appointed by this power shall disclaim or die or decline or be desirous of being discharged from or become incapable to act in the trusts hereof it shall be lawful for the acting or continuing or surviving trustees or trustee or the executors or administrators of the survivor of them by any writing to appoint a new trustee or trustees with the same powers and I appoint my said wife Jane Loudon sole executrix during her life or until she shall marry and from and after her death or marriage &c then I appoint the said Francis Ellerker Lewin and Thomas Woodhouse joint executors of this my will containing in one sheet of paper and made the 30th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight revoking all other wills by me made and declaring this to be my last in witness whereof I have hereunto set my name and affixed my seal the day and year being first above written. — J C Loudon — LS — signed sealed published and declared as and for his last will and testament by the above named John Claudius Loudon in the presence of us who at his request in his presence in the presence of each other and at the same time have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses thereto. — William Richardson of Orbed Terrace T Panch 3 Dorchester Terrace Bayswater —

The Revd John Lupton I Clerk.

Proved at London 9th May 1844 before the worshipful John Dauberny Doctor of Laws and Surrogate by the oath of Jane Loudon widow the Relict the Executrix during her life or widowhood to whom Admon was granted having been first sworn duly to administer.

This is the last Will and Testament

of me The Reverend John Lupton Rector of the Cliffe near Lewes in the County of Sussex first I direct that all my just debts and funeral and testamentary expenses shall be paid as soon as conveniently may be after my decease I give all my effects whatsoever and wheresoever not consisting of money or securities for money unto my daughter Frances the wife of John Stewart Neal absolutely and I give devise and bequeath all the real and the residue of my personal estates whatsoever I shall be at the time of my death beneficially possessed of or entitled to at my death unto John Burrell of Lewes and John Allcock of Ringmer in the said County Gentlemen and their heirs executors administrators and assigns upon trust to convey and transfer the same respectively unto such person or persons and to and for such estate and estates use or uses intents and purposes as my said daughter Frances Neal by any deed or deeds or writing or writings to be by her my said daughter executed and attested by two or more witnesses or by or in her last will and testament in writing or any codicil thereto or any writing purporting to be or in the nature of a will or codicil to be by her legally executed shall notwithstanding her present or any future coverture direct or appoint and in default of such direction or appointment and so far as any such direction or appointment shall not extend upon trust to pay the rents interest and profits of my said real and residuary personal estates unto my said daughter and her assigns for and during the term of

WHereas a Commission of Bankrupt is awarded and issued forth against John Claudius Loudon, of Lloyd's Coffee-House, in the City of London, and of No. 14, Warwick-Court, Holborn, in the County of Middlesex, Merchant, Dealer and Chapman, and he being declared a Bankrupt is hereby required to surrender himself to the Commissioners in the said Commission named, or the major part of them, on the 23d and 26th days of May instant, and on the 30th of June next, at Ten in the Forenoon on each of the said days, at Guildhall, London, and make a full Discovery and Disclosure of his Estate and Effects; when and where the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their Debts, and at the Second Sitting to chuse Assignees, and at the Last Sitting the said Bankrupt is required to finish his Examina-

tion, and the Creditors are to assent to or dissent from the allowance of his Certificate. All persons indebted to the said Bankrupt, or that have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to whom the Commissioners shall appoint, but give notice to Mr. G. F. Abraham, Great Marlborough-Street.

Figure 1. Henry Noel Humphreys (1810-1879)

Professor Westwood, of Oxford, pays the following tribute to the memory of H. N. Humphreys in the Academy: *"On his return from Italy, where his love for art and Nature had been fostered, he was induced by his friend, the late J. C. Loudon, to make a series of drawings of English butterflies and moths, with their caterpillars and the plants on which they feed, the text of which was contributed by the writer of this notice. The plates of these works were zincographed by Humphreys, whose skill in delineation and taste in the arrangement of his figures ensured an extraordinary and extensive sale not only of these entomological plates, but also of the series of quarto volumes on ornamental annuals – bulbous plants, ornamental greenhouse plants, and perennial flowers – planned by Mrs Loudon: in all of which a number of different species were grouped together in each plate. Subsequently Mr. Humphreys produced a second series of volumes on British butterflies and moths. His task, however, was not confined to plants and insects. He published two volumes of illustrations of Froissart's Chronicles from illuminated MSS, in the London and Paris libraries. His 'Illuminated Books of the Middle Ages,' produced in conjunction with the late Owen Jones, forms one of the most sumptuous volumes published on manuscripts from the eight to sixteenth century; while his works on the origin of writing, with facsimiles, his books on English coins, in which he ingeniously reproduced each in relief, printed in gold, silver, or copper, and on other coins and medals, and his work on early printed books, in which he introduced a large number of plates, representing full pages from many of the rarest early block and other similar volumes, with his two little works, consisting of the 'Miracles and Parables of our Lord,' with their original and highly elaborate coloured margins, were proofs of his unwearied industry, as they were also of his excellent taste. The two last-mentioned works and his 'History of Writing,' were bound in a peculiar plastic embossed material of his own composition, which rendered them highly attractive, but which has not been brought into general use.*

From William Robinson's "The Garden", *volume 15, 1879, p. 521.*

Recollections of John Cladius Loudon by Noel Humphreys

The name and works of John Claudius Loudon are destined to mark an epoch in the annals of British horticulture, as one in which a new and more rigorous life was breathed into it. No single mind and hand ever tugged so laboriously and successfully at the chariot of progress in that important section of human art as those of the man whose career forms the subject of this too imperfect memoir. The hearty toil in the cause which he made the main and almost sole business of his life was unceasing. To him, however, neither the mental or bodily wear and tear of such unceasing labour formed any real trial or trouble. He thoroughly enjoyed both; and, as Goethe said of the motions of the stars, "without haste, and without rest"("ohne hast, ohne rast"), he steadfastly pursued the noble task he had set himself, in spite of all opposing difficulties, to the very last. Unlike most of his northern countrymen he did not possess the sinewy frame of the hardy sons of Scotland. His muscular development was comparatively feeble, and one arm was, at an early period of his career, irremediably crippled by an unfortunate accident. But the mind was a vigorous one, and remained so to the last. He died, so to say, in harness, and almost in the act of dictating matter to his amanuensis. His death, in fact, took place standing on his feet, for when a sudden change was seen to take place in his countenance, and he was laid upon a couch, it was seen that life was already extinct, and that he had, in fact, died standing.

I had not the privilege of knowing Mr. Loudon till the later part of his career, but after his marriage (with a family connection of my mother's) I saw him very constantly, and was thus enabled to form a just estimate of one of the most highminded and generally capable men I ever knew. His keen intellect was entirely unshackled by prejudices of any kind, and his liberalism had consequently the true ring of the bright iron metal of advanced thought. But his truly humane, charitable, and kindly disposition made him ever tolerant of the opinions of others less advanced than himself; for however harshly or inveterately obsolete dogmas were urged in his presence, he never retorted in a similar strain, and was always open to conviction when matter was adduced which he had not before appreciated at its just value.

I have gathered the following facts connected with his early career partly from his own recollections, which he often communicated to me in long after-dinner talks (in which he was always a charming interlocutor), and partly from the short memoir which his late widow drew up and printed for private circulation shortly after his death.

John Claudius Loudon was born on the 8th of April 1783, at Cambuslang, Lanarkshire, at the residence of his mother's only sister, whose son, Dr. Claudius Buchanan, is well known in connection with his earnest endeavours to convert and instruct the Hindoos. John Claudius, the subject of the present memoir, was the eldest of a numerous family. His father, a successful farmer, resided at Kerse Hall, near Gogar, a few miles from Edinburgh. He was a man of superior natural intelligence and considerable information; and perceiving the unmistakable

Figure 2. Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913), British Naturalist

Loudon the Great Educator

In 1822 when Loudon was 29 he published the Encyclopaedia of Gardening which has 1,200 pages, some 1.3 million words and more than 1,000 woodcut illustrations. It was a great success and went into many editions. He followed it with four more Encyclopaedias: of Agriculture (1825), Architecture (1833), Plants (1836), and Trees (1842) (this is an abridged version of his 8 volume Arboretum et Fruiticetum Britanicum 1838). All these went into numerous impressions and editions. They were written with the sole purpose of educating the public. They were published so that the information on these subjects would be available in a readily accessible form. Their usefulness and importance can be seen in the memoir of Alfred Wallace, a naturalist who surprised Charles Darwin by sending him a book which showed that he had worked out the theory of evolution independently of him. Wallace explains how when he was 18 he developed a great interest in wildflowers and wanted to learn about botany and he spent 10s 6d (which was everything he had) on Lindley's 'Elements of Botany'. He found it next to useless as there were hardly any references to British plants. He was then lent Loudon's 'Encyclopaedia of Plants' and "for some weeks' spent all my leisure time in first examining carefully and finding I could make out the genus and the species by the very condensed but clear descriptions…Now, I have some reason to believe that this was the turning-point of my life, the tide that carried me on, not to fortune but to whatever reputation I have acquired which has certainly been to me a never-failing source of much health of body and supreme mental enjoyment."

Figure 3. 3-5 Porchester Terrace as it appears today

Loudon's house at 3-5 Porchester Terrace just north of Kensington Palace Gardens. Loudon lived here until his death in 1843. The house was built to Loudon's design and is in the form of a cube (like his earlier house at Tew Lodge) as this provided the most economical use of space. The building comprises two semi-detached houses of which Loudon lived in no. 3.

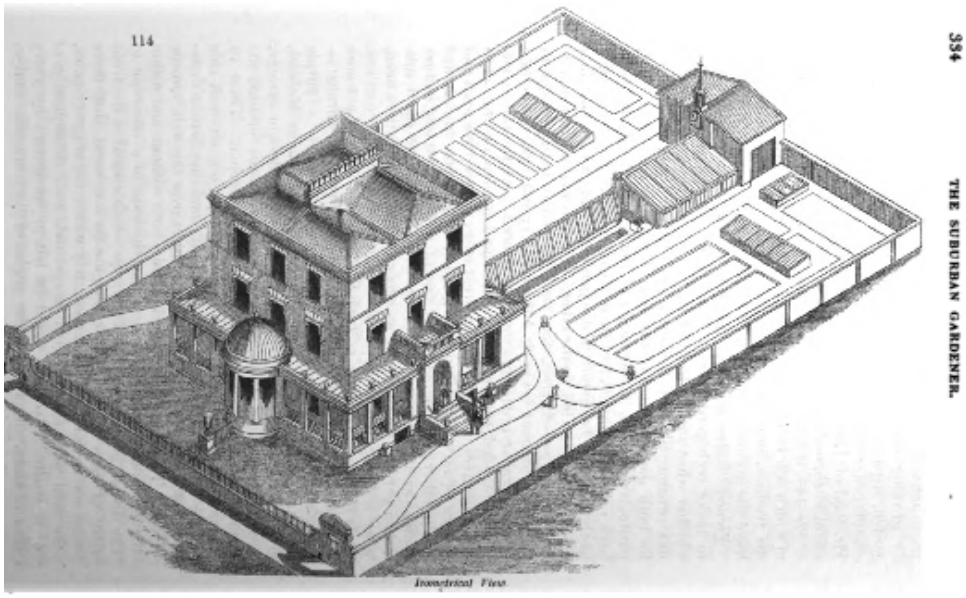


Figure 4. Isometric view of 3-5 Porchester Terrace and garden

aptitude of his son John for acquiring knowledge, determined that he should have every possible advantage in his education. One great deficiency, however, existed - John Claudius took no delight in the acquirement of languages. To Latin and Greek he had an insuperable aversion; and even the study of the modern tongues was exceedingly irksome to him. This was a great discouragement to his parents; but his father, being very anxious that he should at all events know French well, had a master over from Edinburgh for the express purpose of teaching him that language; but the result was extremely unsuccessful. The recalcitrant pupil deeply regretted in after life his obstinate opposition to such studies during his early years; and in speaking to me on the subject, remarked, on more than one occasion, that he thought it was his impatient greed for abstract knowledge which made him so averse to spending his time in the study of any dialect in which such knowledge happened to have been originally given to the world. He used to say it was his idea, as a boy, that "all the best works of all time and all countries" had been well translated into the English tongue, and that he then felt that while labouring to "acquire even an imperfect knowledge of the language of a single country, he could, and did, absorb the cream and substance of the literature of many."

In addition to his deeply-indulged passion for general reading, a natural taste for landscape gardening began to show itself at a very early period, and he occupied most of his leisure in planning miniature walks and beds in a small piece of ground which his father had given to him for a garden. So keen was his early enthusiasm to obtain seeds, out of the usual routine, to sow in it, that he made many childish sacrifices in order to gratify his anxious wishes in that direction. On one occasion, when a jar of tamarinds arrived from an uncle in the West

Indies, he gave the other children the whole of his share of the fruit, on condition that he should have all the seeds. He was very fond of telling the story of the tamarind seeds in his after life, and sometimes with a sly and humorous object in view. I recollect that on a special occasion, after one of the pleasant dinners in Porchester Terrace, on a particular day, when a small specimen plate of a fine new cherry was the chief attraction of the dessert, that Mr. Loudon introduced the subject of his early enthusiasm for gardening, by telling the tamarind story. Mr. Repton, the son (or nephew) of the well-known landscape gardener, was present, who immediately boasted of quite a kindred enthusiasm in the same cause; upon which Mr. Loudon laughingly cornered him, as the Americans have it, by demanding the four delicious cherries on Mr. Repton's plate, promising him faithfully that he should have the stones to plant in his garden. His little sallies of this kind were always highly relished, as my genial old friend did not generally go in for the part of "funny man," and was no friend to practical joking of any kind.

While yet a youth in point of years, he was sent to reside with an uncle in Edinburgh, in order that he might be made to attend regularly the classes at the public school, and possibly be induced by the force of emulation to attend to those studies which had hitherto repelled him, especially the acquirement of languages. The desired effect was to some extent produced. He overcame his prejudice against the utility of Latin, in which he soon made good progress, as

well as in arithmetic and drawing. He also regularly attended lectures on botany and chemistry, making copious notes, illustrated by spirited pen-and-ink sketches, which were still in existence at the time I knew him. He was induced to study French at the same period, that is to say, when he was about fourteen, by a little occurrence which I have often heard him describe. His uncle, being an amateur of fine prints, was one day showing a remarkable engraving to a friend, and the title being in French, he called upon his nephew to translate it for them. This he was unable to do; and the boyish mortification which he felt on that occasion, the bitterness of which he never forgot, as he used to tell, made him determine to use every effort to acquire the French language. After that resolution he did so; in a comparatively short time paying his master himself out of money which he received for a translation from the French made for a periodical. In order to keep up his practice in the newly-acquired tongue, he resolved to keep his journal (which he commenced at thirteen and continued regularly for thirty years) in that language. He also studied Italian with some success at the same period. But although he thus got over his earlier feeling with regard to "the loss of time "incurred in learning languages, the studies he took most delight in, were the acquisition of a fine handwriting and the drawing of landscape. So great was the proficiency he acquired in the first named of these studies, that his master, Mr. Paton, whose daughter became so famous as a singer, prophesied, in a complimentary letter to his father, that Master John would become one of the best calligraphers and, at the same time, most rapid writers of the day. He was, however, not destined to produce the greater portion of his voluminous works by the manual use of his own pen; for, in consequence of the accident to his arm, and the crippling effects of rheumatism at a comparatively early age, he was ever afterwards compelled to employ an amanuensis.

Landscape drawing was, above all others, his favourite pursuit; and when his father, after some opposition, consented to his wish of being brought up as a landscape gardener, he found himself fully competent to take the situation of draughtsman and assistant to Mr. John Mawer, at Easter Dairy, near Edinburgh. While in his employ young Loudon acquired a good deal of useful knowledge of gardening generally, particularly of the management of hothouses, on which subject he afterwards wrote a special work. He subsequently resided for a time with Mr. Dickson, who was a well-known planner (as landscape gardeners were then called in Scotland), and who had an extensive nursery in Leith Walk, where his pupil acquired an excellent and extensive knowledge of plants. During his stay with Mr. Dickson, with whose family he boarded, he pursued his studies with a degree of diligence and determination seldom equalled. He sat up studying and writing two entire nights in each week, keeping himself awake with green tea; a habit he continued for several years. The extent of information which he then stored up for future use was enormous, and fully accounts for his being able in his after career to join with distinction in the discussion of a vast range of scientific subjects, often to the considerable astonishment of his hearers, who did not expect to find in a modest young landscape gardener, such a fund of knowledge and anecdote upon nearly every subject likely to arise in general conversation. Let ambitious young horticulturists who may despise the patient and persevering labour by which he

acquired the fund of information which eventually made him famous, be convinced that, however great their talents may be, there is no short cut to such a career of usefulness, and such lasting fame, as was achieved by the laborious industry which distinguished the youth of John Claudius Loudon.

While with Mr. Dickson he continued to attend botanical classes and lectures on chemistry, while he commenced at the same time a serious study of the principles of agriculture under Dr. Carpenter*, Professor of Agriculture in the University of Edinburgh, who always considered him his most promising pupil.

In 1803 he first arrived in London, and on the day after his arrival, as recorded in his carefully -kept journal, he called on Mr. Sowerby, of Mead Place, Lambeth, where he was, as expressed in a passage in his journal, "exceedingly delighted with the classification and arrangement of the mineralogical specimens." These appear to have made a strong impression upon him, and to have gratified him the more especially as being in accordance with his own instinctive love of order, the effects of which he had never before seen so well exemplified as in the collection of specimens which he had thus the opportunity of examining. He afterwards devised a similar plan for use in his own books, but much more complete in many respects, and which he first made some use of, several years afterwards, in his celebrated "Encyclopaedia of Gardening."

He brought from Scotland a number of useful, and indeed important, letters of introduction, with which the keen-sighted prudence of his Scottish father had furnished him. These were principally to noblemen and gentlemen of landed property many of them being from Dr. Carpenter; but there was one more important than all the rest, which at once opened up to him the entree of the most distinguished literary and scientific circles of London: it was to Sir Joseph Banks, who at once appreciated the acquirements and energy of the young Scotchman, and introduced him to many of the eminent men of the age. The effect produced on the mind of the ambitious young student by the society and conversation of some of those eminent scientific men was at once most sudden and striking, as evidenced by the brief passages in his journal, in which he records his first impressions of the scientific world of London. From Sir Joseph Banks, the great naturalist; from Laurence, the daring young surgeon-anatomist; from the large-minded Jeremy Bentham, the theoretic politician, who was destined to furnish drafts of free constitutions to so many new States, as in rapid succession they shook off the withering coil and cumbrous trammels of old-world despotisms, young Loudon greedily imbibed those enlarged political and social sentiments which all who knew him intimately so much admired; as in his case they were ever tempered by a benevolence and general softness of manner and feeling which endowed his conversation, even when expressing his advocacy of the most sweeping and thorough-going progress, with an indefinable charm that seduced even the opponents of his theories; though many of them, no doubt, deemed them wildly extravagant. But while plunging into the fascinating vortex of scientific society, he was, at the same time, like a prudent Scotsman, taking

* This is an error. The professor's name was Coventry.

care of the “main chance”; and soon became, by his assiduity and conspicuous knowledge, very extensively and lucratively employed in landscape gardening, though he was then only in his one-and-twentieth year. He thoroughly enjoyed this full swing of a profession which he had adopted entirely from his own strong predilection. But yet there were drawbacks to his enjoyment, which, as a young man, full of youthful enthusiasm, he had not foreseen. His plans were always greatly admired, but often deemed either too costly or too impracticable, or involving changes and innovations of a too sweeping character; and it thus frequently became necessary to give in to narrow or ignorant views of this kind, to the utter destruction, perhaps, of some of the best points of a largely-conceived and well-digested plan. But what was much more difficult to bear patiently was, that in very many cases, the great completing features of his designs, which he had not been allowed to carry into effect, were afterwards executed by others; who thus obtained the credit of his design, and utterly ignored their indebtedness to the original contriver. When such encroachments upon the repute which was justly his due, occurred, he was frequently urged to assert his prior claim; but he always answered, in that truly liberal spirit which distinguished him throughout his whole career, that the person who actually made an invention useful, either to a private individual or to the public, had more merit, and deserved more praise, than the original inventor who had never carried it out.

Loudon, when he first arrived in London, was much struck with the opportunity afforded by our spacious squares for enlivening, with the aspect of fresh green leaves, the dingy expanse of London houses, then nearly all built of brick, and blackened by the perpetual action of the coal smoke emitted by hundreds of thousands of chimneys. He perceived, however, that our squares were not made to enliven the murky aspect of the great wilderness of bricks and mortar, as they might have done; but almost the contrary, in consequence of a mistaken notion of their planters, that evergreens would be just the thing for the London squares, in order to insure a continuation of “verdure “through the winter. But the evergreens, as our young Scotch horticulturist found to his extreme disgust, had become permanently “nevergreens.” The dingy-looking trees which he found struggling through a black and miserable half-existence, consisted chiefly of Scotch pines, yews, and spruce firs; all of which being exceedingly well calculated to receive and preserve the daily and nightly deposits of soot, without the power of renewing their foliage every spring, like deciduous trees, were evidently the very worst kind of plants that could possibly have been selected for the London atmosphere. This ignorant abuse of a fine opportunity woke up the young landscape gardener’s indignation, and he dashed into print. Before the close of the first year of his residence in London (1803) he published an article in a periodical called the Literary Journal which he entitled, “Observations on Laying out the Public Squares of London.” The main gist of the article consisted in an uncompromising denunciation of the prevailing system, and in strongly recommending the plentiful introduction of deciduous trees, the foliage of which, renewed with the coming of each successive spring, would, as he remarked, secure a cheerful aspect to the squares for some seven months or so of each year. He particularly named the Oriental and Occidental planes, the sycamore, and the almond, as ornamental trees that would bear the smoke of the great city with

Figure 5. The Bulmershe Estate, 1818.

Figure 6. Bulmershe with Loudon's proposed improvements.

In 1818, Loudon was commissioned by James Wheble to advise upon the Bulmershe Estate in Berkshire. Loudon gave his recommendations in a report of 160 pages with a separate volume of views, diagrams and maps.

Figure 7. Hope End was designed by Loudon, together with its gardens for Edward Moulton-Barrett and built between 1809 and 1815. The style was described as "Turkish" and had concrete minarets and cast-iron domelets. It was the much-loved childhood home of Elizabeth Barrett Browning. The house was sold in 1832 following the financial collapse of the Barrett family and was demolished in 1873. "The weighty minarets had to be blown up with gunpowder".

Figure 8. Elizabeth Barrett Browning

comparatively small injury; and it is interesting to find how quickly his suggestions were adopted, and to note that there is scarcely a square in London in which planes are not found whose growth evidently dates from about that period or shortly after; and the same may be said of other trees which he named; while the yews, the Scotch pines, and the spruce firs have entirely disappeared.

It was about this time that he became a member of the Linnean Society, and it was also in the summer of 1803, according to a note in his journal, that he first conceived the idea of trying the effects of charcoal on vegetation; the thought having occurred to him in consequence of noticing the beautiful verdure of the young grass that sprung up all over a small space where charcoal had been burned.

In 1804, having been commissioned by Lord Mansfield to make some plans for altering the palace gardens at Scone, Perth- shire, he returned to Scotland, and remained there for several months, during which period he laid out grounds for several gentlemen in different parts of the country. The instructions he found it necessary to communicate to gardeners, foresters, and others, on the planting and management of woods, during the carrying out of the various works he was then engaged upon, and also during many extensive arrangements for draining, and otherwise improving several of the estates in question, led him to make a series of detailed and important notes, which he soon afterwards embodied in a book, which was published in Edinburgh by Constable & Co., and in London by Longmans & Co. This was the first work which Mr. Loudon presented to the public through the great firm of Longmans & Co., with whom he continued to transact business for nearly forty years. The book alluded to was entitled, "Observations on the Formation and Management of Useful and Ornamental Plantations; on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening; and on Gaining and Embanking Land from Rivers or the Sea."

This was his first important work, and contained so many new ideas, explained in such a practical fashion, and at the same time combining with those practical views the power of expressing such noble sympathies with the beauties of nature, that the work met with considerable encouragement, and attracted the attention of many great landowners to the young horticulturist, who had not only the boldness thus to rush into print, but the evident capability of imparting a mass of useful and, up to that time, little known information on the subjects of which he treated. Of the poetical feelings which he mingled with the practical, the following extracts from the introduction will afford a fair idea. They are scarcely equal to similar passages in his later books; but as occurring in his first serious work, they may be advantageously introduced in this place, as samples of his earlier style: —

Various are the vegetable productions which this earth affords. Blades of grass spring up everywhere, and clothe the surface with pasture; groups of shrubs arise in some places, and diversify this uniform covering; but trees are the most striking objects that adorn the face of inanimate nature. If we imagine for a moment that the surface of Europe were totally divested of wood, what would be our sensations on viewing its appearance P Without this accompaniment, hills and valleys, rivers and lakes, rocks and cataracts — all of themselves the most

perfect that could be imagined — would present an aspect bleak, savage, and uninteresting. But, let the mountain be covered with wood, and the water shaded by trees, and the scene is instantly changed: what was before cold and barren, is now rich, noble, and full of variety. In travelling through a naked country, a whole unvaried horizon is comprehended by the eye with a single glance; its surface is totally destitute of intricacy to excite curiosity and fix attention; and both the eye and the mind are kept in a state of perpetual weariness and fatigue. But, in a wooded country, the scene is continually changing; the trees form a varied boundary to everything around, and enter into numberless and pleasing combinations with all other objects; the eye is relieved without distraction, and the mind fully engaged without fatigue. If we examine even a tree by itself, the intricate formation and disposition of its boughs, sprays, and leaves, its varied form, beautiful tints, and diversity of light and shade, make it far surpass every other object; and, not- withstanding this multiplicity of separate parts, its general effect is simple and grand.

The book contains, among other valuable matter, a number of acute observations on the distinctive characteristics of trees and shrubs, plainly showing how carefully and completely he had studied his subject even at that early period of his life, and how fully capable he was even at the age of one-and- twenty of undertaking and carrying out horticultural works of the most important kind. Before leaving Edinburgh in 1805, he published another work, entitled, “A Short Treatise on some Improvements lately made in Hothouses.

On his second visit to London, he was compelled by stress of weather to land at Lowestoft, on the coast of Norfolk, and he had suffered so much during the voyage, that he then determined never again to travel by sea where there was a possibility of going by land. On his return to England he at once resumed his labours as a landscape gardener, and his journal of that period is filled with in- numerable notes founded on the ideas which suggested them- selves to his ever- active mind during the progress of the various works upon which he became immediately employed. Among the most remarkable are his theories on the best system of harmonizing the effects of colour in flower gardens. He arrived at the following general conclusions, which, though founded only on observations and an instinctive fine taste for colour, accord perfectly well with the more recent scientific discoveries on the affinities of colours, and of those which are necessarily complementary in regard to others. For instance, he asserts in these interesting notes, that he invariably found, while studying the best effects in gardens, that when flowers were so arranged as to have a plant bearing flowers of a compound colour placed next to a plant bearing flowers of a simple colour, which contained neither of the colours forming the compound one, that the best effects were produced. Thus, as there are only three simple colours — blue, red, and yellow — he advised that purple flowers, which are composed of blue and red, should have yellow next to them; and that orange flowers, which are composed of red and yellow, should be contrasted with blue; and that greenish flowers, which are com- posed of blue and yellow, should be relieved by red. Many years afterwards {1839) he was much delighted to find that M. Chevreul, the director of the famous manufacture of Gobelin tapestry, in his celebrated

Figure 9. Robert Maddocks thought to be the Squire Headlong of Thomas Love Peacock's Headlong Hall. The works at Tremadoc were much admired by the poet Shelley but Loudon's civil engineering project failed and Maddocks was reported to be "utterly and totally ruined" by 1813 and was only saved by a judicious marriage.

Figure 10. Mrs Billington, by Reynolds

work, entitled "De la Loi du Contraste Simultane des Couleurs," took precisely the same basis for the erection of his vast superstructure, which is the most exhaustive treatise on the nature of the contrasts and complements of colours that has hitherto appeared. About the same time, that is in 1805, young Loudon formed the ambitious project, in part founded on his theory of colours, of publishing a pictorial dictionary, which was to embrace every kind of subject in which the treatment of colours, formed a part; but the scheme was never realised. In the following year (1806), though constantly employed in planning and laying out grounds, he yet found time to write his "Treatise on Forming, Improving, and Managing Country Residences; and on the Choice of Situations Appropriate to every Class of Purchasers: with an Appendix, containing an Inquiry into the Utility and Merits of Mr. Repton's Mode of showing Effects by Slides and Sketches; and Strictures on his Opinions and Practice in Landscape Gardening; illustrated by Descriptions of Scenery and Buildings, by Reference to Country Seats and Passages of Country in most parts of Great Britain; and by thirty-two Engravings." The work was the most bulky and important, as it was the most costly, he had as yet published. The illustrative engravings were careful reproductions of really excellent drawings executed by himself, which were afterwards republished, with short descriptions, as a separate work. At the time I knew Mr. Loudon, many years afterwards, he still preserved a set of proof impressions of this series of engravings, which he was fond of exhibiting to intimate friends as reproductions of drawings which he had made before his right hand became so crippled as to prevent his indulgence in the manual use of pen or pencil for the whole remainder of his life; a deprivation which he felt most keenly and unceasingly, and yet with that placid resignation which was one of the most distinctive traits of his character.

In the year 1806 Mr. Loudon was still actively engaged in his favourite occupation of landscape gardening, in various parts of the country, and earning a well-deserved golden harvest as the reward of his persevering labours. In that year he was also employed in a very extensive land reclamation scheme; that portion of his first work which he devoted to "Gaining and Embanking Land from Rivers and the Sea," having attracted the attention of a great "Welsh landowner, Mr. W. A. Maddox (figure 9), who had conceived the idea of reclaiming a large tract of land on the coast of Carnarvonshire. Young Loudon was invited to Tremadoc by the spirited projector; and during the progress of the works, which created general interest, the seat of Mr. Maddox became the rendezvous of many of our celebrities in science and art; and the wild but somewhat dreary scenery among the "Welsh mountains was often enlivened by night, as Mr. Loudon used to tell, by the dazzling glitter of thousands of lights in and around the residence of the great land reclaimer at Tremadoc; while the ravishing notes of the famous Mrs. Billington (figure 10), whose noble portrait as St. Cecilia, by Reynolds, is one of the great portrait painter's master-pieces (above), supplied the place of the absent nightingale amidst the solitude of those Welsh valleys. On moonlight nights, as he used to relate, the peak of Snowdon might be seen terminating the vista of the Vale of Tremadoc, and looking gaunt, dim, and grey, as one of the mysterious mountains that Ossian made the spirit home of his shadowy warriors of the mist. The young horticulturist was much dazzled by this visit, and wonder-struck at the lavish profusion of the choicest wines, that flowed like water at the

evening entertainments; and he was amazed, too, at the perfect roar of boisterous wit, of the highest class, that generally accompanied the costly eating and drinking. That was the era of clever talkers and great wits, whose places have never yet been effectually refilled.

This phase of the young Scotchman's career was destined to a somewhat melancholy conclusion. Returning from Tremadoc outside the night mail, he became drenched to the skin with soaking and continuous rain, and, omitting to take prudent precautions after the journey, he was seized with rheumatic fever in its severest form, the remains of which finally settled in his left knee, and the medical man he sub- mitted his case to being injudicious in his treatment, the joint became permanently stiffened, which was naturally a source of great annoyance to him, not only at the time, but during the whole course of his life, as it greatly impeded his exertions in the active pursuit of his profession, and also caused a limp in walking, which at the age at which the accident occurred to him severely wounded that personal vanity which is a very general characteristic of youth, and Loudon was then in his prime, and blessed not only with a good constitution but a fair share of good looks. There was also another regret that pursued him through life, which was, that although a large tract of valuable land was eventually reclaimed from the sea, and although fertile meadows were made to appear where the barren wash of the shallow, far- spreading salt tide had so long held its useless, brawling reign, yet, so great had been the cost of the reclamation that, next to ruin, instead of the realization of a vast fortune, was the sorry reward of the spirited projector, and a sore disappointment to his conscientious advisers.

The stiffened knee became, incidentally, the cause of events which materially altered the after part of his career. "While suffering from the severe pain consequent on the diseased joint, he determined to seek for rest and retirement for a while in some quiet country place, and with this view he took lodgings at a farmhouse at Pinner — the Pinner-cum-Harrow of ecclesiastical arrangements, the Vicar of Harrow having the gift of the perpetual curacy of Pinner, which is only four miles distant from the historical Harrow-on-the-Hill.

While at Pinner, he soon became convinced that he could not remain entirely idle, and he seized that opportunity of inquiring into the actual state of English farming, which he found much in arrear of the systems pursued in Scotland. He therefore set himself to work, to investigate the best methods of obtaining better and more profitable crops in England. He was, in fact, the true pioneer of improvements in English agriculture, long before the Mechi's and other great improvers eventually followed in his track. He also devoted himself with great energy at that time to landscape painting in oil; and, considering the short period during which he applied himself to that art, his progress was very satisfactory, several of his works of that class, produced at Pinner, being exhibited by him at the Royal Academy, when the annual shows of the English school of art were held at Somerset House. During the same period, too, regretting his former neglect of the acquisition of languages, he engaged a professor of German, with whom he worked perseveringly during the whole of his stay at Pinner. Having been very successful, by dint of unstinting assiduity, he succeeded in paying his expenses, as he had formerly done those of his French master, by the sale

ofpamphlet, which he translated from the German as an exercise, the work being sold to Mr. Cadell for £15. “We also learn from his journal that he took lessons in Greek and Hebrew at this time, with a view to the tracing out the origin of the names of all the plants described by ancient classical writers. But not-withstanding all this mental activity, he still believed that he was not doing enough, and we find him, in his journal, bitterly reproaching himself for his idleness, in such passages as the following: — “How have I neglected the important task of improving myself ! How much I have seen ! What new ideas have developed themselves before me, and what different views of life have I acquired since I came to London, three years ago ! Yet I am now twenty -three years of age — perhaps one whole third of my life has passed away, and what have I done to benefit my fellow-men?

So convinced had he become of the radical defects of the English system of farming during his investigations at Pinner, and so anxious was he that the faults he observed should be corrected, that he wrote to his father, who thoroughly understood the practice of the Scottish system, begging of him to come to England, and take up the farm where he had been staying so long, which was then to let. The farm in question was Wood Hall, belonging to a family of the name of Leterrier, whose tenant it was soon arranged that Mr. Loudon, senior, should become, and to which, on the recommendation of his son, he removed in the year 1807.

Young Loudon continued to reside there with his father, and in the following year, 1808, he wrote a pamphlet, entitled “An Immediate and Effective Mode of Raising the Rental of the Landed Property of England, and Rendering Great Britain Independent of other Nations for a Supply of Bread Corn. By a Scotch Farmer, now Farming in Middlesex.” This pamphlet created a great sensation in the agricultural world, and probably led to some of the great Enclosure Acts which were passed soon after that period. Hundreds of acres round Pinner were at that time open common, entirely unproductive, though within thirteen miles of London. I have heard an old inhabitant declare that in his youth, so great was the extent of waste common in that part of Middlesex, and extending into Herts and Berkshire, that a horseman might gallop without let or hindrance, from the foot of Harrow Hill to Berkhampstead, over wild heathland, entirely uncultivated, nearly the whole of which has since been brought into cultivation by the great Enclosure Act of the period alluded to.

Loudon was, in fact, as I have said, one of the great modern pioneers of our recent progress in agriculture as well as in horticulture, and his Pinner pamphlet made his advanced opinions on agricultural subjects very widely known. Among many gentlemen who were attracted by the strikingly new and yet practical views of the young Scottish agriculturist, was General Stratton, the owner of a large landed estate called Tew Park, in Oxfordshire. In order to secure his services on the Oxfordshire estate, General Stratton proposed that the young author should take a portion of his landed property there at an almost nominal rent, in order to induce him to undertake the advantageous management of the rest for the proprietor, by the introduction of the Scotch system, of farming, which the General felt convinced, after a careful study of young Loudon’s work,

Figure 11. Garth Hall

Garth Hall, designed by Loudon in 1809 when he was 26 for Richard Mytton; a beautiful building inside and out. Note the extraordinary chimneys. This aspect of his work (see also Hope End, figure 7) seems to have been overlooked – it is not mentioned by Humphreys or Jane Loudon or, it appears, by subsequent writers. The house is said to have cost an estimated £100,000, which contributed to Mytton's bankruptcy.

Figure 12. The Stables at Garth Hall.

Figure 13. Interior of Garth Hall

Figure 14. Interior of Garth Hall

Photographs of the interior of Garth Hall, taken shortly before the building was pulled down in 1946.

would be of the greatest benefit, not only to Oxfordshire, but to every agricultural county in England. Before proceeding to describe his practical experiments on General Stratton's estate in Oxfordshire, it will be desirable to examine the contents, and assess the merits of the works which had so strongly arrested the public attention, and led General Stratton to make their author a most generous pro- position for the farming of his estate on the Scotch system — a proposition which eventually resulted in the realization of great advantages, not only to the farmer, but also to the landlord.

Any ordinary, practical farmer who might have been induced, contrary to the advice of his "best friends,'' to purchase Mr. Loudon's expensive works on "the formation and management of useful and ornamental plantations," or his treatise on "the formation and management of country residences," and his work entitled "An Immediate and Effectual Mode of Immediately Raising the Rental of the Landed Property of England," would have been very likely to throw the works aside with the scornful contempt of what is considered our chief national characteristic — our "strong common sense !"The idealistic and picturesque manner, often bordering on the poetical, with which Loudon expresses his love of nature; and his unbounded faith in the beneficent luxuriance with which she crowns human efforts when made according to philosophical principles, combined with persevering labour, would necessarily strike the conservative in such matters as savouring far too strongly of the Utopian strain, to be the feelings of a man having any good, practical lesson to teach. But the receipt put forward in the title-page of the last-named work, "an immediate and effectual mode of raising the rental of the landed property of England," was metal too tempting, notwithstanding its Utopian ring, to be entirely disregarded; and General Stratton, among other landowners, was not only captivated by the attractive words of the title-page, but also convinced by the theories set forth in the body of the work.

It will be instructive to examine these works in some detail, and so obtain a better knowledge of the really practical nature of Loudon's theories, which, though so strongly blended with the finer feelings and the more deeply philosophical views which look far beyond, towards still greater advances, were, nevertheless, abundantly applicable to the exigences of the time. His treatise on forming and managing country residences, which, as I have before stated, was published in 1806, opens with the somewhat paradoxical observation that "Landscape gardening" is an unmeaning term; and that "Landscape husbandry "would be far better. This ingenious objection to a long-accepted term shows the thoroughness with which Loudon sifted every subject he was about to treat of, even to its name; and his determination to cast off the shackles of precedent to the very last link, and go into the subject entirely on its abstract merits, as investigated by him- self. This little feud with the name given to his favourite art by his predecessors was scarcely a tenable one; and is partly abandoned, even by himself, when he immediately afterwards admits that the formation of picturesque pieces of water, or garden buildings, could not very well be included in the term "landscape husbandry." He next analyses the meaning of the term "picturesque" in its reference to landscape, and assigns to it two distinct meanings. In the first, he tells us that it refers to a kind of natural beauty distinguished by ruggedness, abruptness, and irregularity, either of form or

colour. Its secondary meaning he defines as having reference to such objects "as are calculated to produce a good effect when painted." He then proposes the term "Picturesque improvement "in place of "Landscape gardening." These are perhaps somewhat fanciful definitions, but it would be in- judicious to quarrel with even his most fastidious distinctions of terms, as such investigations have their value, and the precise meaning of even unimportant terms are of great use to students, in leading them, through an interesting disquisition on the value and meanings of technical nomenclature, to the appreciation of the principles they are intended to define; and in this way the works of Loudon are always so instructive.

He considers rightly that picturesque gardening is, in so far as Europe is concerned, a strictly English invention, first put in actual practice after a crude manner by Kent, in his designs for the gardens at Esher. The leading principle of picturesque improvement, he tells us, is "unity of design and character in regard to the whole," urging "whatever does not assist the leading idea weakens it." These axiomatic assertions, so emphatically put forward by Loudon, are absolutely true, under all circumstances, and must ever form the basis of every well-considered horticultural design. There must be a leading idea in every artistic composition, he repeats, and then proceeds to illustrate his theorem by the comparison of a human being who is uniformly clever, or uniformly good, to one who has some striking characteristic; remarking that even men, like scenes in nature or in pictures, are soon forgotten if they present no salient point of interest, which rises strikingly above the level of their pervading qualities. From this predominant feature, the central point of attraction, all the subordinate parts of a composition must, he asserts, be made subservient, and yet be harmoniously and closely allied with it. "Connection," he tells us, "is found everywhere in nature," and where it is not found in a production of art, that work is necessarily defective. In the creation of scenery by the means of horticultural art, wherever there is want of connection, we are told, and "the scenes are faulty and ineffective. Few of those who follow the profession of laying out grounds," says our author, "appear to feel the importance of this principle," or to make their so-called improvements accord with the special character of the scene they are dealing with, and with which they fail to bring them into "connection." Most of our "improvers" do not, however, need the knowledge of such principles (says Loudon), as they would not be benefited by them, for, as Mr. Price satirically observes (continues our author), "Mr. Brown has so fixed and determined the forms and lines of clumps, belts, and serpentine canals, and has been so steadily imitated by his followers, that had these improvers been incorporated, their common seal, bearing a clump, a belt, and a piece of made water, would have fully expressed the whole of their science, and have served for a model as well as a seal." In this very complete treatise, the principles which I have so superficially analysed, and which are very far in advance of the general horticultural knowledge and practice of the time, we soon find our enthusiastic young author rhapsodising again, but yet rhapsodising to the purpose. "Rural scenery," he exclaims," is congenial to the human mind!"— illustrating his assertion by the remark, "How few are there among those entirely engaged in town pursuits who do not look forward full of the hope of some day retiring into the country." No author's character is seen more completely in his works than Loudon's, who is

continually, while imparting instruction, giving us unawares a description of the character and progress of his own mind. To read his works in chronological order is like reading the history of the man, whose character we see continuously broadened, softened, and improved by his intense love of the never-cloying beauties of Nature. He tells us that "works of art, especially of high art, require a special education and much observation before their merits can be fully appreciated; but men have only to see Nature, to love and admire," exclaiming, "Who has not felt the varied effects of the seasons, or even the no less amazing changes of a single day? "Bacon felt all this when he said that" God planted the first garden.

Loudon freely confesses that he esteems very lightly Kent's attempt at landscape gardening at Esher, and asserts that the principles there imperfectly shadowed forth were far more worthily applied by Mr. Price, of Foxley, and Mr. Knight, of Downton; one of them the author of an essay on the picturesque, and the other of a didactic poem, entitled "The Landscape." It has been asserted that Loudon's works were almost entirely compilations; but this is untrue. His Encyclopaedias were, of course, in great part either compilations, or the work of eminent collaborateurs, whose assistance is always duly acknowledged. In works of that kind it could not be otherwise; but in such essays and books of instruction as those under description, and he published many such, he was in every sense a strictly original author. The ideas and theories expressed in them were entirely his own, and almost always very far in advance of those of any other writer on the subject. His original definitions of the terms "taste," "sublimity," "beauty," "deformity," "picturesque beauty," "sculpturesque beauty," "romantic beauty," "wildness," and many others likely to occur in writing of the higher branches of horticulture, are in many instances strikingly apt, and always interesting and instructive. He strongly advises the study of landscape painting by all wishing to take high rank as landscape gardeners; one of the great advantages of which study, he says, is to analyse the methods upon which the landscapes of the great masters are composed, and in the analysis of the art of landscape composition in painting, learn the art of composition in real scenery.

In the midst of a variety of interesting matter, profusely illustrated with engravings, which are very excellent for the period, he narrates a conversation which he had with Sir John Maxwell Heron, on the subject of such trees as are most valuable for planting on account of their timber or other qualities, with a view, in extensive plantations, to combine the useful with the ornamental. The peculiarly durable quality of Larch-wood being spoken of, Sir John related how some doors made of it, and left unpainted, soon began to exude a substance which covered the whole of their surface, and even filled the joints so completely that they presented the appearance of a brown mass composed of a single piece of wood or some other substance; a fact worthy of more careful investigation. Its characters of not splintering, and of resistance to fire were also alluded to, which seemed to render it peculiarly fitted for ship-building; and Loudon immediately suggested methods of forcing it to grow in those curved forms which would render it applicable to shipbuilding purposes, as its comparatively small size precluded the possibility of sawing the desired forms out of the bulk, as in timbers of a larger growth. This ingeniously conceived process, which heillustrates in a curious plate, was to be effected, during the growth of the tree,

by forcing it into the curve required either by tying down or tying up with strong iron wire, to give it the required direction — a result which, as he told me long afterwards, he had often introduced by way of amusement. If this ingenious device be of no use in a commercial point of view, it is certainly a valuable hint for forcing certain trees to grow in an irregular and picturesque manner, where it would be desirable for them to do so in garden or landscape scenery; the straight growth of the Larch, when deviated from naturally, as is frequently the case, being often productive of a pleasing and picturesque variety of lines, greatly adding to the ordinary variety of the more usual tree forms. This volume also contains some very valuable hints on planting detached forest trees and orchards, and I must not conclude my very superficial analysis without remarking that Loudon's excessively strong love of order and classification, which sometimes acted injuriously on the freedom of his designs, led him to urge, in the latter pages of this work, even in a small place, the formation of a botanic garden, with representatives of all the leading classes of plants, regularly arranged according to the system of Jussieu or that of Linnaeus. In an appendix to the work he introduced some excellent remarks upon Mr. Repton's method of showing the effect of improvement by means of "slides "on which principle, Mr. Repton first represented the original state of the park or garden, and then contrived a paper slide, which, passing over the representation of the scene as it was, so as to cover it either entirely or partially, showed the effect of the intended improvement in a convenient and striking manner. The thirty-two engravings by which the work is illustrated are some of them highly finished engravings from Loudon's own drawings and paintings, as before stated, the best of which were afterwards republished in a separate form, with a short description to each subject.

In the following year he published his "Immediate and Effectual Mode of Raising Rentals," principally founded upon his own experiences, which proved pretty clearly that if a dreamer, his dreams were nevertheless of a very practical nature; and if a madman, as still stronger opponents averred, there was most certainly "a method in his madness," of a very profitable kind. The Wood Hall Farm, which he had induced his father to take, consisted of 350 acres, then let at only 13s. an acre. The tenant wishing to leave, Mr. Loudon proposed that he should at once be compensated for the remaining interest in his LEASE, which the landlord agreed to do, by a payment of £1,500; Mr. Loudon, sen., agreeing to take it on lease at the greatly increased rent of £2 an acre. This transaction occurred in 1806, and was the means of raising the rental at once from £197 10s. to £700 ! What confidence these enterprising Scotchmen must have felt in their system, their judgment, and their industry. Well might young Loudon, who then resided with his father at Wood Hall, and who soon found that, even at this greatly increased rent, large profits might be made, hasten to publish in the following year (1807), his "Immediate and Effectual Mode of Raising the Rentals of Landed Property." Under the management of Mr. Loudon and his son, John Claudius, the forms of all the enclosures of Wood Hall were almost entirely changed; being made more regular, both as to the shape and the size of the various fields. Old and useless hedges, often measuring from 10 to 20 feet in width, including waste, were rooted up and the accumulation of rotten rubbish and leaf-mould being collected

View of Barnbarroch from the East as it appeared in 1805

Figure 15. Barnbarroch, 1805

View of Barnbarroch from the East as it will appear when the alterations & proposed improvements have been there carried into effect

Figure 16. Barnbarroch with Loudon's proposed improvements

In one of his earliest commissions Loudon remodelled both the house and the grounds at Barnbarroch in 1805 when he was 22. A derelict house and garden still exists on the site.

Figure 17. Harewood Estate

Figure 18. Harewood Estate with Loudon's proposed improvements

Loudon's proposals for converting the lake at Harewood House from the serpentine style to the picturesque.

and spread over the land manured upwards of ten acres almost as effectively as could have been done with stable manure. In one place on the farm, an entire acre was rendered useless by an indrain of water from a higher field; and this was rectified by a general system of drainage. The straightened hedgerows made ploughing more easy, with far less waste; while in the rectification of the fences, the number of gates was reduced by more than one-third, the whole being rendered more open and healthful, while nearly fifty acres were rendered productive which formerly had been lost. By leaving the best of the hedgerow trees and removing useless fences, the whole farm assumed almost a park-like appearance, which he always aimed at in his farming experiments; and the place is still remark- able, at the present day, for its fine detached trees, especially a noble Oak, which was struck by lightning some few years ago, and is now a picturesque ruin. No details of usefulness were omitted in the general remodelling, the old straggling farm-buildings being improved in plan, and nearly all rebuilt: the house, the gardens, and orchard undergoing a similar overhauling. Mr. Loudon, sen., also took on a similar lease to that of Wood Hall, a farm of 230 acres, at Kenton, about two miles from Wood Hall. It had been for some years occupied by a tenant-at-will, at 13s. an acre, which appears to have been about the usual rental of land in that neighbourhood. Under the system of tenancy-at-will, the land had become seriously impoverished, and, in fact, utterly exhausted; yet Mr. Loudon at once made an offer of £2 per acre, and, protected by a long lease, did not shrink from making such costly improvements as, with vast energy, good management, and indomitable perseverance, got the whole farm into tolerable heart, in the course of a single season, similar improvements to those effected at Wood Hall having been carried out in that short time.

The elder Loudon did not live to see and enjoy the fruits of his energetic labour and enterprise. His strength began to fail very soon after his arrival at Wood Hall, in Michaelmas 1807; and he continued in a state of health which caused the greatest anxiety to his family till the month of February, 1809, when he died. He was buried in Pinner churchyard, to the south of the fine old grey tower of the parish church. His son, John Claudius, the subject of the present memoir, erected a handsome and remarkably picturesque tomb over the grave, which, partially covered with a great plume-like mass of sombre Ivy as it now is, forms a very striking object, which attracts the attention of all who pass up the steep road at the side of the churchyard, leading to Kenton and Harrow. The present incumbent of the perpetual curacy of Pinner- cum-Harrow had, however, a short time since, very serious thoughts of causing it to be taken down, as a disfigurement to the churchyard, which, after the establishment of a parochial cemetery at some distance from the church, he wished to have cleared of all tombstones and monuments, in order to level it and plant it with ornamental shrubs. The desecration, however, of pulling down the Loudon tomb was prevented by the earnest representations of friends of the family. The good clergyman had probably never heard of the name of Loudon, nor of his works, or most likely it would never have occurred to him to destroy a memorial which is often visited with so much interest by admirers of the genius of our great horticulturist, and who also admire the warm filial attachment which prompted the erection of the interesting memorial, which now bears the name of Mr. Loudon's mother also, who outlived her husband many years. I visited the spot

this summer (1872), and I am happy to be able to state that there is no longer any danger of the memorial being destroyed. Mrs. Loudon resided for some time (as I have been informed) at Kenton farm, after the death of her husband, with her daughters Mary and Jane, and probably her son James, who about that time or shortly afterwards went to the continent, and eventually settled in Poland, where he succeeded in establishing an extensive brewery on the English system with great advantage, in con- sequence of the low price of Barley, there being no means of exporting the abundant grain crops of that fine corn-growing country, and all kinds of grain being consequently purchasable at prices that appeared merely nominal in comparison with the rates at which Wheat., Barley, or Oats, commanded in England at that time.

So great had been the improvements effected at Wood Hall during the tenancy of the elder Loudon, that after his death it was re-let -without difficulty at a still further advance of rent. Mr. Loudon had found it let for less than £200 a year, he had taken it at £700, and it was eventually re-let by his family for £1,000, all within two years. So that when his son published the well-known work in which he professed to point out the way to raise the rental of land, very greatly, and immediately, he was not speaking upon vague theory, but upon the authority of practical results. It is not difficult, therefore, to understand the readiness of General Stratton, after reading that, and the preceding work, to propose to the author very advantageous terms, in order to induce him to go to Oxford- shire, and undertake the management of his large estate at Tew, with a view to the improvement of its rental.

The homestead of that portion of the Tew Park estate which was leased to Loudon was called Tew Lodge, for the improvement of which he at once proposed a series of most important and extensive ameliorations, upon the principles of the latest Scottish improvements in agriculture and horticulture. The proposed works were commenced and carried forward with great spirit and rapidity during the whole of the year 1808, and were, in the main, completed in 1809. Such various works as were then carried on simultaneously — namely, the comparative rebuilding of the residence, the planning and erection of an admirably arranged stack of farm buildings, which were made to form a good architectural object, the making of new roads, the draining of the soil, the remodelling of the enclosures, the repair of fences, and making new ones, together with the devising of machinery, and every appendage of a farm upon a large scale — bear testimony to the constant activity of his mind, and his never-tiring industry. All this, too, was carried out according to plans and designs devised and drawn by himself. He had no models to follow; for at that time a large quantity of land was actually wasted in every English farm of considerable size, like that at Tew Park. And it was the prevention of this wasteful system that his improvements were devised to effect. The portion of the estate that he rented on a twenty-two years' lease was about 1,800 acres, all in a very rude state; and this half wild farm, with the residence, and the plantations around it, were converted, in an in- credibly short space of time, into a *ferme ornee,* which, as he used to be fond of saying, long years afterwards, combined the *utile* and the *dulce*, on such an extensive scale as was not then to be matched in England.

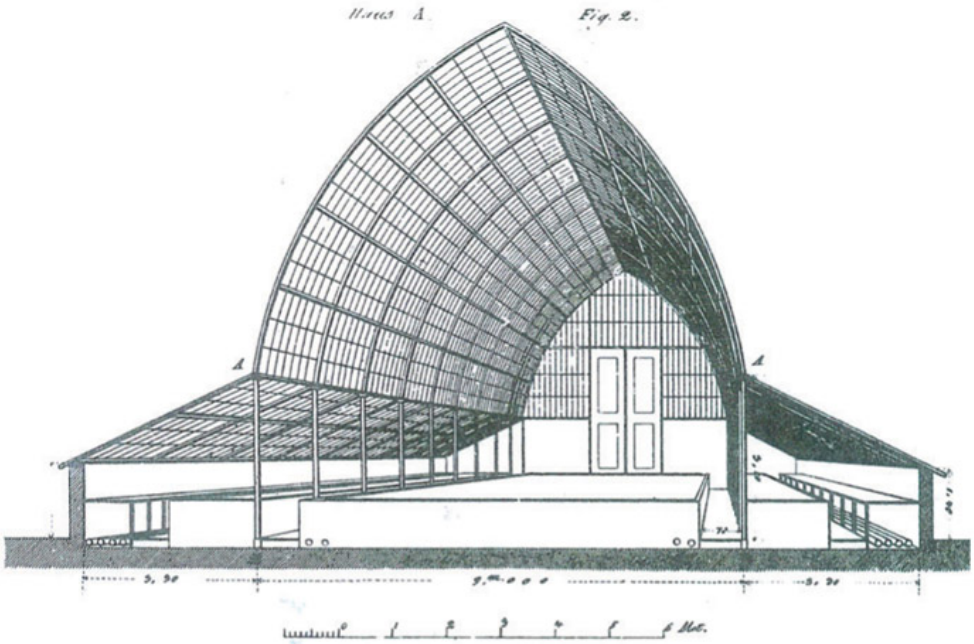


Figure 19. The Camellia House at Loddiges Nursery designed by Loudon and built by Messrs W & D Bailey of Holborn, to whom Loudon sold his design for flexible glazing bars, an invention which had made curvilinear hothouses possible. Loudon was supposed to receive a share of W & D Bailey's profits, but Mrs Loudon ruefully commented that he never received a penny from them.

Figure 20. The conservatory at Bicton built to Loudon's design. The date is sometimes given as 1827, but it was probably built in 1844 or thereabouts.

Figure 21. The wrought-iron glasshouse at Dallam Tower, described as "the jewel in Dallam's crown". It is attributed by English Heritage to George Webster, but this is only true in the sense that Webster added his signature to a design from Loudon's pattern book.

Figure 22. The conservatory at Bretton Hall designed by Loudon for Mrs Beaumont in 1827. It was 100ft wide and 60ft high and cost £14,000 to build. After Mrs Beaumont's death in 1832 it was sold at auction for £500.

He was never unduly boastful of the successful efforts he then made to improve the English methods of farming, and to add to the comfort and prosperity of the farmer and labourer, while increasing the rental of the landlord; but did not refrain from pointing out the vast difference that existed between the rentals obtained in Scotland and those prevailing in England, and was much gratified at the success of his under- taking, when he raised the rental of the farm at Tew from thirteen shillings per acre, at which rate he took it, to more than treble, namely, £2; while the mode of farming adopted insured a still greater benefit to the farmer than it did to the landlord. When he published a work descriptive of the Tew improvements, he quoted, with pardonable vanity, the following passage in a letter from Sir Joseph Banks to Sir John Sinclair: "Agriculture has derived, is deriving, and will derive more benefit from Scot's industry and skill than has been accumulated since the days when Adam first wielded a spade." When Loudon had completed his improvements, and got the culture of the land into full swing upon the improved system, he purposed letting a large portion of the land he had thus taken in hand, and thus realise a permanent income to the end of his lease; his intention being to take up his permanent residence at the Lodge, his severe rheumatic attack having disabled him to a certain extent from following the pursuit of a landscape gardener with anything like his former activity.

He tells us in his subsequent work, that on first looking care- fully over the estate, he perceived at a glance a number of embryo resources for the realising "rich profits," and he there- fore set to work, without delay, and with great spirit, classifying the different branches of his undertaking in the following manner: —

1. The purely agricultural department, improving and re- modelling everything in that category. 2. The horticultural section, embracing not only all that tended to convenience and even luxury, but likewise to amusement and instruction. 3. The harmonious — comprising all such improvements as contribute to the elegance and picturesque beauty of the whole.

In the agricultural category he drained, equalised the size of the fields, and grubbed up the wasteful old hedges, turning to good account in the way of irrigation two streams that flowed through the property, and at the same time introducing a more suitable rotation of crops.

In the horticultural department he sought to realise an idea which his mind had fondly dwelt upon for many years — that of forming a "complete collection "of culinary vegetables, in groups, blending with each other, according to the "Systema Naturae "of Linnaeus; or if found more harmonious and equally instructive, the natural system of Jussieu.

In the harmonious, he sought to adapt the general aspects of the land to agreeable and picturesque effects, according to his carefully considered designs, with the pleasant hope, as he afterwards tells us, of blending elegance with utility, in the full confidence that within two or three years' growth of the new plantations the place would become worthy of being very generally imitated, as closely as the difference of aspect, soil, and situation of other places would permit.

He considered with the greatest care the best systems of making farm roads, as regards their formation, their direction in relation to the wants of the farm, and every other necessary, or in any way useful particulars, even to the form and situation of the roadside ditches, which, he considered, ought, to prevent accidents, to have their hedge-sides next the road. He afterwards published diagrams illustrating the principles regarding farm roads, which he put into practice at Tew. The direction of the hedges in general he contrived in such a way as to make them useful as shelter from driving winds, from the east or north, as well as for separating field from field in a convenient and unwasteful manner; and in the suppression of the useless hedge system of the place he preserved all the well-grown trees, which, in their seemingly new positions, gave the whole farm a park-like and highly ornamental appearance, an effect which he had first found practicable at Wood Hall.

While re-arranging the general aspects of the plantations and making fresh ones upon an extensive scale, he entered into a regular crusade against the pollards; which he considered not only ignoble, but positively ugly objects in comparison with untopped trees. He also considered that they injured the fences much more than other trees, in consequence of their low tops being thicker and nearer to the ground, while the over-production of roots, induced in pollards by continual loppings, he thought, and with justice, must impoverish the surrounding soil to a very great extent; and finally he concluded that, unlike other trees, which when they are periodically felled, yield useful timber, more or less valuable, the pollard when rooted up is only fit for firewood. In consequence of these considerations, no mercy was shown to them at Tew, and they were exterminated, root and branch, along with many other old-world features of unsatisfactory appearance and doubtful utility which in Loudon's view both disfigured and injured the place.

His scientific planning of the new farm buildings displayed many new and valuable ideas; and in fact, shed a flood of light upon the subject, and have often been adopted by others without due acknowledgment.

He was exceedingly thoughtful for the comfort of farm labourers; and a leading principle in his well-digested plan for farm-buildings consisted in providing them with good and well-ventilated lodgings, in such situations as would be most handy to their daily work; supplementing these comforts with a regular allowance of milk and ordinary vegetables, and, if they would eat it, a daily portion of oatmeal. He was always fond of telling, whenever the Tew days were spoken of in after years, how, by the example of some Scotchmen who had followed his father to Wood Hall, several young native labourers, after some little opposition, took kindly to oatmeal porridge; and also, following the advice of the frugal Scotch- men, how they deserted the public house, and kept the money in their pockets instead of wasting it on washy beer; while at the same time, and from similar example, they learnt to make more frequent use of milk and vegetables than was then usual with men of their class. If Loudon's principles in regard to plenteous fare and good lodging of the labourer had been carried out by the succeeding race of landlords and farmers, we should not have had to contend with the inconvenience and ruinous waste caused by a "strike" among the agricultural labourers in the year 1872, which is likely to lead to the gravest

consequences, and an exodus of English muscle and energy to other parts of the world, where their rights will be more justly valued.

Although Mr. Loudon disapproved of sotting at the public house, he did not cease to consider a glass of good sound beer a good, and proper, and beneficial thing in proper time and place, and even established a brewery adjoining the great stack of farm-buildings, in order that there might be a supply of that wholesome beverage on the premises. He likewise built a killing-house in a suitable situation; a pond for washing horses after work, which had a paved bottom set in cement; and this, as well as other places where a supply, fresh and clean, was required, was fed by a perpetual spring which he discovered near the house; from which source large reservoirs of water, in case of fire, were kept continually full.

His constructive faculty was evidently one of the leading features of his active mind, and his evident bias in that direction led him at a later period to compile his "Encyclopaedia of Architecture," and other works bearing upon that subject; and also to establish the "Architectural Magazine." Thee great extent of roofing required for the outbuildings of Tew led him to consider all the most economical methods of covering such buildings, and he eventually struck out the idea of "paper." It must be recollected that this was at a period long anterior to our recently-acquired knowledge respecting the ingenious uses to which paper is applied in Japan; and long before the time of shirt collars of paper, paper lace, or even papier mache tea trays. The proper kind of paper having been manufactured, after several experiments, it was applied after a system devised by Loudon, to the buildings at Tew, and it was considered, at the time, that elegance and durability, as well as economy, had been achieved; as we are still, however, using the far more expensive materials — lead, zinc, and slate it may be inferred that paper was not found, eventually, to answer so well as was expected; but I have never heard the sequel to the story of the paper roofs at Tew.

The plan of the new farmstead, which was converted into a comfortable and handsome villa residence, was a model of excellent arrangement, exhibiting many new ideas concerning the most convenient position of the various apartments and offices in relation to each other.

A large orchard was planted, and, carrying out his strong predilection for classification, a botanic garden was also added; while even in the plantation of the pleasure ground he adopted a system, by which trees of certain classes were kept together, as in the plan attempted by Darwin at Lichfield. By such a system of grouping, he considered that new acquisitions could be conveniently added in their proper places. But by this extreme love of order many picturesque effects of contrast, by bringing trees of distinct classes into close juxtaposition, were sacrificed to the exigences of classification; and it might, indeed, be urged against such a system of planting that it was unnatural, and unlike the distribution of trees in their wild state. Attached to the orchard and garden were pieces of ground devoted to seed-growing, and a nursery for young trees and shrubs, and also a large plantation of Currant bushes, as he had heard that in the neighbourhood of Worcester great profits were realised by Currant growing for the British wine manufacturers.

It will have been seen that Loudon had thrown all his energy and various knowledge into the thorough reformation and replantation of the model farm at Tew; and that to the buildings also he had devoted an equal amount of attention. The cost of these was, however, defrayed by General Stratton, who had given his energetic tenant carte blanche as to the extent and character of the structures he might deem requisite. Even the kind of horses for the farm work was most carefully considered; and the Cleveland breed preferred to all others. In short, the principal farm, and all the smaller farms included in the lease, were improved so rapidly that the whole might have been relet at a largely increased rental within two years of Mr. Loudon's taking possession.

The success of the principles and working system thus applied, induced the young farmer to publish an elaborate account of the works he had carried out at Tew, as a successful example of the northern system. He had thrown all his best energies into those improvements, and never lost sight of his great principle that "tillage should beautify the land" and not disfigure it; in short, that the farmer should be at the same time a landscape gardener; because, labour being the highest of all human vocations, it ought to be invested with beauty.

At the beginning of the handsome work describing the improvements at Tew and other places, there are two capital panoramic views of the place; one looking from the house towards the fields, and the other from the fields looking towards the house. The engravings, which are exceedingly well executed, convey an excellent idea of the planting of the entire property, on which the author looked forward at one time to spending his entire life; but this was only a passing determination, and soon gave place to more restless views. The other places described in his work on the improvements at Tew, which was published in 1811, were, I believe, his original plans for improving Lord Mansfield's estate at Scone, and some other examples of his system, carried into effect in England.

One of the many schemes he set on foot during the brief but active period of his residence at Tew, was the establishment of a kind of agricultural college for the suitable education of farm bailiffs and others engaged in agricultural pursuits. He gave some account of this college in a pamphlet entitled, "The Utility of Agricultural Knowledge to the Sons _ of Landed Proprietors, &c., with an Account of an Institution formed for Agricultural Pupils in Oxfordshire, &c." It is in his introduction to this work that ho alludes to his determination to have recourse to farming as a permanent source of income, lest by any future attack of disease he should be prevented from the more active duties of his profession as a landscape gardener.

His activity both of mind and body prevailed, however, over the drawbacks of the lameness and the disabled arm, and he continued, despite these difficulties, to follow his old profession; having between 1809 and 1812 laid out several places in England, in Wales, and even in Ireland. In the meantime he had given up the lease of Tew upon very advantageous terms, which were highly creditable both to landlord and tenant; and finding himself master of upwards of £16,000 as the result of his unceasing labours in various fields of honorable enterprise, he determined for awhile to take a period of rest from his usual avocations; but

the snows of Russia, towards the close of 1812, opened portions of the continent to English travellers, and in March 1813 Loudon determined at once to avail not with a view to inactivity. The waning fortunes of the first Napoleon, among himself of this opportunity to gratify his long-cherished wish to see the countries of the continent, at all events such portions of them as he might then find it possible to traverse.

With his peculiarly liberal cast of mind, Loudon had long fretted against the narrow sphere of observation and study within which he was confined in the limited extent of the British Isles; especially at a time when national vanity, combined with obstinate insular prejudices, so cramped the range of English thought in general, that anything like a fair judgment of continental arts, sciences, taste, institutions, and manners could not be arrived at in England by men of routine education, holding the narrow stereotyped opinions so generated. It was under the influence of such a phase of national thought that England had joined, heart and hand, in a kind of crusade against the right of the French people to choose their own form of government — a crusade which Loudon regarded as a more benighted and in every way darker and more ignorant proceeding than the sanguinary expeditions to the Holy Land of the middle ages. He looked forward with great glee, as I have heard him say, to this opportunity of casting off the confining coil of insular thought, and finding out for himself sufficient reasons for adopting wider and more cosmopolitan opinions than those he had found prevalent among all classes in England, and indeed in Scotland also, as he freely confessed.

With such feelings and aspirations he started from Harwich on the 16th of March, 1813, in a small sailing packet, the discomforts of which were considerable; but he had no choice, for steamers were at that time not even a vision of the future in their present comfortable form, though a few tentative experiments had been already made by enterprising men, who were deemed little better than poor infatuated lunatics by their hard-headed contemporaries. He arrived at Gottenburg, in Sweden, after a tolerably fair passage, in so far as weather was concerned; and was much struck by the novelty of the scene which presented itself, and which at that time wore so many quaint national peculiarities which modem facilities of intercommunication have since so much toned down, that a traveller must go very far afield to meet with sights and scenes as strikingly novel as those which in 1813 unfolded themselves to Loudon on his landing in Sweden. He was much struck with the advanced state of two great elements of civilization in that country — road making and education; in both of which he considered that little monarchy far in advance of England, especially in the last named — education; inability to write, even in the lowest grades of the social scale, being the exception instead of the rule, as it then was in England, which, as Loudon always regretted, was far behind Scotland in that respect, and indeed still is so, the registrar- general's recent returns of marriages exhibiting marks instead of signatures to the amount of nearly one-half on the *ladies*' side, and one-third on that of the *gentlemen* . Many things in Sweden reminded our traveller of Scotland, and he felt convinced that the Norse element was even stronger in the northern portions of the highlands than had ever been suspected. He often expressed regret that he did not remain longer in Sweden, in order to study the national institutions and the manners of the people more

thoroughly; and still more specially the magnificent scenery, from which he had expected to derive many hints for the enlargement of his theories of picturesque landscape gardening: but he became so overpoweringly anxious to visit the scenes of the great European war that was then rapidly culminating in the overthrow of the first Napoleon and his hosts, after the disastrous invasion of Russia, that he could not resist the temptation of pushing forward at once, leaving undone much that he had intended to accomplish during a short stay in Sweden.

Incited by this irresistible desire to witness some of the last aspects of the gigantic war-struggle, he pushed on to Konigsberg at once, by way of Memel, and arrived there on the 14th of April. On nearing that place he began, as he relates in his journal, to find everywhere the devastating traces of war, all of them more or less terrible to the eye of one coming from a country which for ages had not known the horrors of invasion. Skeletons of horses, whose flesh had been devoured by wolves, still common in the Baltic provinces, lay bleaching where they had fallen, the victims of famine or battle. The roads were broken up; cultivated fields trodden into wastes; and gardens and country houses which he would have so much delighted to see in their trim and well kept completeness, as models to study, he found but too often reduced to shapeless wrecks. So that as a horticulturist and landscape gardener he found but few things to study professionally; but the passages in his journal relating to the time show how deeply, as a philanthropist, he was interested in the great European crisis.

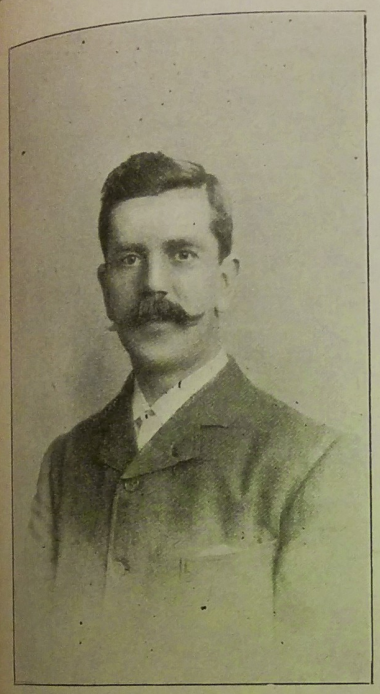
At Ebling, a small fortified town, he was much struck by the scenes in the narrow streets, which were, he says, completely jammed with the goods and cattle of the people of the surrounding country, who had poured into the town for protection from the foraging parties of a part of the French army which was then passing within a few miles; devouring or spoiling, in self-defence, all that came in their way. Near Marienburg he passed through a bivouac of Russian troops, who had by no means the soldierlike air that he had expected in men who had so successfully repulsed the great French armies, and which had been spoken of as such splendid soldiers by English newspaper writers. Near Danzig he was much interested in a new kind of architecture, by which, as he described it, “houses were made by sinking down, instead of raising up.” This process was very skilfully performed by a horde of Cossacks belonging to the Russian camp on the hills near Danzig. It was affected by making excavations in the deep, loose sand, of which those drift-hills are chiefly formed, the approach being by a well managed declivity, and the roof being formed of branches of trees raised above the excavation in the form of a tent.

On approaching Berlin, he found the long avenues bordered with trees, through which the city is reached, thronged with a continuous train of foot and carriage passengers, and wagons piled with luggage, hastening to the city for protection; and as his view of this busy and exciting scene was taking place by moonlight, Loudon, whose eye had long been cultured to a full appreciation of the picturesque, was very much struck with what he saw; and gave a detailed and very graphic account of it in his journal, which he never neglected, but which, from the large admixture of strictly private matters, was not calculated for publication. He remained in Berlin from the 14th of May to the 1st of June; receiving anything but a favourable impression of the Prussian capital. The

dirtiness of the streets, the comfortless character of the houses, the fearful stenches consequent upon bad drainage, or rather no drainage at all, and the utter absence of any public buildings worthy of notice, excepting perhaps the arsenal, made him really anxious to quit a disagreeable place, that had nothing metropolitan about it except its size and its dirt; the splendid side of other metropolitan cities being entirely absent in Berlin. He therefore pushed on to Frankfort on the Oder, where he was well received by a party of German officers who had never seen an Englishman, and with whom this country was then extremely popular, on account of the lavish subsidies of British money, by means of which they had been enabled to carry on their share of the great European crusade against France. From thence he proceeded through Posen to Warsaw, where he saw many things that greatly interested him, especially many ancient buildings in a curious transition style of architecture which is only to be met with in Poland; and which he was enabled to study very carefully, perhaps more so than he really desired, as he was detained for three entire mouths, on account of a trifling informality in his passport, at the little town of Tykcozyn, from which, however, he was allowed to make excursions into the surrounding country, of course under armed escort. (To be continued.*)

* It never was.

As there are some large trees about the place, there is always a large quantity of leaves. These, together with annual weeds and any vegetable matter that will decay quickly, are placed in one heap, sometimes sprinkled with lime, turned occasionally, and watered when the weather is dry. It makes a large heap in the course of a year, and, even when it has settled down, amounts to seven or eight loads. The other heap consists of perennial weeds, clippings of hedges, prunings of trees and bushes, useless



MR. F. LOUGHTON.

wood of all sorts—in short, anything that will burn. This, too, when reduced to ashes, gives a large amount of valuable manure, chiefly potash. The two together form an excellent dressing, and when it has been liberally applied I have never found any need to supplement it with farmyard manure.

May 13th.—The Narcissus-fly, though unknown in this country fifteen or sixteen years ago, has since then increased so rapidly that it already does a vast amount of damage. This is the month (and also in June) to look out for it. It is not unlike a small humble bee, but is rather narrower, and has only two pairs of wings. It also makes a sort of whistling noise when flying. When once it has laid its eggs in the bulbs, the mischief is done. In all probability—though this is not certain—the eggs are laid at the base of the leaves, just in the neck, the grubs afterwards working their way down through the bulbs, which are certain to die. The flies may be caught in a butterfly net, or they may be snared by means of plates of treacle, with honey round the edges. There is really nothing else to be done.

May 14th.—The flowers of the Cineraria illustrate a peculiarity of many plants adapted for fertilisation by insects. The dark centre is rendered very conspicuous by being set in a pale circle; it is very much raised so that it becomes the most accessible part, and contact with the stamens by passing insects is made still more certain, by the habit which the petals have of turning back.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

On heavy soils it is important to only lightly cover the seed of Mignonette. Sow at once, and thin out carefully later on.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 137.—MR. F. LOUGHTON, AT CASTLE RISING GARDENS, KING'S LYNN.

THE many thousands who this summer will take advantage of the facilities offered to them by the Great Eastern Railway Company to visit the numerous interesting resorts between King's Lynn and Hunstanton will not easily find a more delightful village than that of Castle Rising.

The ruins of the ancient castle are historic, and there is an old market cross on the village green in an excellent state of preservation, with shrubs planted round. It was not, however, to explore the charms of Castle Rising that I drove thither from Wootton Station on a beautiful sunny morning, but to have a chat with the head gardener at Lord Farquhar's Norfolk seat, Mr. F. Loughton, an admirable representative of the younger school. Mr. Loughton's advance has been rapid. Always fond of gardening, his first professional experience was at the Rectory, Nacton, Suffolk, where he remained for three years, and then went to another Rectory at Sanderstead in Surrey. Four years ago he was fortunate enough to obtain the post of head gardener at Castle Rising. Here, he explained, as Lord and Lady Farquhar do not spend much time in Norfolk, operations are not extensive, but there is much that is interesting in the gardens. One of the features is that they are not all close together. Thus, the high road divides the principal kitchen garden from the pleasure grounds. As on my arrival Mr. Loughton met me at the entrance to the former, we started our round in the kitchen garden, which is ornamental as well as useful.

For instance, I noticed immediately a fine hedge composed of Crimson Rambler, eight feet high, and seventy yards long, and Mr. Loughton mentioned that in the summer some of the shoots are from twenty to thirty feet long.

"You raise Sweet Peas in pots?" I remarked, as we proceeded.

"Violets seem to be quite a feature?"

"They are. His Majesty, when he was at Castle Rising in the winter, admired the Violets, and said that they looked extremely well."

"How many plants do you grow?"

"About a thousand. The varieties are La France, Lady Hume Campbell, Princess of Wales (Neapolitan), Mrs. J. J. Astor, and New York (a new double, resembling Lady Hume Campbell, but rather paler). We gathered Princess of Wales in the open up to Christmas."

"What is the aspect of the beds?"

"East. I think that they do better in a bed facing east than in any other. They get the sun in the morning, but not in the afternoon. In winter I find that leaves blown down from the trees protect the roots."

"You spoke of gathering Violets up to Christmas. When do you begin to gather?"

"About October. Of course, it depends upon the weather how long we continue to gather. Frost stops them from blooming. As to the spring supply, we begin to gather in the middle of March, and go on until the end of April."

"Do you grow in frames also?"

"Yes, and in the frames they bloom in the middle of February. The object is to have Violets right along from October to April."

"When do you strike the double varieties?"

"Early in March. Some people advise striking them in the autumn, but my experience leads me to favour spring. We then move them out by the trowel into the bed."

"Are you troubled with the 'spot'?"

"Very little. So far as remedies are concerned, the only thing I can recommend to prevent the mischief is to pick every spotted leaf off, and keep the foliage as dry as possible."

"I notice that you have a number of little frames, which, I conclude, you use for raising vegetables?"

THE WEST FRONT OF CASTLE RISING, KING'S LYNN.

"Yes, and I hope to have them in bloom early this season. All the leading varieties are grown, including Countess Spencer (for the first time), Miss Willmott, Honourable Mrs. Kenyon, Coxinia, and Jeannie Gor[illegible]"

"They are particularly useful for raising early spring and autumn vegetables. Just now they contain Cauliflowers (Veitch's Forcing), Brussels Sprouts, and Cabbage Lettuces (Veitch's Golden Queen)."

"The Lettuce plants look exceedingly well. How many are there in the frame?"

"Three hundred. We grow a few Cucumbers, including Veitch's Sensation, Lockie's Perfection, and Improved Telegraph."

"And Tomatoes?"

"Frogmore Selected, Golden Jubilee, Up-to-Date, and Chiswick Peach. The last has a Peach-like bloom, and is different in flavour to most Tomatoes."

"Do you go in largely for Chrysanthemums?"

"We grow about five hundred plants. Among the best of the Japanese I include General Hutton, Madame Paola Radaelli, Nellie Pockett, Vicar of Leatherhead, Sir Charles Seely, Mrs. Harry Emmerton, Lord Ludlow (very good), Mrs. J. W. Barks, Lord Hopetoun, Lady Hopetoun, Mrs. George Mileham, Lily Mountford, Blenheim, Countess of Arran, Millicent Richardson, Florence Molyneux, Master C. Seymour, Charles Longley, Mrs. Barkley, Charles Davis, Viviand Morel, Godfrey's Pink, Godfrey's Triumph, Godfrey's Masterpiece, Mutual Friend, Madame R. Cadbury, Madame C. Nagelmackers, Hon. Mrs. Acland, Miss P. D. West, F. S. Vallis, and Robert Morgan. The Incurved, which are not so numerous, include Duchess of Fife, Mrs. R. C. Kingston, Miss Ida Barwood, Madame Gabriel Debrie, and Topaz Orientale, an old variety, which did very well last year."

"What about the bush varieties?"

"The principal are W. H. Lincoln, L. Canning (for late work), Lady Selborne (a good early variety), and Souvenir de Petite Amie."

"Your early-flowering varieties are beginning to make growth. Which do you find answer the best?"

"White Quintus is a very free bloomer, and Sunshine stands wet weather well. Mrs. J. D. Vere Freeman is a good dark variety; and Mytchett Beauty, Mytchett White, and Queen of Earlies are always useful. Among border Chrysanthemums are Market Pink, Nelly Blake, Gertie, Niveute, Godfrey's Pet, and Prince's varieties (white and golden), which I have just had in."

"What other plants do you force in the frames here?"

"About two thousand Roman Hyacinths, from one to two hundred Lilium longiflorum, a quantity of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, with a number of Daffodils and Freesias."

"Which varieties of Daffodils did you force last year?"

"Poeticus ornatus, Sir Watkin, Golden Spur, and Obvallaris. We were cutting some Daffodils at Christmas, but in order to do this it is necessary to put the bulbs in at the end of August."

"How many Freesias do you grow?"

"About one thousand two hundred. We cut some flowers before last Christmas, the earliest I have had them. They were also the finest."

"When do you plant them?"

"Directly they come to hand in August, if they are ripe enough to lift; and I grow them in a cold frame, with a north aspect if I can secure it."

"You think that it is a mistake to expose them much to the sun?"

"Yes, unless the pots are plunged. At least, I find that it is a great advantage to keep them cool until they begin to bloom. I do not try to force them until then. The little frames are turned to account for the later batches of Freesias, and various other bulbs, when taken out of plunging material previous to forcing."

"Do you have several varieties of Strawberries?"

"So far we have only had plantations of Royal Sovereign, but I am getting a few Fillbaskets and Laxtons."

The south side of the kitchen garden is devoted to Roses, of which there are about a thousand bushes, chiefly grown on the Manetti stock, and including Dorothy Perkins. In another portion are a few fruit trees, and on each side border are annuals for cutting. Crossing over the road, we went on to the lawn in front of the picturesque mansion, from which, on a clear day, the sea, only two or three miles distant, can be easily seen. Mr. Loughton first drew my attention to a bed of Tree Pæonies of a kind not often grown.

"They came," he said, "direct from Japan, last year, and are of various colours—rose, white, cream, and dark red."

"When do they begin to bloom?"

"About the middle of May. They do not last long, but they are very pretty when they are out."

"Are they larger than other varieties?"

"Larger than any other. The Japanese Pæonies in the two beds close by are of older growth, and were planted seven or eight years ago. They are of mixed colours, too."

"How do you treat them?"

"In a similar manner to the Rose. They are grown in a stiffish loam, trenched up, and manure should be given in the autumn as a top-dressing. It is important to keep the suckers away, as they spoil the plants."

"You appear to have a large number of standard Roses on and about the lawn?"

"There are several hundred. Many of them are not named, but we have some of the best, and keep filling up as we require. The old Walnut trees are rather a feature on the right of the Hall. They bear exceedingly well."

"Crimson Rambler grows on the front wall of the Hall?"

"In the Palm house I see that you have Tradescantias in the centre. Do you find them easy to grow?"

"Very. They will grow almost anywhere, so long as the soil is poor. There are two varieties, the Zebrina (dark green and silver on one side, and purple on the other), and tricolour, which is grown round the stage. We find it very useful. The Palms include Kentia Fosteriana and Latania borbonica. We also grow a few Dracænas from seeds, Aspidistras, Asparagus plumosus on the wall, and Panicum plicatum."

"When did you plant the Panicum plicatum?"

"Only a fortnight ago. It has a pretty Palm-like appearance, and is very nice for table decoration. The Ferns are chiefly of the Maiden-hair type, but we have also a few of the Osmunda varieties."

"How many plants of Coleus do you grow?"

"Forty of the thyrsoideus species, which look as if they would do well. We have also about fifty plants of Salvia splendens grandiflora, and splendens nana. Last year some of the plants were three feet high."

On the other side of the conservatory and Palm house were a number of frames in which annuals are grown. I asked about the Lobelias.

A WALK IN THE GROUNDS AT CASTLE RISING.

"Yes, and very quickly. It was planted less than four years ago. Japanese Honeysuckle, Ampelopsis Veitchii, and Wistaria also do well on the front wall. Along the carriage-drive are several flowering shrubs. The Berberis are coming on nicely."

"And Rhododendrons?"

"The two large beds of Rhododendrons look well when they are in flower. They are of the named varieties, and some are very fine. They were planted in peat and leaf-soil, which was carted from the wood for that purpose."

As we crossed over to the conservatory, I noticed another bed of Roses, and Mr. Loughton informed me that they were all planted in the autumn, and were from Germany, some sixty in number—white, rose, and red.

"Winter-flowering Zonal Geraniums are a feature in your conservatory," I observed.

"There are about a hundred plants here, including Mary Pelton, Barbara Hope, Lord Kitchener, Sir W. Laurier, Cerise, Cynthia, Snowstorm, Fire Dragon, White Abbey, Mrs. W. Prass, Andrew Lang, White Lady, Fraiseur, Doctor Kenneril, Salmon Queen, Florence Farmer, Rev. Dr. Warre, King of Denmark, and Vera Vand. We also grow Raspail and Jacoby for table decoration."

"We have close upon two hundred Lobelia cardinalis," replied Mr. Loughton, "and they are easy to grow. I merely put them in ordinary loam and leaf-soil, keep them in a cool place in the winter, and plant them out in the middle of May. We make a feature of the summer bedding in the kitchen garden."

"What other plants do you include?"

"Probably one thousand five hundred Antirrhinums, of the Dwarf and Tom Thumb varieties (white, red and yellow). We like patches of one colour better than mixtures. They are also very easy to grow, and give very little trouble in the summer. The seed should be carefully picked off during the flowering time, and then the bloom will last until October. I find this equally important in the case of Sweet Peas. So long as the seed-pods are picked, they will go on flowering."

"Do you have a quantity of Dianthus?"

"Some three hundred plants of the Indian Pink. They are easily grown, and after being planted out early in May need practically no further attention. Of Stocks we have Ten-Week, East Lothian, Intermediate, Veitch's New Scarlet, White, Perpetual, and Princess Alice. They are planted in patches of colour, and generally bloom about the end of June."

"What sort of soil do they best thrive in?"

"I grow them chiefly in rich soil. The middle of March is the best time to sow. The plants should be kept as sturdy as possible, and pricked off as soon as they can be handled. If they have too much water in the early stage of growth, they soon droop."

"We grow in boxes," continued Mr. Loughton, "seven to eight hundred plants of Tagetes signata pumila, a small golden flower like a Marigold in colour. It blooms profusely, and very often takes the place of the Calceolaria. To avoid a rampant growth, it should be planted in poor soil. We use it for edging the Rose borders, and neither rain, sun, nor wind affects it, or diminishes the number of flowers."

"How many Asters do you usually grow?"

"Between two and three hundred of the best varieties. The treatment is similar to that of Stocks, but in the case of Asters, if good blooms are wanted, the soil must be good. Special beds should be trenched up in the winter, and if show blues are wanted, plenty of good cow-manure should be worked in the bottom spit."

Passing into the garden which has been made round the new wing of the Hall, a large bed is conspicuous, and here, according to season, are planted Michaelmas Daisies, Liliums, Flag Irises, Anemone japonica, Campanula pyramidalis, and Phloxes. At one end of the garden is a fine old Yew tree, and, in addition to a number of shrubs, the side walls of the mansion are covered with Virginia Creeper, Crimson Rambler, and the yellow and white Jasminums.

Once more we crossed the main road, and under the shadow of the historic ruin is another portion of the garden.

"In the borders, during summer," said Mr. Loughton, "we shall have Pyrethrums in variety, Phloxes, Montbretias, Flag Irises, Delphiniums, Gladiolas, and the old-fashioned border Pink, Mrs. Sinkins."

"And the rest of the space is devoted to vegetables?"

"Yes, Jerusalem Artichokes; Carrots—Veitch's Model (nine inches long), Matchless Scarlet, Jones's Intermediate, Veitch's Scarlet Model, and Scarlet Early Horn; Parsnips, Student, a very good variety; and Turnips, Early White Stone, and Early Milan."

"Finally, do you take a special interest in any plant, fruit, or vegetable?"

"I do not know that I have any favourite, but, as Lady Farquhar is particularly fond of Violets and Roses, I, of course, give them all the attention I can. Our aim is to do the best that is possible with respect to everything we cultivate, even on the smallest scale."

ALFRED WILCOX.

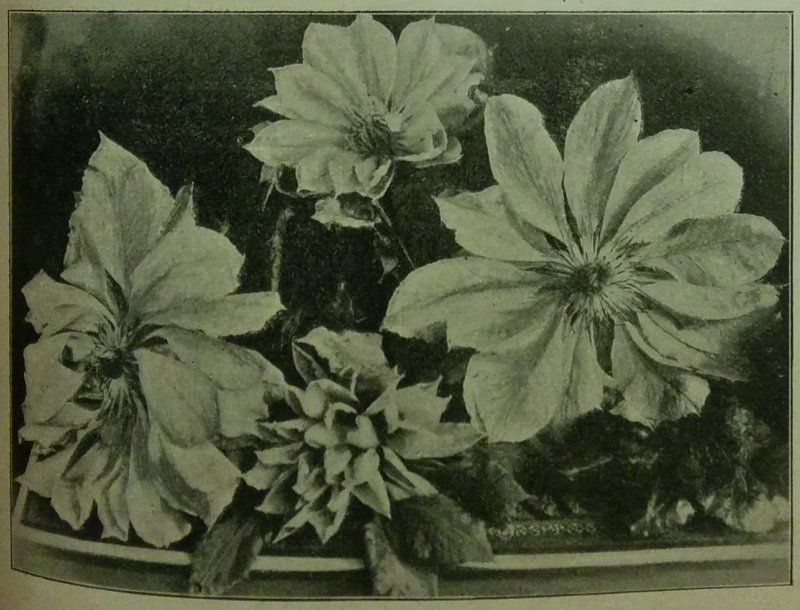
Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 94.—ARCHES OF ROSES AND CLEMATIS

DEAR KATE,—We have just planted the new Clematis, with bright red flowers, Ville de Lyon, from a pot. If it is as good as it is said to be, it will be quite an acquisition, as this is a new tint in the Clematis, though C. Kermesina (a hardy species) produces hundreds of beautiful blossoms, three inches across, in deep crimson, and C. Grace Darling (the best of the Coccinea hybrids) has bright pink starry flowers.

I think I told you before that I had some new rustic arches put up a year ago (fir-poles with the bark on), crossed at the corners like an Oxford arch, to shade some steps in the garden; and that these arches are to be covered with Roses and Clematis only, because I think the warm tints of the Roses and the cool colours of the Clematis are so harmonious together, and also Clematis like some shade for their stems from the hot sunshine, and do best when a Rose in front of them gives them this help. But Ville de Lyon is not planted there, but on the grey granite house, as some of these French hybrids are delicate, and I am not sure that its colour would not clash with the red of the Roses. The Clematises which were chosen for the Rose arches are the double mauve variety, John Gould Veitch, Lady Caroline Neville (with large silver-grey blooms), Blue Gem (a lovely soft colour), Fairy Queen (pale pink with deeper pink bars), Kermesina (deep crimson), and Miss Bateman, an enormous blossom in white. The Roses are the following:—Reve d'Or, a most floriferous Rose with apricot flowers (rather like W. A. Richardson, but more vigorous, and scarcely so dark in tint); Tea Rambler, a new Rose of the multiflora type, with clusters of little flowers in coppery salmon-pink; Dorothy Perkins, one of the Wichuriana hybrids, in bright shell-pink, with masses of bloom at the terminal points of the shoots; Psyche, a blush-white Rambler Rose; and Noella Nabonnand, one of the new Roses from the Continent, with velvety-crimson flowers of large size, and very fragrant. This is a very vigorous climber, even more so than Reine Marie Henriette, which grows on an older arch in my garden, with the lovely Sweet Briers, Lady Penzance and Lucy Bertram. These Sweet Briers scent the air as one passes through the archway, and their colours are much more brilliant than that of the original Sweet Brier, of which they are hybrids. Lady Penzance is a hybrid between this and the yellow Austrian Brier; and Lucy Bertram with that fine old Rose, General Jacqueminot, I believe, for the first-named has a deep yellow centre, with rich pink tips to its petals, and Lucy Bertram is crimson and semi-double, with a mass of yellow anthers, and a white centre. Some of the pink hybrids of Lord Penzance's raising are scarcely improvements on the original plants; but these two are certainly great acquisitions, and the foliage of Lady Penzance is the sweetest of all, being highly fragrant. We planted the Roses in October, giving them plenty of good, rich loam, but no fresh manure, for Rose-roots are very sensitive to anything impure in the soil, and should never be placed in contact with it, or they are very likely to canker; the roots were soaked in luke-warm water for half an hour before planting them, and then spread out, about six to ten inches below the surface, horizontally, and in their natural positions, laying them on a few inches of fine sifted soil, and covering them with the same. Then we trod them in, covered them to the surface, and trod them in the second time, and staked them, taking care to fill the broad hole made for each plant rather above the surrounding ground, because it is sure to settle down later on, and a basin-shaped place is very injurious to the newly-planted roots, as it collects the water, and is likely to rot them. Our object in winter is to keep the roots of our plants warm, and, therefore, dry (for a wet soil is always a cold soil); therefore, do not on any account be persuaded to mulch your Roses in winter with manure, for this only adds to the moisture, and, therefore, the coldness of the soil. Of course, a mulch of half-rotten manure is most valuable to both Roses and Clematises which are fully established, but it should be given just when their roots are active, not when they are fast asleep; and at this time of year any Roses which have been planted for eighteen months should be mulched, to keep their roots cool and moist (as well as fully nourished) through the droughts of summer. In mulching our Roses we draw back the soil surrounding them with the rake for a foot or two from the stem, to the depth of about three inches; then place a layer of old hotbed material, mixed with soot, over the space made, and cover it with fine soil through the sieve. Many Rose growers omit this last operation, and in consequence the scent of their Rose gardens is not always very delightful; but I think it is a mistake to spoil the look of the beds with rough stuff on the surface, and if you try the effect of surfacing your flower beds with fine soil given through the sieve, you will never be again content with rough and ready methods.

Few gardeners will give the time and attention needed to keep flower beds in perfect order; but it is easy work for a lady, and a most satisfactory and delightful occupation; so if your borders want doing up I will tell you now exactly how we manage ours. First we fork them all over (using a little fork about six inches wide, which can be used between the plants without any fear of breaking them), and take away all the weeds; then we edge up the borders with a small, sharp spade, throwing the soil which always accumulates at the edges on to the higher part of the border, and break the lumps, making it into a nice raised convex shape with the flat of a small rake. Do not rake the soil in the usual way, be-



CLEMATIS, JOHN GOULD VEITCH.

THE GARDENS AT BROADOAKS, WEST BYFLEET.

Interview with Mr. J. B. Lowe.

AMONG modern gardens in Surrey, those of Broadoaks, West Byfleet, take a first place in point of beauty and variety. When, with the permission of the owner, Mrs. Geoffrey Lubbock, I visited them in May, I was greatly impressed with the numerous features of interest, and the high level of excellence which has been attained in a short period of time. As Mr. Lowe, the gardener, informed me, the whole place has been made since the late Sir Charles Tennant bought it about ten years ago; and, as it stands to-day, with recent additions and embellishments, it possesses a succession of attractions which practically leave nothing to be desired.

Along the winding carriage drive, in profusion on both sides, Rhododendrons were luxuriantly blooming, and I enquired if they were planted in soil specially prepared for them.

"No," replied Mr. Lowe, "in just the ordinary soil. There may possibly be peat in it, but none has been added. As you see, we relieve the green of the Rhododendron foliage when the flowering season is over, with a border of Salvia Fire King and Alyssum Snow Carpet. On the left-hand side of the drive is one of our features, which was added six years ago, and is called the 'Wilderness,' and was designed by Mr. Wright, of Wisley. It is an acre and a quarter in extent, and there are winding walks amongst the flowering shrubs which are its principal decoration, though later on the clumps of Sweet Williams, Canterbury Bells, Foxgloves, and Pyrethrums in the borders, following the spring flowers, will make a good show. The rock garden is approached through the 'Wilderness.'"

MR. J. B. LOWE.

The Rock Garden.

"Now looking remarkably bright, with striking shades of colour. Is this a recent addition?"

"Yes, it was only made three years ago, on the site of an untidy corner I began it soon after I entered upon my duties here. There are about three hundred varieties represented in the collection. In time, the Yews which surround the garden will embellish it."

"Meanwhile, the tiles tend to embellishment. But the contents hardly require embellishment. I observe the lovely blue of the Gentians."

"Yes, G. acaulis and verna. Sedum compactus is fully in flower, and you can judge for yourself the value of the double white Arabis."

"It is a great help, and so are the Japanese Acers on the mound; and the splashes of blue near the water, for which Lithospermum prostratum is responsible."

"Lithospermums thrive splendidly at Broadoaks. The Helianthemum Fireball gives a blaze of scarlet, and the other varieties are a fine collection."

BROADOAKS AND THE AZALEA GARDEN.

"Primula rosea appears to be at home in two little covers."

"And near it Shortia uniflora, grandiflora, and galacifolia Among the best of the Ericas are mediterranea, carnea, Serleii, and vagans rubra. The collection of hardy British Ferns embraces some fifty varieties. A pretty, early flower, not often grown, is Orobus purpurea. It is Pea-shaped, has two shades of colour, purple in degree, and bright green foliage. I strongly recommend Daphne cneorum for rockeries. It is quite a feature in our rock garden."

"Do you give it any special treatment?"

"I merely take care to plant it near plenty of rock stone. Ordinary soil only is needed. Its lovely pink flowers not only last for a month, but are extremely fragrant. Iberis Little Gem thrives here, and Caltha palustris finds a damp place congenial."

"Whose golden flowers do not detract from the charms of the pretty blue flower close by."

"You mean Omphalodes longifolia, which always repays cultivation. The same may be said of Primula Sieboldii and Anemone fulgens. Also of Dianthus, which, however, comes out later on."

"Do you get a prolonged flowering season?"

"From February to November there is always something in bloom. In making and developing the rock garden, I receive much encouragement and assistance from Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Lubbock, who take a special interest in it."

Lilies in the Lake.

"Before we leave this vicinity, the little lake beyond the rock garden, with the bank of Helianthemums behind, merits recognition."

"The lake, which has a concreted bottom, is the latest development. The best varieties of Nymphæas are planted in bits of crockery. There is William Doogue, a beautiful pink; gloriosa, bright carmine, orange centre; Marliacea chromatella, straw colour, a good doer, which flowers continuously through summer and autumn; Gladstoneiana, large white; Marliacea rosea, bright pink; and W. Falconer, a splendid variety, bright crimson. On the banks of the lake are Primula japonica, Iris Kæmpferi, and Bamboos in variety. The Narcissi which are naturalised in the grass yielded us quantities of flower."

"You are very fond of the rock garden," I said, as, having strolled along a shady, straight grass walk, adorned with flowering Cherries and Pæonies, we emerged on the tennis and croquet lawn.

"I am not only very fond of it, but I believe that rock gardening, herbaceous plants and flowering shrubs, are features which young men ought to go in for more than they do. Inside work is important, but the tendency of employers in these days is to take a delight in the outside features rather than in the houses. On the lawn are the Oaks, from

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which the mansion derives its name. The bank of Rhododendrons at the end is bedded in summer with Ivy-leaved Geraniums Madame Crousse, which succeed the Wallflowers."

The Terrace Rose Garden.

Ascending the terrace steps, we looked down upon the artistic Rose garden facing west, with its groundwork of Violas.

"How many varieties of Viola do you use?" I asked.

"Five; Maggie Mott, Peace (white), Kitty Bell, Lord Elcho (yellow), and J. B. Riding. The Rose beds contain about two thousand plants."

"Before the Roses bloom, the edging of Aubrietias makes a splendid show. How long do they continue in flower?"

"Six weeks. The Aubrietias were planted seven or eight years ago, and all I do to them is to cut them back to about nine inches. They grow and flower here. Fortune's Yellow Rose flowers well on the mansion, and the various creepers include fine specimens of Wistaria sinensis and Magnolia grandiflora."

The next surprise was the Azalea garden, with its glorious trusses of rich and fragrant blooms. At the entrance are two large beds of Pæonies, with Spanish Iris intermixed.

"Four of the six beds in the centre of the wide grass paths," continued Mr. Lowe, "are planted with Azaleas, two being edged with Erica carnea, and two with Megasea alba. The other two beds are Kalmias, edged with Gaultheria procumbens. The Azaleas are planted in ordinary soil, and last in flower for a month. They are interspersed in the autumn with Lilium auratum, and the Kalmias with Lilium longifolium. At the end of the garden is a bank of Rhododendrons, White Pearl, and others; Hollies at the back, with standard Roses on posts."

The Herbaceous Border.

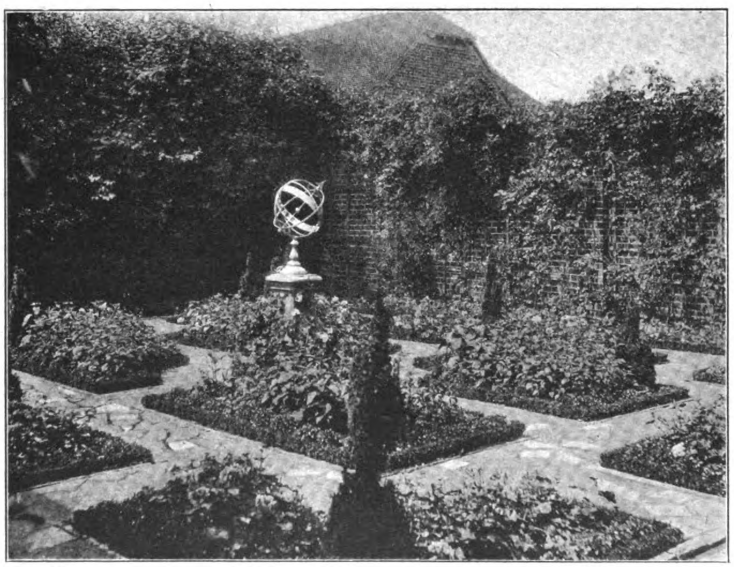
"What is the length of your herbaceous border?"

"A hundred and fifty yards. The varieties are planted in large clumps, and chosen to flower in June and July. I adhere strictly to the clump system, and keep everything quite distinct. Among the principal clumps are Delphiniums, of which there are twenty-five varieties. There are three clumps of Anchusa italica Dropmore variety; clumps of Lychnis chalcedonica; Lupins, blue, pink, and white; Tree Lupins, which begin to flower in June; Oriental Poppies, followed by clumps of Heliotropes; clumps of Phlox, with Canterbury Bells interspersed; clumps of Eryngium Oliverianum, Erigeron grandiflorus elatior, Gypsophila paniculata, Pentstemons, and Digitalis Giant White."

"Then there is the pergola on the terrace, with beds of Marguerites at the side."

"The pergola is Italian in design, and the climbers are Roses, Vitis, Clematis, Wistaria, and Lonicera. The pavement is edged with Saxifrages. In addition to the Magnolias, there are beds of Camellias, which flower profusely out of doors. At the end of the Italian pergola is the Dutch garden, with a sundial in the centre. This, in spring, is bedded with Tulips; and in summer with Heliotropes and Geraniums. The small, closely-clipped Irish Yews are a feature. Connecting the houses and fruit garden with the pleasure grounds is a lawn with Rose arbour."

A PART OF THE ROCK GARDEN.



THE DUTCH GARDEN.

"It might be convenient here to speak of the Pansies which I observe growing near the houses."

"They were sown on a border partly shaded out of doors early in August, and transplanted to their present position in October, being placed six inches apart. I consider this to be the best method of growing Pansies, as it ensures a flowering season from early in March to October."

"When were your teak wood houses put up?"

"Seven years ago. The Orchid house was only added two years ago. There is only a small general collection, embracing Cattleyas, Vandas, Lælias, and Dendrobiums. D. nobile is making good growth. Last January we were awarded a silver Banksian medal by the Royal Horticultural Society for these plants. The Orchid blooms are used largely for buttonholes and house decorating. So are the Gardenias in the stove, of which we are working up a large stock. In the flowering house, which takes the place of a conservatory, the principal contents at the present time are herbaceous Calceolaria, Cineraria stellata, Schizanthus, Darwin Tulips, Primula malacoides, Spiræas, and Roses."

The Coronation Flower.

"Carnations appear to be a very great feature."

"Yes, we grow six hundred Malmaisons and the same number of Winter-flowering varieties. The Malmaisons on the centre stage are all two years old, and on the side stages one year old. We grow about twelve varieties. The winter-flowering plants, which have just been removed into a pit, after flowering all the winter, keeping up the supply from October onwards, are a great asset. We only grow six varieties, Britannia, Enchantress, May Day, White Perfection, Mrs. Burnett, and Carola. My experience is that by growing a large number of a few varieties you can ensure the best table decoration, and I always have a good number of blooms of the same colour for individual large vases."

"Do you plant any out in borders?"

"Last year we had three rows in a border, thirty-five yards long, and were cutting flowers until late in the autumn. I lifted some of these, and they continued flowering in the houses afterwards."

"You have Tomatoes in pots in the next house?"

"This range has three divisions, one for Cucumbers, one for Melons, and one for Tomatoes. I am very pleased with the new Cucumber, Mortimer's Bounteous. I have cut several nearly two feet long, and the flavour is excellent."

"How are the Vineries divided?"

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"There is a late Muscat house, which was planted two years ago, and fruited last year for the first time. The early house also consists of Muscat, and in the other Vinery we grow Black Hamburgh only. Figs are grown in pots."

Pausing a few minutes in the extensive frame yards, I saw a large number of healthy Chrysanthemums.

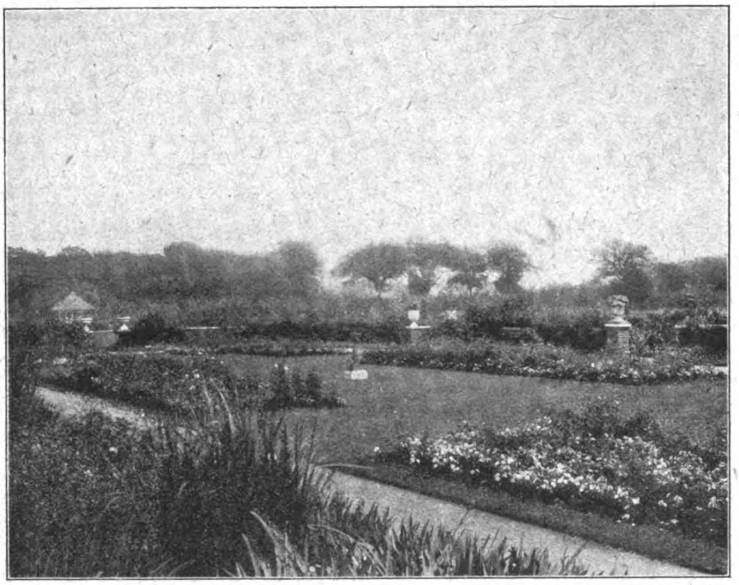
"We grow," said Mr. Lowe, "six hundred bush and single, and two hundred large-flowering."

"What about Violets?"

"We have been picking all through the winter from Marie Louise, Princess of Wales, Mrs. J. J. Astor, and Mrs. Arthur. Strawberries were placed in the pits as soon as the Violets were planted out, and we pick them in the frames a fortnight earlier than in the garden. Marrows, Potatoes, Carrots, Turnips, and Lettuce are grown on hotbeds. I cut Lettuces (Commodore Nutt), sown the first week in January on a hotbed, seven weeks after they were sown. I consider this variety the best for that purpose."

"You have plenty of flowers in your kitchen garden?"

"From north to south, herbaceous and other varieties are planted for cutting, with annuals in front. With regard to Sweet Peas, there are thirty varieties."



THE ROSE GARDEN.

The Cultivation of Show Onions.

"As you have been very successful in growing Onions for exhibition, I should be glad to know something about your system?"

"I sow three or four seeds in the centre of large 'sixties,' filled with fairly rich soil. I thin to one plant, selecting, of course, the strongest. I generally sow very early in January. I grow them on a shelf in a house temperature about fifty-five degrees, slightly syringing overhead twice daily on favourable days. They should never be allowed to get dry at the root at any time. About the beginning of April I remove them to a cold frame. I gradually harden them off. The third week in April they are planted out, sixteen inches from plant to plant, and the same distance between the rows, on well-prepared ground that has been thoroughly trenched and manured the previous autumn. Onions delight in being syringed overhead late in the afternoon on sunny days, and well watered in dry weather. When the bulbs begin to swell, they should be liberally manured with farmyard manure-water, and at intervals with some artificial manure. I do not believe in giving any manure before the bulbs commence to swell. Once a week the surface soil should be stirred with the Dutch hoe, not too deep. When the bulbs have finished growing, they should be harvested. It is a good plan to put them under lights in a frame in the full sun. I occasionally turn the bulbs over, removing the lights during fine weather. I have grown bulbs of Ailsa Craig, Cranston's Excelsior, and The Premier, over three pounds in weight."

THE TERRACE ROSE GARDEN.

"When do you start picking Peas?"

"The beginning of June, and finish at the end of October. We are never without Spinach. I sow the Perpetual variety in April and August, and can cut as often as I want it. One of the best show Runner Beans is Scarlet Emperor, which I have grown sixteen inches long. The Celery trenches are got out early, and Lettuces, Dwarf Beans, and Radishes grown on the top. We force Seakale and Asparagus, and get an early batch of Cauliflowers by sowing in August. Beetroot, Carrots, Salsafy, Turnips, Dwarf Beans, golden Butter Beans, and Globe Artichokes are largely grown."

"You have a fine Pear pergola."

"It is seventy-five yards long, sixteen feet high, and twelve feet wide. Forty-five varieties are represented, and I gathered, two years ago, one hundred bushels of fair-sized fruit. They hung on the trees like ropes of Onions."

"Your Apples are mostly grown on the bush and espalier systems?"

"Also a few on cordons. We have about sixty-five varieties, including those in the orchard."

"If the trees all laden with flower fulfil their promise, you will have some very fine crops of fruit."

Raspberries on Cordons.

"Yes, and I think that applies all round. The Plums and Cherries on the walls are very promising, and so are Currants, Gooseberries, and Raspberries."

"You grow the last three on the cordon system?"

"I find it has many advantages. The fruit is easier to pick, we get it better in size, and we are able to keep it clean more easily. The netting over the top protects from birds, and the crops have been very satisfactory. We summer-prune both Currants and Gooseberries early in July."

"Are you a great believer in pruning?"

"Decidedly, and especially root-pruning of Apples, Pears, and Plums. I commence as soon as possible in October, provided, of course, it is not too dry. Here, by the way, is our fruit room, which you might like to see. It is made of pitch Pine, with teak doors and windows, is fifty feet long, and twenty wide. The shelves with which it is fitted up will hold one thousand bushels of fruit."

Mr. Lowe's Career.

"Before you came here, three years ago, were you in this locality?"

"I was head gardener for seven years at Sir William Vincent's, D'Abernon Chase, Leatherhead, where I did a lot of showing, chiefly Roses and vegetables. In addition to six silver medals and a cup for Roses, I won a silver flower vase for herbaceous cut flowers, and forty-two first prizes for collections of vegetables, in succession, without being beaten, at Leatherhead, Epsom, Oxshott, and the surrounding districts. My previous experience was gained as general foreman at Coombe Court, Kingston; at Normanton Park, Stamford; as foreman, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire; The Grange, Carshalton; Ashfold, Handcross; and Moore Park, Farnham."

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"Have you had time to show much while you have been at Broadoaks?"

"I do not grow to show, but since I came here in August, 1908, I have won four first prizes at the Royal Horticultural Society's shows and the Banksian silver medal for Orchids; and at Byfleet, Addlestone, and Penford I have done exceedingly well with vegetables, Chrysanthemums, fruit and foliage plants. In addition to planting the rock garden, I have rearranged the Roses and replanted the trees. I have also planted a great quantity of fruit trees, especially Apples and Plums. In all respects I am anxious that the gardens should keep pace with the times, and my employers, I am glad to say, are kind enough to appreciate the results."

ALFRED WILCOX.

IN next week's issue we shall publish a description of a remarkable Anglo-French garden in Leicestershire.

Astrapæas.

THESE are very peculiar-looking plants, suitable for growing in a warm greenhouse. They are also called Dombeyas. The stem of the plant somewhat resembles that of the Seakale or Horseradish; the blooms, when first opening, those of scarlet Pæonies. When fully expanded, the flowers are reddish-scarlet, with numerous yellow seed florets showing. They depend on long, curved stems to support them in an upright position. The leaves resemble those of the Begonia.

Astrapæa Wallichii is coloured as here described, but there are other varieties with distinct colours, A. Amelia, pink; A. Burgessia, white and rose; A. cannabina, white; and A. mollis, pink, being very pretty.

Cuttings of young shoots that are just beginning to get firm will root freely at this season if inserted in pure sand under a bell-glass. Earlier in the season bottom heat is advisable as an aid to the formation of roots. Sandy loam and fibrous peat must be used as a compost for growing the rooted plants in. It is a very good time now to get them established in pots.

G. G.

Rare Flowers in the Garden.

WHAT a joy it is to find a formerly unknown plant beginning to bud in the borders or beds. It may possibly be less fair than the popular ones, yet what a triumph it seems to have grown a novelty to introduce to friends and neighbours!

Phacelia grandiflora will please everybody; the blossoms are azure blue, veined with purple, set all over bushes a foot high. Phacelia campanularia is now recognised as a grand royal blue flower, but this paler relative is even more beautiful.

The minute Violet Cress, or Ionopsidium acaule, will spring up and form a dainty lilac carpet in a few weeks' time if sown on damp, shaded ground. The driest soil and sunniest spot is necessary, on the contrary, for an important plant, eighteen inches tall, which sends up plentiful dark-centred, gold, Sunflower-like blooms. This native of Mexico is named Gymnolomia multiflora.

Uncommon Annuals.

A border devoted to uncommon annuals makes a fascinating garden feature, and is less costly than the purchase of the old bedding-plants, of which the eye wearies. Neat labels of white-painted wood, written upon with indelible pencil, should record the titles of the flowers. There may be primrose-coloured stretches of Cream-cups, Platystemon californicum, a spreading plant of grey-green foliage and star-shaped blossom; lines of Helianthus Perkeo, a Sunflower no taller than a Cowslip; and of Centranthus macrosiphon, which forms bushes smothered in rose-pink florescence. Whole beds may be made beautiful by snow-white Layia glandulosa, so fine for gathering, or blush to vivid carmine through masses of Linaria maroccana Queen of Roses.

A front garden, or borders under house windows, may well be devoted to rare flowers. Rockeries are useful to accommodate the lesser plants, or a few seeds of each, sown in 6-in. pots, will provide interesting specimens for windows, porches, or the greenhouse. Flora's Paint-brush, Cacalia coccinea, one of the most elegant and dainty of all vase-fillers, is unfamiliar still; so, too, are the branching sprays of lilac-and-white Callistemma brachiata.

The Carnation-flowered Poppy, Etoile de Lyon, double, of cream, softly flushed with rose, is very beautiful. There is also a grand single scarlet Greek Poppy, blotched with black, Papaver lævigatum Delphic Oracle. These are as easy to cultivate as the common Shirley.

HOBBY GARDENER.

Scientific Manuring.

THE PRINCIPLES OF MANURING.

FEW people realise that the soil becomes impoverished, or starved, unless it is constantly being supplied with food equal to that which has been absorbed by the crops. The main principle in manuring, therefore, is to maintain the supply of plant food in the soil, so that the plants may obtain the benefit during the various stages of their growth throughout the season, and thus enable them to produce perfect flowers, fruits, or vegetables.

The art of manuring is by no means new, for it was practised by our forefathers, although not to the extent or on the scientific lines that it is to-day. A thorough knowledge of manuring is, perhaps, one of the most important parts—if not the most important part—of a gardener's education.

After the soil has been cropped heavily, as we all know it is at the present time, it becomes exhausted, and it is necessary to use different kinds of manures or fertilisers, as the only means of keeping it in a fertile condition. The various manures that I propose to deal with, and which chiefly concern the amateur gardener, are classed in this order, (1) organic manures, (2) artificial manures, and (3) special manures.

Organic Manures.

The first organic manure to be dealt with is farmyard manure. Now, many people apply this to their land without knowing anything regarding its composition. I have heard people say, after applying farmyard manure to the soil, that they have finished with manuring; but this is utterly wrong. The chief reason farmyard manure is used is to make the soil lighter, in the case of heavy clay soil (where horse manure is applied), and to retain moisture in the case of light soil (where cow manure is used); but never because of its high fertilising properties. Farmyard manure, although all right in the way of a general dressing for the land, does not contain nearly sufficient food required for growing crops. For instance, when a man buys one ton of really good farm manure, paying perhaps 7s. per load, he only obtains for that 7s. about fifty pounds of soluble fertilising substances, which, considering the total number of pounds in one ton, constitutes a very poor amount of plant food. The remainder of the ton (2,240 lb.) is composed, as near as possible, of water about 1,600 lb., and solid matter about 590 lb. By these figures it is easy to realise what little plant food it contains. Therefore, in order to keep up the regular supply of food required, we have to use other manures.

Before going further with regard to these different manures, I will give a list of the organic manures which an amateur has mostly to deal with. They are (1) farmyard manure, (2) human excreta, (3) urine or liquid manure, (4) sheep-fold manure, (5) blood manures, (6) leather and fish refuse, (7) seaweeds and green manures.

Having dealt with farmyard manure, I will next explain the value of human excreta. Several systems have been invented to utilise the excrement of man. One of these consists in covering it with a certain quantity of earth, by which means the liquid portion (which possesses high fertilising properties) becomes absorbed by the soil. In this way the excreta become thoroughly deodorised. Both Chinese and Japanese utilise night soil in this way. The following are the analyses of the excreta, as near as possible:—Liquid: Nitrogen, 0.71; phosphoric acid, 0.06; potash, 0.05; solid: Nitrogen, 1.82; phosphoric acid, 1.07; potash, 0.29.

A Good Liquid Manure.

This will give readers an idea of the value of human excreta. Those who desire to utilise the liquid portion in the form of house slops will find it a useful liquid manure for general purposes. Collect the slops, pour them into a large bowl, and leave them for a few days to undergo putrefaction. When the tub or tank is about full, add a few drops of sulphuric acid, and then stir and leave for a few days longer. The sulphuric acid is added to fix the ammonia in the liquor, and so prevent its escape. This liquid, if diluted with two-thirds of water, will prove an excellent plant food for growing crops, but must not be allowed to come in contact with the foliage.

Sheep-fold manure is a splendid fertiliser, especially for light, sandy soils, and is quicker in action and richer in fertilising properties than farmyard manure. Of course, the quality varies according to what the sheep have been fed on, and the amount of food they consume. Sheep dung consists of these valuable constituents:—Solid matter, 36.0; nitrogen, 0.6; phosphoric acid, 0.5 per cent.

A Valuable Fertiliser.

Blood when dried forms a valuable fertiliser, containing nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash, which, it must be remembered, are the three chief elements of plant food. It is mainly upon these three that the crop depends, although some plants require more of one ingredient for their full development, than others.

In its natural condition blood contains from two to five per cent. of nitrogen; when dried, it varies up to fourteen per cent. The organic nitrogen which it contains is quickly converted into ammonia and soluble compounds. Thus we see what an important plant food blood forms. Many gardeners raise objections to its use, on account of its pungent smell, and also because it encourages mice and rats. But this difficulty is easily overcome, for various blood manures in a powdery condition are advertised. As a powder it forms a good manure for root crops, and should be applied now at the rate of four ounces to the square yard, or eight pounds to the square rod.

Although some people consider leather refuse suitable as manure, it is, practically speaking, of no real manurial value. Leather dust contains about three per cent. of nitrogen, but is very little used as a manure. Fish refuse has been applied to the soil with advantage, but it is mostly used near the sea, on account of its unpleasant and penetrating odour.

What is known as green manure consists in allowing a green crop, such as mustard or turnips, to grow until almost run to seed, and then digging it into the land. Green manuring enriches the land, and adds to its power of retaining moisture, being mostly adapted for light soils.

ERNEST A. PARKER.

(To be Continued.)

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stimulated in advance of root-growth, and as the plants had no means of getting food from the outside, they were obliged to draw largely upon the nutriment stored up in the bulbs, which consequently dwindled in size, the eventual result being their complete failure. Nature does not treat bulbs in this way. She buries the bulbs, and keeps them in darkness, so the roots are enabled to get such a long start that they are strong enough to feed the top growth which

MR. H. G. LUCKHURST.

afterwards appears. If bulbs grown in glasses are to prove satisfactory, they must be treated in the same manner. They must be kept in the dark until they have made a certain amount of roots. If top growth precedes root-growth, or even takes place simultaneously with it, they are sure to fail.

April 14th.—It is in spring—usually a little later than this—that a weedy lawn looks its worst. The desultory attempts that are made to remove the weeds seldom produce any real improvement, and systematic mapping out of the ground, and going over each part in turn, is such an interminable task that few care to venture upon it. Yet, for the eradication of deep-rooted weeds, such as Dandelions and Plantains, no other course seems effective, though for the knife may be substituted a small oiler, by means of which a drop of paraffin may be squeezed into the centre of each plant. This, it is true, kills only the crown, and fresh crowns start up from the uninjured parts of the roots, but if it is persisted in it must eventually kill the plants. Daisies may be got rid of more easily. If an ounce of sulphate of ammonium is sprinkled over every square yard of grass, at intervals—say, once in May, once in June, and once in July—there will be few, if any, left. For moss, a third of an ounce of powdered sulphate of iron to the square yard—one application only—may be tried.

April 15th.—If the winter-flowering Begonias had no other uses, they would justify their existence by their value as basket plants. The fine specimen illustrated had been in flower for three months when the photograph was taken. Yet it was then as ornamental as it had ever been.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

No less than 20,000 bunches of Bananas are now imported every fortnight from Jamaica and the other West Indian Islands, in addition to the enormous quantities received from the Canary Islands.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 185.—MR. H. G. LUCKHURST, AT THE GARDENS, THAMESFIELD HOUSE, HENLEY-ON-THAMES.

"THE feature here," said Mr. Luckhurst, when I visited the gardens at the riverside residence of Sir John Edwards-Moss, during the second week in March, "is the cultivation of early fruit, which we force as soon as possible."

"Yes, I have heard of your success in that direction, and am anxious to ascertain how you do it."

"There is no mystery," rejoined the young head gardener at Thamesfield House, as we made our way to the earliest Vinery, "and I shall be glad to give you any information I can which you think will be of any interest to the readers of GARDEN LIFE."

"First of all, then, when do you cut your first bunches of Black Hamburgh Grapes?"

"Usually on April 15th, and never later than the 20th."

"And what do you consider the most important point in early forcing?"

"The avoidance of extremes in temperature. As you see, the border is entirely outside the Vinery. It is well raised above the ground, and is about seven feet wide, and two and a-half deep. As soon as we can, we cover the border with leaves, to keep off the frost, also to gently bring roots into action, afterwards covering with corrugated sheeting, to keep off the rain."

"How many times do you water?"

"Only twice—before the leaves are put on the border, and once after the Vines are thinned. Then we give them a good dose of manure-water. I may say that it is not important where the Vine borders are placed, providing that they are well made and well managed."

"But you are a great believer in outside borders?"

"Yes, because I have great faith in plenty of fresh air. Dull, stuffy houses are always bad for cultivation. In fact, it is almost as important to study the condition of the atmosphere as the question of temperature itself. Moisture is the other essential element to be maintained; and, given the observance of the three conditions of sufficient heat, air, and moisture, from the start to the finish, there is no reason why complete success should not be secured."

"Are there no other conditions of importance?"

"Draughts should also be avoided; they are no better for Vines than for human beings. Also, the syringe should not be used after the first thinning. Another danger to be guarded against, if Vines are to be forced annually for a considerable number of years, is over-cropping. If we had attempted to overcrop, our Vines would soon have exhausted themselves."

"They look strong enough now. How long have they been going on?"

"For fifteen years. I know it is generally supposed that a Vine is at its best in five years. Ours, after fifteen years, show no signs of failure, and we never have any anxiety about them."

"When do you commence forcing?"

"The first week in November. By the end of January they are ready for thinning. They are stoning about the middle of February, and commence to swell about the second week in March.

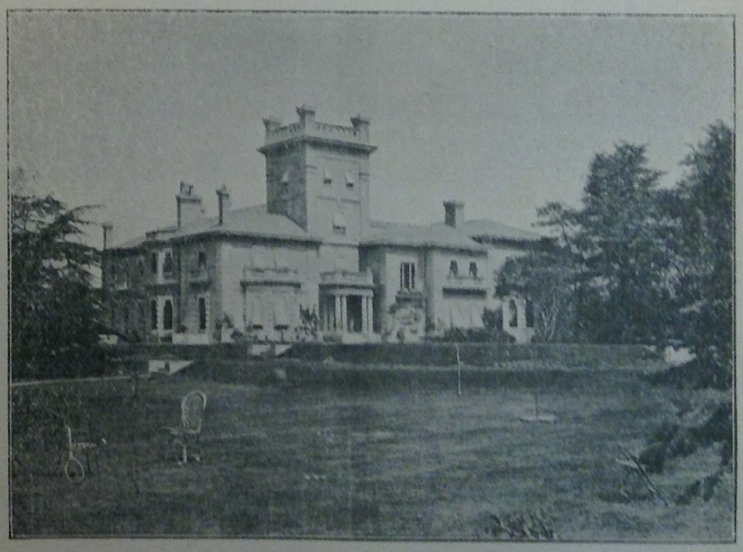
"There is one other point," continued Mr. Luckhurst; "during the period of growth, and prior to that of colouring, we wash the Vines four times with XL All wash. This prevents the red-spider, which generally put in an appearance at the back, from doing mischief. My experience is that by washing at intervals, red-spider can be rendered harmless."

"What weight are the bunches you pick in April?"

"We get plenty two pounds and over in weight."

"Is the method of cultivation by outside borders more expensive?"

"Not in the least. We cultivate Muscats and Madresfield Court on the same principle. Muscats are picked about the second week in June, and Madresfield Court the first week in July. Then our season finishes."



THAMESFIELD HOUSE, HENLEY-ON-THAMES.

"You mean that Henley Regatta marks the end?"

"Yes, we grow everything with the Regatta in view. It is to us what Goodwood is at the Duke of Richmond's place in Sussex."

"Have you other varieties of Grapes than the three already named?"

"Several. Every other year we run up young canes, to induce root action, and we have had some splendid bunches of Grapes, weighing two pounds, on young roots. By the way, another matter which should not be neglected is the condition of the wood. The leaves should not be cut. If they are, the size of the bunches is sure to be smaller next season, and the Vines do not respond to the forcing so well. We do not fruit on the same spur every year. Spurs not fruited on this year will come on for fruit next season. After the bunches of Grapes have ceased colouring, we remove the leaves from the outside borders altogether, and gradually allow the Vines to be exposed to the natural rain and air."

"You have a Vinery devoted to Madresfield Court?"

"Practically. They are usually ripe at the end of June, and always by the beginning of July. We call them 'Regatta Grapes.' There is one difficulty with Madresfield Court. Splitting does not trouble us much, but the colouring tries us. We cannot colour the Grapes by keeping them dry, and the difficulty increases as the Vines grow older. The Figs, Brown Turkey, growing on the wall, are ripe in May. The trees were moved from the outside walls about fourteen years ago, when Sir John Edwards-Moss came. He had most of the Vineries put up."

"Royal George. We are expected to have Peaches not later than the third week in May, and Royal George does not fail us. A tree planted in the autumn of 1901 now covers a space of seven yards. There is no difficulty in setting the fruit, simply because we keep the temperature steady, especially on the cool side. Royal George does not like a temperature of more than fifty to fifty-five degrees."

"Just now the fruit is stoning?"

"This is the usual time for stoning."

"Which Nectarines do you prefer?"

"For early work I like Lord Napier best. But I would rather force Peaches than Nectarines. The latter are more apt to burn, and then they lose the flavour. The chief thing in growing Peaches is to get well-ripened wood, and never to lay it in too thickly. The leading branches of our Peaches are four inches apart. But I attribute success with early Peaches mainly to the exclusion of Chrysanthemums from the early houses. Fruit houses—or, at any rate, early fruit houses—are not the place for plants."

"But you grow Chrysanthemums?"

"From six to eight hundred. One reason why I exclude them from the early house is that they need strong manure-water, which destroys the tender, fibrous roots of the Peaches in the border, with the result that there is a lot of bud-dropping. We get no bud-dropping, and our legs on the back wall, with standards in the centre. There is a fine tree of Barrington, for example. We usually pick three hundred fruits from off that tree, some weighing as much as seventeen ounces each, and plenty weighing twelve ounces."

Then we entered the late Peach house, and Mr. Luckhurst said,

"From this house, which is not heated, we generally gather a thousand fruits. The Nectarines are Stanwick Elruge, Hardwicke, and Rivers' Orange. The Peaches, in addition to Dymond and Royal George, are Stamp of the World, and A-bec."

"Of course, you find that these varieties do well?"

"We get a splendid crop of Stamp of the World. One tree of the variety, which is a very old one, occupies seven yards. The colour and flavour are both fine, and it is a Peach that sets well. We gather about the first week in August, and we have to pack the fruit so that it will travel well eight hundred miles—to the Island of Jura. A-bec is a fine, luscious Peach, very juicy, but thin-skinned. Here, as you notice, we also grow Peas, in pots."

"What is the variety?"

"Sutton's Excelsior, the best Pea for pot work. We get some early in May. There are a hundred and twenty pots, which were previously filled with Chrysanthemums. We put the Peas into the same soil with a little rotten manure. When we start with Peas in this house, we keep right on without a break. Sweet Peas are also grown in pots for early flowering, about a hundred of Eckford's Giant, mixed."

"And the Potatoes which I saw in the late Vinery?"

"Yes, Veitch's Improved Ashleaf. They are nearly ready for digging. We follow them with the frames, and then the outside border. There is a constant supply of Potatoes from the middle of March. About a hundred French Beans (Veitch's Early Favourite) are also grown in pots. We cut about the 1st of March."

"Then, before we leave the early fruit, there are the Strawberries."

"We commence with a hundred in 'forty-eight' pots; they do better than in 'thirty-twos.' The variety is Royal Sovereign, and they ripen by the 1st of March. The primary point is to get good crowns, and to layer them as soon as possible in the fruiting pot. I start them on tree leaves in a frame, to induce root action before growing at the top, and remove them to their proper fruiting quarters about Christmas. Fertilising is very important. I use a camel's-hair brush, and farmyard manure. Strawberries object to much fire heat, particularly in the early stages, and over-heating of pipes should, therefore, always be carefully avoided. Thamesfield is rather noted for the Strawberries grown outside, and also for its Pears."

"Orchids, I think, are another feature?"

"Yes, Sir John is very fond of Orchids, and we have a fine collection. But we might take the show house now. Here we have Begonia Gloire de Lorraine in flower from October until May, if necessary, with a partial rest after they have been in flower for five or six weeks. Upon the root are trained Fuchsias and Begonia Corallina."

"How long have the fine group of Callas been in flower?"

"Since the middle of November. They are four feet high, and the foliage a foot across. On the side stage there are a quantity of the best Hyacinths. I specially recommend Marie (dark blue), Monsieur (pink), L'Or d'Australie (yellow), and La Grand Déesse (white). But there are plenty of good white Hyacinths. The standard Lilacs at the end of the centre stage are Charles X."

"And the lovely Cinerarias?"

"They were raised by me, and are a cross between the Cruenta hybrids and the ordinary type. The colours are dark blue, light blue, lavender, white with a flush of pink, and pink and white. All the crossing was done with a camel's-hair brush. The special feature is that they are grown on erect stems, and, therefore, stand cutting. The flowers, also, are larger, and they last from February until the end of May."

Cymbidium Lowianum in the Orchid House at Thamesfield House.

"Does Sir John take an interest in the cultivation of fruit?"

"A very great interest. He often comes into the houses."

"The Muscat house is particularly fine. Who built the Vineries?"

"Messrs. Foster and Pearson."

"How old are your Muscats?"

"From ten to twelve years. We only grow white Muscats in this house. There is a batch of Strawberries on the shelves, but as soon as the Vines are in leaf we transfer the Strawberries to the fruiting house. We generally cut Muscats about August. I have had bunches weighing from five to six pounds each. The best time for setting them is before breakfast, when they are not too dry. The pollen takes better then. The inside borders are mulched with cow-dung."

"There remains the late house."

"The varieties are Alicante, Lady Downe's, Black Hamburgh, and Foster's Seedling, which we get ripe as early as possible."

"Now, about Peaches?"

"Much that I have said about the cultivation of Vines applies to that of Peaches."

"The border, as in the early Peach house, is inside?"

"Yes. In length it is eight feet, and in depth three feet, with an abundance of drainage."

"Which is the best Peach for early work?"

Peach trees are as fine early as ordinary trees are in mid-season. We not only put no plants in the borders, but we even try to avoid footmarks, so as to give as much air as possible at the roots, where it is wanted. I am a strong believer in farmyard manure-water; it is not used half enough. I have a little farm to manage, and I never lose a drop of the water if I can help it."

"Sometimes, I imagine, you get too much river water?"

"In February last year we had three inches of it in the houses, with the trellises floating about, and even then we had good Grapes and Peaches."

"What other early Peach do you go in for?"

"Grosse Mignonne and Condor, which do remarkably well; and in the second-early house Belgrade, Condor, Dagmar, Barrington, Dymond, Dr. Hogg, and Royal George. The varieties of Nectarine are Early Rivers, Rivers' Early Orange, Stanwick Elruge, and Hardwicke. In this house we get plenty of Peaches on young trees only planted two years ago. We lift the trees after they have been planted one year, the object being to keep the roots as near the surface as possible. It is a great mistake to remove too many growths from a Peach tree at one time."

"You have large standards in this house?"

"Yes, fan trees in front, and fan trees on long

"How many Malmaison Carnations do you grow?"

"There are about three hundred in this house, which was erected for Odontoglossums in the summer. It faces north, and the temperature is often down to freezing point."

"They appear to flourish, nevertheless."

"Yes, I think that their appearance tends to prove that artificial heat is not the most important element in growing Malmaisons. In my opinion, careful watering is the most essential point in their treatment."

Passing into the Orchid houses, which are connected by a corridor, we first inspected the Vandas in the East India house. There was one plant of Tricolor with three spikes and twenty-nine flowers.

"It was grown in Belgium leaf-soil," observed Mr. Luckhurst, who proceeded to point out Cypripediums in variety, a very fine plant of Angræcum eburneum, Cattleya Schilleriana in flower, Dendrobiums, after flowering well, including a good, strong growth, and Thunias. In the Cattleya house was a fine plant of C. Schroderæ, with sixteen flowers, and one of C. Amethystoglossa, with twenty-one flowers on a single spike. Here, too, were Oncidium varicosum and Sarcodes in flower, while standing in a tub was a large plant, five feet six inches high, of Sobralia macrantha. In the corridor specimens of Phaius grandiflora and P. Wallichii caught my attention.

The Mexican house contained some thriving examples of Miltonia vexillarium, Maxillaria grandiflora, Odontoglossum Ruckerianum, Lycastes in variety, Pilumna fragrans, lovely pure white, Cymbidium eburneum, Epidendrums, and Zygopetalums. In another part of the corridor was a Cymbidium Lowianum, with twelve spikes, and a hundred and thirty-three flowers, and an Odontoglossum Edouardi in flower. The collection of Odontoglossums includes Uro-Skinneri, Alexandræ, Andersonianum, Pescatore, and Crispum in various forms, nearly a thousand in all. Then, after we had peeped into a house full of Lælia purpurata and Phalænopsis in variety, Mr. Luckhurst remarked,

"I find that, in growing Orchids, air, heat, and moisture are just as important as they are in growing Vines. You notice that we use a great number of bricks. Each brick holds three pounds of water. We also make good use of the hoe. The stage is raised on inverted flower-pots, and the pots themselves are all placed on inverted pots."

Proceeding out of doors, we hurried through the kitchen garden, with the usual vegetables, notably Peas, Beans, Broccoli, and four fine beds of Asparagus, while on the walls are Plums in variety, and some of the best varieties of Pears, such as Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Hardy, and Madame Treyve."

"As to Apples," Mr. Luckhurst replied, in answer to my question, "we only grow two or three early varieties, the majority being for cooking purposes. The latter include Bramley's Seedling, Lane's Prince Albert, Newton Wonder, Gascoyne's Scarlet, and Dumelow's Seedling, an improved Wellington. The outdoor Strawberries are Royal Sovereign, Waterloo, and Latest of All. Waterloo does particularly well; the moist situation suits it. We generally plant out the plants of the batch of late forced. This saves time, and we get as good fruit as from young plants. We keep them two years, and then put out another batch."

"You have a Cherry house?"

"It was originally a greenhouse. The back portion is wood, and the roof and front are glass. We get fruit very early. The varieties are Early Rivers, Black Tartarian, Early Lyons, large red Bigarreau, Elton, Frogmore Early Bigarreau, and white Bigarreau."

"Borders seem to be a feature of the pleasure grounds?"

"There are several in different parts of the grounds. They are devoted to flowering plants and bulbs, and include Leucojum, Scillas, Chionodoxas, Hyacinths, Tulips, Spanish Iris, Crown Imperials, Lily of the Valley, Lilium candidum, Pæonies, Aquilegias, Delphiniums, Phlox, Foxgloves, Sweet Williams, Canterbury Bells, and Pinks. Sutton's Tom Thumb Antirrhinums are added to the borders in May, which give a brilliant show from early to late."

"How do you get on as to Roses?"

"They are grown in considerable quantity, and give very satisfactory results when lifted about every two years. This prevents the roots from entering the cold subsoil, and tends to keep away mildew. A good, strong loam, rich cow-manure, and an abundance of draining are essential in Rose-growing. Blood fresh from the slaughter-house is the ideal food for Roses, and, used with care, diluted with water, the trees give excellent results. Roses in raised beds succeed the best here. A few of the best are Duke of Edinburgh, Fisher Holmes, General Jacqueminot, Louis van Houtte, Mrs. H. Turner, Prince C. de Rohan, Alfred Colomb, Duc de Rohan, Annie Laxton, John Hopper, Victor Verdier, Mrs. J. Laing, and Boule de Neige."

"You might name the contents of the flower beds which run along the whole length of the terrace?"

"The spring display consists of Wallflowers, Hyacinths, and Tulips, with a groundwork of Violas of different colour for each bed of Tulips. All the forced bulbs are saved for the purpose."

"How are these beds planted in summer?"

"With Heliotropes, Mignonette, Ten-week Stocks, pink and purple Petunias, Phlox, standard Fuchsias (Mrs. Marshall), and Heliotrope (Lord Roberts), the latter as groundwork. For bedding, I find from experience that Mignonette sown rather thickly in a pan, and pricked off into small pots, does equally as well as though sown in pots. It often gives much trouble in beds, but a change of soil is an excellent remedy."

"The effect of the Snowdrops planted in clumps in the narrow strip of lawn near the river is very pleasing, and I admire the clumps of Crocuses in the grass in the orchard near the house with the Aconites."

"They will be followed by Primroses, wild Anemones, Bluebells, Daffodils, Fritillaria meleagris, and Narcissus Poeticus."

"What is the house itself covered with?"

"The greater part is covered with Jasminum nudiflorum, which has given an abundance of bright yellow flowers during the winter; also Jasminum officinalis, Honeysuckle, and Madame Falcot, Gloire de Dijon, and Banksian Roses. The photograph I am lending you was taken soon after the erection of the house. I mention this because of the creepers that now clothe the walls."

"Lastly, how long have you been head gardener at Thamesfield?"

"Over three years. Previously I was gardener to Mr. R. H. Ratcliff, of Stanford Hall Gardens, Loughborough, for two years. Before that I was foreman for four years and a half at Rolleston Hall, Burton-on-Trent, where I gained much useful experience in fruit-growing, both for exhibition and for home consumption. During the earlier part of my career I was fortunate enough to get into that excellent establishment, Dover House, Roehampton, where not one thing only is done well, but everything."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 141.—EARLY ROSES AND WATER LILIES.

DEAR KATE,—When the Azaleas and Deutzias are over, we miss them from the conservatory, for they make a grand show, but now we have the early Roses and the Regal Pelargoniums, with great scarlet Cacti, Kalosanthes coccinea, and a host of other things to fill up the gap until the summer flowers, Begonias, etc., are in full force.

The Roses under the glass roof have been in

NYMPHÆA LUCIDA.

bloom for some weeks, and as we cut them constantly, we always have plenty to distribute amongst our friends, as well as to adorn the drawing-room. Reine Marie Henriette (crimson), Maréchal Niel (yellow), climbing Niphetos (white), and William Allen Richardson are amongst the earliest to blossom, under glass; they do best when trained like Vines, about fifteen inches below the roof, so that the wood gets fully ripened, and flowers are produced at every point. We always cut off our Roses before they drop, partly for the sake of tidiness, and more for the sake of the plant, which is thus gradually summer-pruned (a much better plan than pruning a Rose all in one day, which gives it a terrible shock), for we always cut each blossom with a good stem, leaving only an inch or two of the young wood, with two eyes on it. Every week through the summer, the growths should be trained and tied down from the glass, removing weak and twiggy pieces, and keeping the strong shoots so that these get plenty of light and air to ripen them. We syringe the foliage every afternoon at closing time, but the conservatory is always given air at night in summer, from the top ventilators, for Roses cannot stand a stuffy place. The roots of the Roses (which are in inside borders) must be kept moist and well nourished; we mulch them in spring every year, and water them thoroughly every week; for if the roots suffer, the foliage shows it at once, and one has to grapple with red-spider, or mildew, one or other of which is sure to appear. A close atmosphere, and then a bitterly cold draught, will also bring on mildew, but with well-nourished plants, never shut up entirely, it gives but little trouble, and it is a good practice to examine the state of the roots if any blight appears. Green-fly is easily destroyed by vapourising, or by syringing with carbolic soap and warm water, in which half an ounce of potassium sulphide has been dissolved, to each gallon of water used. But before using this solution, you should remove all your Maidenhair Ferns, standing below the Rose, as anything like sulphur is injurious to them; we cover any special plants with newspaper before syringing the Roses, if they cannot easily be removed, and this saves the blossoms from drip.

The pot Roses have been brought on quietly, since they were pruned and top-dressed in January, in the late Vinery, keeping them absolutely

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Lynch, Richard Irwin (1850–1924), *horticulturist and botanist*
by Tim Upson
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Lynch, Richard Irwin (1850–1924), horticulturist and botanist, was born at St Germans, Cornwall, on 1 June 1850, the eldest of four sons and a daughter of Richard Lynch (1818–1900), head gardener to the earl of St Germans at Port Elliot, Cornwall, and his wife, Mary Jane Emma, *née* Mayne (1822–1878). His father was born in Fermanagh, Ireland, his mother at Antony near Plymouth. He was educated in St Germans. His career path was soon clear as he followed his father into horticulture and gained his first experience under his guidance.

Like his father before him, Lynch's aim was to study at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and in 1867, aged seventeen, he gained the position of student gardener. He impressed during his four-year training period and in 1871 at just twenty-one he was promoted to foreman of the herbaceous department. Later he became senior foreman of the tropical and propagation department, where he was involved in the propagation and dispatch of economic plants to the British colonies. He began contributing articles to the horticultural press and bred several plants including *Campanula isophylla* ‘Alba’, which is still widely grown.

On 14 October 1879, aged twenty-nine, Lynch was appointed to the vacant curatorship of Cambridge University Botanic Garden, having been given the highest recommendation by the director of Kew, Sir Joseph Hooker. In the summer of 1880 he married Harriet (1858–1937), daughter of James Pomeroy, ironmonger, from East Stonehouse. Completed in 1881, the curator's house within the botanic garden became their home, where they had three children, Edith Kathleen (*b*. 1884), Richard Stewart (*b*. 1889), and Walter Gordon (1890–1892).

Lynch took over the Cambridge garden after a period of neglect. After giving priority to improving the existing collections he planned many innovations, including the redesign of the bog and water garden, the reconstruction of the rock garden, and the establishment of what he claimed to be the ‘first ornamental bamboo collection’. By 1885 the existing glasshouse range required attention and he successfully obtained funds for its enlargement and improvement, its form surviving to the twenty-first century. Utilizing his many connections he rapidly increased the diversity of the collections through exchanging material. Many of the new plants he received were passed to Joseph Hooker at Kew, and some were named in his honour, including *Begonia lyncheana* and *Alloplectus lynchei*. These were often featured in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, of which volume 143 was dedicated to him. He was elected an associate of the Linnean Society in 1881; his reputation also grew internationally and he attended the 1884 International Congress of Botany and Horticulture in St Petersburg, later becoming a corresponding member of the Imperial Horticultural Society of Russia and an associate of the Botanical Society of St Petersburg.

Lynch was a great hybridizer of plants and during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries raised many novel ones (Upson). Of greatest significance was

his hybridization of wild species of *Gerbera* from South Africa, which he crossed to produce a range of cultivars, received to great acclaim and the foundation of the modern hybrid *Gerbera*. He was interested in the importance of hybrids and garden variants in the understanding of the emerging science of genetics, contributing papers to the Royal Horticultural Society on the origin of the gardeners' *Cinerarias* (1900) and on the evolution of plants (1900), drawing on examples from his extensive knowledge of cultivated plants to illustrate this. He also published several taxonomic works, the most significant being the *Book of the Iris* (1904), which was of scientific importance but written to be accessible to the gardener.

By the end of the nineteenth century Lynch had been so successful in building the collections and reputation of Cambridge University Botanic Garden that it was regarded as second only to Kew, and this was recognized in 1901 with the award of the Veitch memorial medal by the Royal Horticultural Society. In 1906 the university ‘in recognition of services rendered to botanical science in the University as Curator of the Botanic Garden’ awarded him an honorary MA degree (Walters). The Royal Horticultural Society also honoured him with its highest award, the Victoria medal of honour, in the same year. In 1907 he was elected president of the Kew Guild by his peers at Kew, having joined with great enthusiasm following its foundation in 1893. Towards the end of his career he was further honoured by the Royal Horticultural Society with the Veitch gold memorial medal in 1917, recognizing his lifetime achievements.

Lynch was described as a man of alert intelligence, wide knowledge, and judicious governance but above all he was extremely courteous and always willing to oblige. He endeared himself to a wide circle of friends within both the university and the town. Several generations of Cambridge students benefited from his guidance, many subsequently achieving important positions. He suffered from asthmatic trouble and reluctantly retired in 1919 to the more congenial climate of Torquay where, however, he became increasingly weak. He died on 7 December 1924 at his home, Granta, Upper Walnut Road, Chelston, Torquay, Devon. He was survived by his wife, daughter, and eldest son, Richard Stewart Lynch, also a horticulturist, whose career in part mirrored his; he worked under his father at Cambridge before joining Kew as a young gardener in 1912.

Lynch was an exceptional horticulturist, one of the greatest and most influential of this period. His professional life was distinguished by his transformation of Cambridge University Botanic Garden and the reputation he created for the garden, his rare ability to combine horticulture with botanical science, the contributions he made in hybridization and genetics, and for the many who knew him his courteous manner and kindness of heart.

TIM UPSON

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Archives CUL, Botanic Garden archives | CUL, Botanic Garden archives, minutes of the syndicate

Likenesses group portrait, photograph, 1890, Cambridge University Botanic Garden · group portrait, photograph, *c*.1890, Cambridge University Botanic Garden; repro. in Hadfield, Harling, and Highton, *British gardeners* · photograph, Cambridge University Botanic Garden · photograph, repro. in *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 750 (1901), 294

Wealth at death £2282 0*s*. 9*d*.: probate, 28 Feb 1925, *CGPLA Eng. & Wales*

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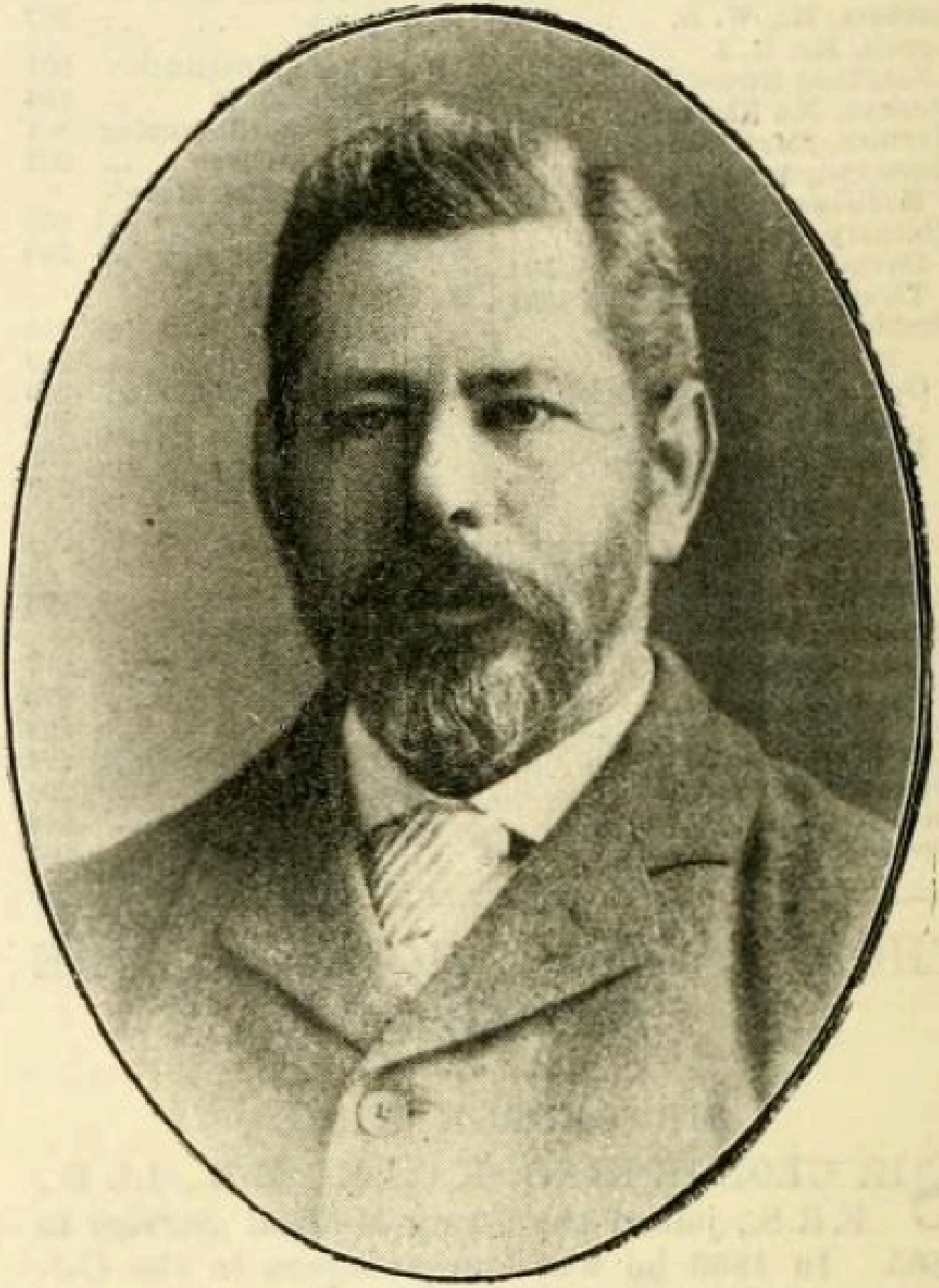

MR. R. IRWIN LYNCH

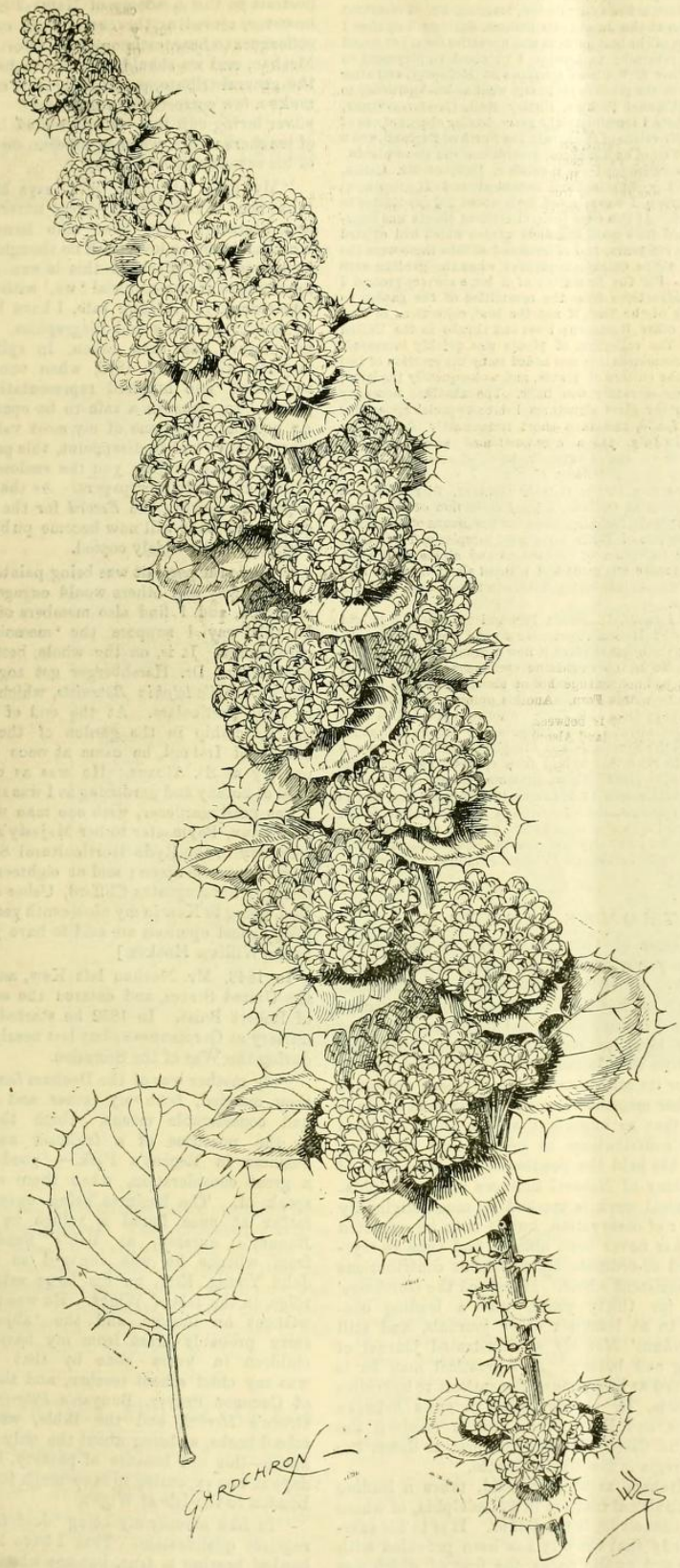

Fig. 111.—Berberis congestiflora var. hakeoides (Gay): hardy shrub; flowers yellow. (Real size.)

(see p. 297.)

the experience he wished to acquire, and looking further afield, at last heard of Mr. P. Kay's nursery at Finchley, where he was apprenticed for four years, during which time he gained considerable knowledge of the cultivation of Grapes and flowers. Further experience was gained under Mr. Geo. Tillyard, well known at the time as gardener to Sir John Kelk, Priory Gardens, Stanmore. At the age of 21, he had decided that his choice was in favour of a business rather than of a private gardener's calling; but at the outset the way seemed beset with difficulties, and Mr. Sweet began to feel that he would be unable, with the moderate capital he could command, to obtain a footing in the nursery business. At last he succeeded, and after passing about a year at Forest Gate, where he worked up a small stock of plants, he removed to Leyton about the year 1863, and commenced to work with all the zeal of an enthusiast, for he has always had, and still possesses, a love for plant-cultivation. Mr. Sweet was very happy at Leyton, and prosperous withal, and therefore it was very reluctantly that, after twenty-three years, he left that place, and bought the 30 acres at Whetstone where his present nursery is situated. His removal to the higher position at Whetstone was necessary for the sake of his health, which began to show traces of enfeeblement, and on account, also, of the increase of smoke at Leyton. He had to leave many friends at Leyton, including the late Mr. John Fraser and the members of the District Council.

During the time Mr. Sweet has been at Whetstone he has built a few extra plant or fruit-houses each season, and is still doing so. We shall take an early opportunity of describing the nursery in question.

In 1888, Mr. Sweet won a silver cup offered by the Duke of Bedford at the Temple Show for a collection of plants shown by a market-nurseryman, and having won it in open competition, values it more possibly than he will the V.M.H.

Mr. Sweet has always taken an active interest in the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution, and it was due to his suggestion that a Hailstorm Insurance Corporation was instituted a few years ago by nurserymen, with a view to providing an insurance against damage from hail at a premium of 10 per cent. instead of more than double that amount previously charged by other companies. Mr. Sweet would probably be the last to claim any credit for this corporation, which, through the exertion of Mr. Monro and others, has been so successful, but the idea was his. He is also a member of the Fruit Growers' Association (not British), which, through Mr. Geo. Monro, has sought and is seeking to ensure for the public the benefit arising from the great production of choice fruits, by combating that suicidal policy of the retailer, which causes him to seek an absurdly high profit upon his goods, and thus limit the sale of them, and prevent people of moderate means from enjoying what is exceedingly healthful, and what should be theirs. The Association, too, has encouraged grocers to sell such fruits, and in seeking a larger output for them has also commenced to export Grapes to America. All this work is undoubtedly good work, and Mr. Sweet, who takes an active part in all of it, need have no hesitation in accepting the Medal the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society has conferred upon him. *P.*

The Veitch Memorial Medallists.

Mr. Richard Irwin Lynch.

Mr. Richard Irwin Lynch gained his earliest horticultural experience in the garden of the Earl of St. Germans, at Port Eliot, in Cornwall, which he entered for the purpose of becoming eligible for Kew, whither he removed in 1867. At Kew he was first placed in the economic-house, but was soon afterwards advanced to the propagating pits of the tropical department, where he remained for two years. His health becoming impaired by the high temperature in which he had to work, he was removed to the temperate-house, and subsequently became foreman of the herbaceous department, including the exchange department, and he also had charge of the collections in the T range (Orchids excepted),

and of the collection of Cacti and succulents, work enough for two men as the departments were then arranged, but after a time he was relieved of the charge of the herbaceous department. During the eight years he had charge of these departments, he had much to do with the propagation and dispatch of important economic plants to British settlements in distant parts of the world.

In 1879 he was appointed Curator of the Botanic Garden at Cambridge, of which he has had the sole charge ever since. From the very first he was indefatigable in increasing the collections cultivated in the garden to such an extent, that after twelve years (1891) a fourth of all the genera in Bentham and Hooker's *Generæ Plantarum* was represented there. He was one of the first to form a collection of hardy Bamboos, which soon became a feature of the garden. He designed the new plant-houses in which a very wide range of subjects is cultivated, many of them of especial interest, from which materials for figuring and description in the *Botanical Magazine* have been from time to time supplied, and in which Sir Joseph Hooker has on more than one occasion expressed his high appreciation of the work carried on by Mr. Lynch at Cambridge. He has also enriched our gardens with some beautiful plants, which he has obtained by selection or by hybridisation. One of the earliest was Campanula isophylla alba, which was raised by him at Kew; and latterly, the fine strain of hybrid Cinerarias raised at Cambridge, of which he himself has given a full account in the Hybrid Conference Report of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Mr. Lynch has been a liberal contributor to the horticultural press for upwards of thirty years; he commenced early at Kew with a weekly, sometimes fortnightly, article in the *Journal of Horticulture*, and about the same time he began to send communications to the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. He has occasionally contributed articles to *The Garden*. In 1886 he translated Correvon's *Les Plantes des Alpes* for the *Gardeners' Magazine*; and subsequently wrote on tropical aquatics, and the Bog Garden for *Popular Gardening*. He has contributed a new classification of the genus Pæonia to the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, and also several papers to the *Journal of the Linnean Society*, of which he became an Associate in 1881. He is a member of the Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, a corresponding member of the Imperial Horticultural Society of Russia, and an Associate of the Botanical Society of St. Petersburg.

W. B. LATHAM.

AMONG the gardeners who have been the recipients of the Veitchian Medal, there is none who has more deservedly won the esteem of his fellows than the Curator of the Botanic Gardens, Birmingham. A few weeks since he contributed to the *Garden* an interesting account of his career, which we here reproduce, as it formed the basis for the remarks made by Sir Trevor Lawrence in presenting Mr. Latham with one of the medals.

"At an early period of my life I commenced work in the garden of Mr. William McNiel, Wandsworth Common. Mrs. McNiel was a great lover of gardening, with a good knowledge of hardy herbaceous plants, and cultivated a choice collection of them. I left here after 3½ years' service, and was then apprenticed to the late Mr. Robert Neal, of the old Wandsworth Common nurseries, which at that time contained a large collection of hardy trees, shrubs, Roses, herbaceous, and alpine plants. I remained here a little over three years, during which time I took up the study of British plants. With an old schoolfellow, the late Mr. C. Wilford, I often took long rambles, and together we collected a large number of plants found in that part of Surrey. With a desire for change, and a wider field for improvement, I went to Kew, and saw Mr. J. Smith, the then curator of the Royal Gardens, and some two or three months after I succeeded in obtaining employment there. I left Kew, then under the direction of the late Sir W. Hooker, in 1857. I had a great desire to study under the late Sir Joseph Paxton, then at Chatsworth, and soon succeeded in obtaining a situation in the gardens there. At Chatsworth I found a large collection of Orchids, embracing noble specimens of Phalænopsis, Dendrobiums, grand masses of Cœlogyne cristata on blocks of wood, Cattleyas, Saccolabiums, Aërides, Pleiones, and many others. There was a fine plant of Amherstia nobilis, and the Victoria Regia was in the highest state of perfection. The noble conservatory, with its wonderful collection of rare, tropical, and sub-tropical plants, excited my admiration. Outside the gardens and grounds of Chatsworth, I found on the hills and in the dales of Derbyshire ample occupation for the study of British plants, and added to my collection many not previously met with.

"Having a wish for experience in continental horticulture, I mentioned the subject to Sir Joseph Paxton, who readily consented to write to Professor Decaisne, then Director of the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, and some few months after, Sir Joseph received an intimation from the Professor that there was an opening, and that I could go at once to Paris. A few days after I was at the Jardin des Plantes with a letter of introduction from Sir Joseph to M. Neumann, the then Curator, who at once placed me under the direction of the late M. Houllett, whose courtesy and kindness is to this day gratefully remembered. At this establishment a large collection of plants was cultivated, both out-of-doors and under glass. I saw here for the first time Lapageria alba (then the only plant in Europe); I also saw Paulownia imperialis in flower for the first time. I was also very interested in the large collection of grasses grown here. Many facilities were given to young gardeners to attend lectures and to visit the large Peach and Nectarine growing establishments outside Paris, where, by the payment of one franc each, the *chef des cultures* gave them instructions in pruning, training, &c. I remained some months at the Jardin des Plantes, during which time I visited some of the best gardens and nurseries for miles round Paris. On returning to London I obtained employment in Messrs. Parker & Williams' nurseries at Holloway, and after six months in the plant department went as head gardener to Lieutenant-Colonel Perkins, Birtley Hall, Chester-le-Street, Durham, where I remained eight years, having charge of one of the finest collections of Orchids in the North of England, and a large collection of exotic Ferns, greenhouse and stove plants.

"On the retirement in December, 1867, of Mr. Catlin, curator of the Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society's garden, I was selected from about 200 candidates to succeed him. At this time the collection of plants was somewhat limited for a good botanical garden which had existed for thirty-seven years, and of trees and shrubs there were the remains of a fine collection, planted when the gardens were first made. For the formation of a large archery ground I received instructions from the committee of the garden to destroy one of the best, if not the best, collections of Crataegus and other Rosaceous trees and shrubs in the United Kingdom. The collection of plants was quickly increased. The glass accommodation was added to by the erection of two houses for the culture of plants, and subsequently the large, handsome conservatory was built. The absolute necessity for still further glass structures led to a special appeal for additional funds, and in a short time nearly £4000 were received. In July, 1885 a large portion of the old structure was pulled down, and an extensive block of new glass-houses built.

"We have now in the Botanic Gardens, Birmingham, a large collection of Orchids, a good collection of stove and greenhouse plants, including some fine specimens of Camellias, a large collection of Ferns, some good samples of Tree Ferns, and a good collection of herbaceous and alpine plants. A large rock garden was made and planted about six years ago, and is now a most interesting feature in the gardens throughout the year.

"In 1862 I raised Dicksonia Lathamiana, Moore, a hybrid between the St Helena D. arborescens and the Australian D. antarctica; the original plant is now a grand specimen. The late Mr. T. Moore, on examining specimens of this hybrid, told me he had not up to that time thought much of hybrid Ferns, but he now must change his opinion. I have since raised seedlings from this Fern. Another hybrid Tree Fern raised by me about 1870 is between the Mexican Cyathea insignis and the Norfolk Island Alsophila excelsa. I have not been able to raise this hybrid from spores. The original is now a splendid plant. Gymnogramma Lathamiæ, Moore, is another hybrid raised by me some twenty years ago, and is between Gymnogramma decomposita and G. schizophylla. Cypripedium Lathamianum, a hybrid between C. Spicerianum and C. villosum; and Cypripedium Deedmanianum, a hybrid between C. Spicerianum and C. Chamberlainianum, were also raised by me."

THOMAS MEEHAN.

THE career of Thomas Meehan is one to put before the young gardener as an incitement to work and study. By birth an Englishman, by profession a gardener, he has raised himself from a journeyman to be a leading municipal dignitary of a great city, the head of one of the most important nurseries in the United States, well known also in Europe for its collections of hardy trees; and what is of higher moment than mere business success is the fact that so important and so numerous have been his contributions to science that for thirty years he has held the position of Vice-President of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. His botanical work is marked by much originality and power of observation, but it is to be regretted that he has never been able to find time to crystallise and co-ordinate his numerous contributions into a consistent whole. He edited the *Gardeners' Monthly* for thirty years, was a leading contributor to at least six other journals, and still edits *Meehans' Monthly*, an illustrated journal of gardening and botany. As a practical man he is remembered as being one of the earliest to hybridise the Fuchsia, he having raised a cross between F. fulgens and F. longiflora, which received the name of St. Clair. He was the first to flower the Victoria regia in the United States.

Mr. Meehan, as we have said, takes a leading part in municipal matters in Philadelphia, of whose common council he is the father. It is to his exertions chiefly that the city has been provided with museums and public parks, the first of which was the garden of the American botanist, Bartram.

The following particulars have been gleaned from a communication to the Editor, with a few additions from Dr. Harshberger's book, mentioned later on; but we feel rather uncertain whether we may not be offending Mr. Meehan's retiring modesty by giving them publicity. The presentation of his portrait to the Academy of Natural Sciences has, however, served as the occasion for our American colleagues to bear testimony to the worth of Thomas Meehan, and we should not like to be left out of the general tribute, particularly as it enables us to make a few corrections in the record. A handsome silver loving-cup was also presented by a number of teachers to Mr. Thomas Meehan on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday.

"My main object in life," says Mr. Meehan, "has been to build up my great nursery. Science and literature have been side issues — almost wholly labours of love, with no thought of material compensation. Perhaps this is one great reason for my love of the editorial 'we,' with its inferred impersonality. At any rate, I have been adverse to public portraits and biographies. Until now, no picture has been taken, in spite of many importunities, since 1876, when one was taken as one of 'one hundred representative Philadelphians,' to place in a safe to be opened in 1976. As you have been one of my most valued friends, whom I have had to disappoint, this prelude seems proper, while sending you the enclosed from one of our city daily newspapers. As the agricultural papers are asking the *Record* for the use of their cut, I suppose it will now become public property, and perhaps be widely copied.

"While the portrait was being painted, friends in the Academy and others would engage me in conversation, and I find also members of my family. In this way I suppose the 'memoir' has been constructed. It is, on the whole, better than my good friend Dr. Harshberger got together in his *Lives of Philadelphia Botanists*, which is incorrect in some particulars. At the end of my father's apprenticeship in the garden of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, he came at once to Watson's nursery at St. Albans. He was as early in life fond of botany and gardening as I was subsequently. I was head gardener, with one man under me, for Mr. Vaux, Paymaster to her Majesty's Forces, and secretary to the Ryde Horticultural Society, when I was but seventeen; and at eighteen I was gardener to Sir Augustus Clifford, Usher of the Black Rod, going to Kew in my nineteenth year." [Where his political opinions are said to have given offence to Sir William Hooker.]

In 1848, Mr. Meehan left Kew, and landed in the United States, and entered the establishment of Robert Buist. In 1852 he started the famous nursery at Germantown, but lost nearly everything during the War of the Secession.

"My mother was of the Denham family. When they married, both my father and my mother had considerable means, which they invested in the purchase of a fruiterer and provision business in Regent's Park — 'good-will' being a great consideration, when there was none to speak of. The business being unsuccessful, my father at once found a refuge in Oxley and Bunney's nursery, at Ball's Pond, Islington, from whence he was engaged as gardener to John Young, Esq., on his large estate at Westridge, in the Isle of Wight. He was never a week without an income, and the 'abject poverty' story probably arose from my having told my children in years gone by that my mother was my chief school teacher, and that the Book of Common Prayer, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Green's *Herbal*, and the Bible, were my only school-books, as being about the only books in the house—this not because of poverty, but in those days it was expensive to take much furniture from London to the Isle of Wight.

"In like manner my being 'deaf from infancy requires qualification. That I have been slightly hard of hearing is true, but one who has hundreds of times presided at political, scientific, and other meetings, engaged in discussions, and acted as reporter for newspapers and magazines, can hardly be classed with the unqualified 'deaf.' I am close to my seventy fifth birthday, but can still